

## **Downs Committee**

**13 November 2023**

### **Downs Management Report**

So finally, we got the grass in check and parked up the mowers for another season! It took a while. Conditions promoted grass growth this year almost up to November! As such lots of extra time (and fuel) was spent keeping the grass on our football surfaces short enough for play.

So now we move onto our winter programme of works. This will comprise as follows,

- Leaf removal from the Promenade
- 4 new memorial benches installed
- Removal and repositioning of 3 existing benches due to Ash die back
- Annual survey, repair and re wood stain of existing bench stock
- Downs scrub management plan ( Black Rock Quarry, Birdwatchers )
- Bridge Valley Rd rock face clearance works ( New Year )
- Football pitch provision twice a week ( putting up/taking down football equipment, marking lines, spiking, chaining, adding sand as necessary )

Daily litter and Goat duties will continue throughout the winter. There was a time in the past where the amount of resource that we had to devote in dealing with litter and bins would really fall into the winter. Now with a community of people living at the Downs this is never the case.

We continue to be assisted by both FODAG members and community payback teams. Many thanks to both.

So, plenty to be getting on with I think members will agree and no doubt the weather will throw up some extra challenges as the winter progresses. To remind members that were not aware, there is a team of 6 staff based at the Downs who work daily on getting through all of the work and tasks noted above. It is crucial that this remains if we are to be able to meet the challenges of looking after our incredible site for the benefit of the citizens of the city and visitors alike.

Ben Skuse

Bristol City Council Parks

Area Parks supervisor, Downs, Blaise and Kingsweston Estates