

11th September 2020

Dear Downs Committee,

Re: Downs Loop Public Consultation

We hope that you have all had a good summer and been able to enjoy some holiday time away despite all the restrictions. We are writing to update you on the public consultation which has been running since the 10th August. We are looking forward to presenting our interim findings at the next Downs Committee meeting on the 21st September.

The consultation has three elements.

1. A consultation website with information about the proposal and an online survey. www.thedownslloop.com
2. Information boards next to the Downs Café. The boards are hung up each day by the café staff.
3. Walk rounds of the Downs Loop with key stakeholders. These have so far included: FODAG, Bristol Walking Alliance, Clifton and Hotwells Improvement Society, Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills Forum, Sneyd Park Residents' Association, Bristol Ageing Better, Buggy Fit. We are also talking to the Bristol Ramblers, WECIL (West of England Centre for Inclusive Living) and the Bristol Disability Equality Forum about potential walks/zoom meetings.

Media coverage has been great and has included Bristol 24/7, Bristol Post (Live), Radio Bristol (both weekday and weekend breakfast shows), and community magazines including Henleaze and Westbury Voice (double page spread), BS6+8, Bishopston Voice and Bishopston Matters.

We have had a really good response with 3,656 visits to our webpage and 375 responses to the online survey. There is a wide range in the ages of respondents and 25 people with a disability have already filled in the survey. We will continue to promote the consultation through September.

Interim survey results (please note the consultation period runs to the end of September so these figures will slightly alter as survey responses continue to come in):

- 81% of survey respondents disagree that the current paths around the Downs are suitable for all users.
- 75% of survey respondents felt the current paths were not smooth or even and 68% that they are not wide enough.
- 95% of respondents agreed that the proposals would improve access for people using wheelchairs or mobility aids.
- 91% of respondents agreed that the proposals would improve access for children learning to cycle and less confident adults on bikes.
- 97% of respondents agree that the proposed zebra crossing across Stoke Road will make it easier to cross in this location.

As well as the quantitative data, there are two open-ended questions on the survey. Some themes are emerging in these questions and we will give feedback on those on the 21st September. We will also share feedback from our stakeholder walks. A consultation report will then follow by email in October. Fin McNab from Streets Reimagined will come to the full committee Zoom meeting on the 21st September. We have contracted him to set up and run the public consultation for us.

Next steps: We would like to proceed to making a planning application when we have fully evaluated the public consultation. We hope that the committee will give consent for that next stage when we meet with you on Zoom on the 21st September.

Many thanks,

Vicki Cracknell and Jonny Wood