

Downs Committee – 21st September 2020

Events Update

1. Events that have taken place since last Downs Committee meeting:

Breaking Bread:

The only event that has taken place on the Downs since the last meeting is the Breaking Bread pop up restaurants and bar.

This set up and started in late July and response overall has been very positive with some very good local media coverage. The restaurants were fully booked for August and bookings for September were opened up in early August as demand was so high.

Prior to opening consultation was carried out with nearby residents groups: Clifton Down Community Association, Westbury Park Community Association, Sneyd Park Residents Association, Friends of the Downs & Avon Gorge and Clifton & Hotwells Improvement Society. The organisers also carried out online residents meetings in the first couple of weeks of the project. The main concerns were regarding potential noise, traffic management and waste. To date the organisers have received no complaints from local residents on these issues. Residents have been given the contact details of the organisers so they can get in touch with them direct if they have any concerns.

The organisers are hoping to be able to carry on throughout September and October but would need to make adjustments to the site if they are to continue operating for this length of time.

2. Upcoming events:

Downs Circus:

This is year 2 of the contract with Tony Hopkins Entertainments and they are planning to bring Circus Montini to the Downs this year. They plan to be open to the public from 22nd September – 11th October. They are hoping to include acts from the Bristol circus community in the show subject to their availability.

The capacity in the big top will be reduced to approximately 390 (from 1,000) in order to observe current social distancing requirements. Approximately 90% of their bookings are usually online so this will enable them to obtain the necessary track & trace details. They are also planning to have enhanced stewarding, more toilets and hand sanitisers available. They will have a member of staff appointed as 'Covid Officer' who will be responsible for implementing the necessary changes relating to Covid-19 and ensuring the Circus meets the 'Good to Go' industry standard.

3. 2021 Events:

We received requests from the following events to return to the Downs in 2021:

Funderworld	late March – mid April 2021
Foodies Festival	May 2021
Race for Life	June 2021
Bristol Pride	July 2021
The Downs Festival	September 2021
Student Union Welcome	September 2021

