


Request from Pride for improved internet connectivity on the Downs

The Downs Committee have been approached by Pride, who in partnership with Forwards Festival, would like to improve the internet connection on the downs.

Internet connectivity was an issue at Pride last year - impacting on gate systems and traders. Pride have investigated the costs and logistics of installing a fibre line on the downs to improve internet connectivity. The solution involves digging a 100m duct to run the cable to the nearest pole, which BT have offered to do for free. The connection would be run to the café, which would benefit from the connection year-round.

Once installed, all other events on the downs would also be able to pay to use the improved connection, with costs likely to be lower than their existing solutions. This infrastructure improvement may also encourage new events to move to the downs. It is worth noting that events generated £285,000 of income to the downs in 2022-23, so maintaining and attracting events represents an important revenue stream.

There is an initial cost of £4935, to cover the paperwork and begin the process. **The ask is if the downs committee would be willing to cover the initial cost of up to £4935, with Pride and Forwards covering future costs for them and the cafe.** Pride and Forwards Festival have offered to split any additional costs and annual charges going forwards (subject to them running events on the downs). Officers are also investigating the possibility of using a different provider, which may slightly reduce the cost quoted.

Map Image	Job Summary
	<p>125m duct 56 required in soft ground from DP 677 where CBT is located to the back of the building where CAFE RETREAT is located. Once duct work is complete, please rod and rope 125m end to end. I have met onsite with Dan Vella civils gang leader from BOC116 to talk through what can be done.</p> <p>General Notes</p>