

**Downs Committee**  
**Notes Of Events & Finance Sub Group Meeting**  
**25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Members:**

MV Gillian Camm (Master and Chair)  
MV David Powell  
Councillor Jos Clark  
Councillor Geoff Gollop

**Bristol City Council Officers:**

Jeremy Livitt – Democratic Services  
Kevin Jay – Finance  
Stefan Edwards – Events Officer  
Ben Skuse – Grounds Supervisor

**Apologies:**

MV Jonathon Baker  
MV Peter Rilett  
Councillor Paul Goggin  
Councillor Paula O'Rourke

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

It was noted that work was progressing on the proposed track scheme at the water tower site.

**2. Finance Update**

Kevin Jay introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- There would be no income from zoo car parking in future. It was hoped that the music festival might fill this cost.
- There had been additional costs related to additional cleaning of the toilets caused by COVID, in addition to costs caused by travellers occupying the Downs, building and repair costs and mower hire
- There remained an issue concerning the rates which was being investigated by Jonathan James
- The costs for all COVID related mitigations were controlled centrally including cleaning costs and this was flagged in the account

Members expressed concern that the additional compensation related to COVID received from the Government by Bristol City Council which related to the Downs (ie cleaning, littering) was not appearing in the Downs Committee accounts.

**ACTION: Kevin Jay and Ben Skuse to discuss this issue with their respective Heads of Service and report back**

### **3. Events Report Update**

Stefan Edwards introduced this report and made the following points:

#### Breaking Bread

This event would finish slightly early due to the negative financial impact caused by the weather and difficulty in obtaining staff to cover the event.

It was noted that Breaking Bread had not been able to make a commitment concerning provision of an event for 2022 and for this reason it was recommended that Funderworld were offered the site instead.

**ACTION: David Powell, Stefan Edwards and Kevin Jay to meet with Breaking Bread to discuss a number of issues arising from their 2021 event.**

Members considered outstanding 2021 events.

#### Downs Concert

This was scheduled to take place subject to outstanding debts being cleared.

#### Ladyboys

All outstanding payments had been made.

#### Adventure Cinema and Race for Life

Both these events would proceed.

#### Love Saves the Day, IDLES Gig and Foodies

All these events were close to being finalised.

#### Circus

Circus attended the last SAGE meeting. Officers were confident that it was likely to proceed since the organisation had hired a specialist company to help it meet covid requirements.

#### Students Union

Confirmation by SAGE that this could proceed would be made at next week's SAGE meeting. Members then considered proposed future 2022 events.

#### Funderworld

This event was important for the Downs. The organisers were keen to come back on the Water Tower site.

The following additional events have expressed a desire to return in 2022: Foodies Festival, March for Men, Race for Life, Pride, Adventure Cinema, Downs Concerts (Name of Organisers TBC), Students Union Welcome, Circus.

#### Comedy Garden

The venue for this site was yet to be determined subject to a final request from the organisers – either Queens Square or the Downs.

Members noted that the diary was being opened to enquiries from new event organisers. Sites Permissions would review the impact of COVID to confirm whether or not it was yet appropriate for event fees to return to pre-pandemic levels.

#### **4 Any Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

#### **5 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 2pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The meeting ended at 2.27pm