



THE CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE TRUST

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31 May 2016

Dear Andrew

The Downs Committee's Proposal to Charge for Works Compounds

Thank you for consulting the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust over the proposal to charge for future maintenance compounds on the Downs. Could you please include the following statement within your report to the next Downs Committee:

The bridge trustees are most concerned at the proposal to levy a charge for the use of the Downs for works compounds associated with necessary maintenance works on the bridge. At £200 per week this could add significantly to the cost of bridge maintenance works. This would ultimately mean that less maintenance would get done. Such bridge maintenance works are fully funded from toll income; an increase in the toll from 50p to £1 was necessary in 2014 due to the ever increasing bridge maintenance costs due to the age of the bridge, and it would not be palatable to bridge users to consider increasing the toll again. It is therefore essential that we do all we can to get the very best value out of the bridge toll revenue.

The Trust receives no financial support from the City Council towards the maintenance of the bridge, despite the bridge being an essential part of Bristol's road network as well as being a huge pull for Bristol tourism. Whilst we accept this position, it would seem rather perverse to have to make a payment to the City/Downs Committee to enable the Trust to maintain the bridge. The trustees understand and fully support the need to minimise the frequency and duration of works compounds on the Downs, as we appreciate these can be something of an eyesore for local residents and users of the Downs. However, we feel a charge is unnecessary and would be counter-productive. The need for compounds has been quite intense over the last 8 years, but is expected to be significantly less frequent in the next 5-year period. Instead of payment of a charge, we propose that the Trust undertake to



minimise the frequency and duration of works compounds, and that the Trust and the Downs Committee work together to minimise the impact of such compounds.

The bridge trustees therefore request that an exemption is made to the proposed charge, either for charities in general, or specifically in connection with the Clifton Suspension Bridge maintenance works. We will also, of course, carry out the reinstatement of the grass on completion of the current works and any future works requiring a compound.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the closing "Yours faithfully,".

David Anderson
Bridge Master