

Downs Committee –16th November 2020

Events Update

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

Breaking Bread:

The project started in late July and organisers and have had just over 3 months of successful trading. They have decided to close as of November 8th due to the deteriorating weather conditions and difficulties in maintaining the venues and the site at this time of year. The potential threat of Covid breakouts in Bristol have also been taken into consideration in reaching this decision.

The project has proved very popular in the city and has provided employment in the local hospitality and events industries during a very difficult time. The organisers would like to thank the Downs Committee for their support in enabling the project to go ahead. They have taken a proposal to the Downs (Events & Finance) sub-group to re-start the project in 2021.

Downs Circus:

This is year 2 of the contract with Tony Hopkins Entertainments who brought Circus Montini to the Downs from 23rd September until 18th October. Capacity in the big top had to be reduced significantly from 1,000 to 390 in order to observe social distancing requirements. The circus was initially due to finish on 11th October but following cancellation of their booking in Bath (due to flooding); the Downs (Events & Finance) sub-group permitted them to stay on for a further week. As they had to operate at greatly reduced capacity due to Covid, this supported them in generating a further week of ticket sales.

3. 2021 Events:

As reported at the last meeting, we've received a number of requests for events wanting 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

We've also received requests for new events wanting to operate on the Downs in 2021; Breaking Bread, March for Men, the Comedy Garden and Adventure Cinema.

The events programme for 2021 is still being considered by the Events & Finance Sub-Group and at this stage, final dates and fees have not been agreed.

