

Downs Committee –22nd March 2021

Events Update

No events have taken place on the Downs since the last Committee meeting in January 2021.

2021 Events

Following the latest government update on 22nd February relating to plan to ease lockdown restrictions in England, no live events can take place until at least 21st June 2021. This does not apply to temporary, outdoor hospitality venues which would be able to operate from 12th April.

The dates set for the stages & dates set out in the government's plan will only apply if the data allows which means there is still a potential risk for events planned over the summer. If the recovery does go according to plan, the following events are planned for the Downs in 2021;

Breaking Bread	April - September	Water Tower site
Comedy Garden	late June/early July	Showground site
March for Men	June	Parrys Lane site
Cycle Sunday	July	On closed roads/Circular Road
Adventure Cinema	August	Parrys Lane site
Foodies Festival	September	Parrys Lane site
Love Saves the Day	September	Circular Road site
Circus	September/October	Showground site
Student Union event	September	Parrys Lane site

Race for Life: will not be held at its usual slot in June and is looking to postpone until the autumn.

Pride: discussions are ongoing on whether to go ahead with this in July as usual or postpone until later in the year.

The events programme has been carefully planned to ensure that different sites on the Downs are utilised and that sufficient time is left between events to allow the site to be reinstated if necessary.

It should be noted that events will only go ahead if organisers can demonstrate to the Safety Advisory Group that their event complies with any Covid restrictions and guidelines that may be required at the time.

Resident consultation on events

Organisers of long running and high impact events e.g. Breaking Bread are required to consult with residents as part of the planning process for their events. Breaking Bread offered resident consultation meetings to residents in February. This was done through local resident association and FODAG. If, as scheduled, Love Saves the Day is able to go ahead in 2021, a consultation process with residents will be carried out by Team Love.

Downs Circus

The contract for the Downs circus is currently held by Tony Hopkins Entertainments who bring a circus to the Downs each year in late September/early October. The contract is in its final year and the Downs sub-group have agreed that they would like to extend the contract for a further year (to November 2022) which they have the option to do under the current agreement.

