

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Downs Committee

26th September 2016 at 2.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Clare Champion-Smith, Jeff Lovell (Chair), Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Martin Fodor, T Ross, J Baker, A Brown, A Densham, F Greenacre, and D McArthur

Officers in Attendance:-

Philip Walker, Melissa Inman, Gemma Dando, Andrew Gordon, Ben Skuse, Rob Grieve, Norman Cornthwaite

1. Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from Councillor Nicola Beech and Cullum McAlpine.

Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Resolved – that the Minutes of the last Meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

3. Declarations of interest

There were none

4. Public Forum

The following Statements were received and noted:

Anne Lawrence – Massive Attack

Liz Tomlinson – Massive attack

Robin Page – Cycling on the Downs

Becky Moss - Cycling on the Downs

Guy Price - Cycling on the Downs



Jon Usher - Cycling on the Downs
Keith Bonham - Cycling on the Downs
Martin Key - Cycling on the Downs
Philip Adkins - Cycling on the Downs
Poppy Brett - Cycling on the Downs
Vicki Cracknell - Cycling on the Downs
SWTN – Public Transport

A copy of the Statements is contained in Minute Book.

5. Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge

Robert Westlake introduced this report and summarised it for everyone.

Francis Greenacre suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to FODAG on behalf of the Committee and this was agreed.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

6. Downs Management Report

Andrew Gordon introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Parks Budget

Gemma Dando explained that the Parks Budget is being reviewed and that as a result of this review the budget level for the Downs may change. It has also become apparent that the income from football does not cover the costs. Prior to presenting proposals for changes she stated that she would like to meet informally with some Members of the Downs Committee to hear their views – initially in relation to football and then the budget as a whole. This was agreed.

Place and Movement Framework

It was noted that a meeting of the Sub Group is to be arranged.

Management Plan

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

Ice Cream Concession



Members did not agree with the recommendations in the report. They did not consider that a discount should be offered or that a parking space be created. They considered that the concessionaire should have taken account of the parking restrictions in force when tendering for the concession.

Sea Walls Concession

The recommendations were agreed.

Risk Assessment

The recommendations were agreed.

Resolved – (1) that the report be noted and that the recommendations in the report be agreed including the following:

- (a) that the changes to timetable for producing a combined Downs and Gorge Plan be noted and the proposal to undertake a city wide consultation be approved;**
- (b) that the ice cream concession is not offered a discount for 2016 of approximately 10%;**
- (c) that a parking space is not created on the Downs along Ladies Mile to enable the concession to operate;**
- (d) that the outcome of the PS & P committee meeting for the Sea Walls concession be noted;**
- (e) that the terms and conditions for the tender documents for both Parry's Lane and ice cream concession be approved;**
- (f) that a Sub Group be set up to consider and make recommendations to the full Committee on the terms and conditions to be attached to any retendering documents for the Sea Walls concession;**
- (g) that note the outcome of the meeting with Service Directors be noted; and**
- (h) that the health and safety works be carried out around the café and changing rooms.**

7. Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on The Downs

Melissa Inman and Philip Walker introduced this report and summarised it for everyone.

In response to questions concerning the site hire fee of 45k (of which £38,250 is income to the Downs Committee) for the Massive Attack concert, it was explained that this was the highest fee received for an event the City and that fees had to be fair and take account of the costs involved in staging the event.



It was also confirmed that officers will feedback with DC after debrief with the Massive Attack concert and the Tour of Britain organisers and include in the subsequent downs committee report.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

8. Finance Report

No report was available. It was noted however that the draft accounts to end of Q1 showed no material over or underspend forecast. The key feature to date is the significant income from the concert on the Downs which will be accounted for after this quarter. This income did not form part of the initial income budget.

There was no change to previous reported reserves position.

9. Review of Parking Restriction Scheme

Robert Grieve introduced this report and summarised it for everyone.

It was noted that as part of the Downs Management Report the committee had already resolved that a parking space is not created on the Downs along Ladies Mile to enable the concession to operate.

Resolved - that the contents of this report including the proposed additional parking restrictions in the Downs and Sneyd Park area, notably in Downleaze, Rockleaze and Parrings Lane be noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was none.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21st November 2016 at 2.00 pm.

Meeting ended at 4.15 pm.

CHAIR _____

