

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**DOWNS COMMITTEE  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2016**

**Report of:** Service Director, Neighbourhoods and Service Director,  
Culture

**Title:** Downs Management and Events report

**Ward:** N/A

**Officers Presenting Report:** Melissa Inman, Arts and Events Manager  
Sarah Tyler, Operations Co-ordinator  
North Parks

**Contact Telephone Number:** 07736640955

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Members:**

- To note the financial context for the management of the Downs
- Approve BCC Legal Team draw up an agreement between BCC and Merchant Venturers for zoo temporary car park on Ladies Mile, subject to planning permission for this car park being in place.
- To note the proposals for future filming and events/interactions and de-briefs on events
- That the application for the music event of The Downs 2017 be referred to the Events Sub group for consideration and for the Event Subgroup committee to present recommendations at the next full committee meeting.

**Summary**

This report brings together information about the council's management of the Downs, including income generation updates.

**1. Policy**

Not applicable

**2. Consultation**

**a) Internal**

John Williams, Area Manager North.

Andrew Gordon, Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer  
Becky Belfin, Nature Conservation Officer  
Sarah Tyler, Operations Coordinator North  
Gemma Dando, Service Manager

**b) External**

Mandy Leivers, Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer  
Jack Penrose, FOD + AG  
Chris Westcott, Natural England

**3. Context**

**Finance**

- i) The council faces significant financial challenges in the future. The council's budget consultation which is currently underway proposes a 25% cut to all parks budgets. One of the areas that the Parks and Green Spaces service is exploring in order to meet this gap is looking at income maximisation.
- ii) The council provides £262k of General Fund money to support the maintenance of the Downs each year. There are only a limited number of sites in the city that have the potential to increase their income significantly, and the Downs is one of them. One of the conversations that will take place at the finance subcommittee meeting with some Downs Committee members will be exploring what the income generation potential is on the Downs and whether the Downs can maintain the same level of service into the future by increasing the income to offset any reduction in General fund contribution.
- iii) Concessions and events are the two main areas that have the most potential for income generation on the Downs. There are improvements to be made in the interaction with residents about both of these opportunities, and this would need to be considered alongside proposals to increase income.
- iv) There are also efficiencies to be made around football, including ensuring that the charging is proportionate to the cost of providing football. Currently, the charges for football only just cover the cost of putting the goal posts up and down, and do not cover the maintenance of the pitches, the pitch marking or the changing rooms. This needs to be reviewed and the Downs Football League are being approached for a conversation about this.
- v) Bristol Council Security Services have reported that from 6<sup>th</sup> September to 31 October 2016 they did not identify any incidents of anti-social behaviour on the Downs. The arrangements with security services will be reviewed to ensure best value for money.
- vi) Meeting is to be held w/c 7<sup>th</sup> November with Neighbourhoods Service Director to discuss the Parks Budget.

**3a) Concessions:**

Outline street trading license applications have been submitted to Licensing for Parrys Lane catering concession and the ice cream concessions. This will involve public consultation. If approved by Licensing, the opportunities for both will then be tendered following BCC procurement process. On award to the successful applicant(s) providing all required documentation is provided the street trading licences will be in place for the new concessions.

**3b) Temporary car park** – planning application is required to be submitted by the zoo before the temporary permission expires in December 2016.

Legal agreements between BCC and Merchant Venturers for zoo temporary car park on Ladies Mile: Investigation by officers has found no written agreement between BCC and Society of Merchant Venturers to deal with income from the temporary Zoo Car Park at Ladies Mile on Clifton Downs (such as exists for the permanent Zoo Car Park). Its suggested that this should be resolved by BCC Legal Team drawing up an agreement to be signed by both parties. However, the need for the agreement will depend on the outcome of the planning application from the Zoo to renew the permission.

### **3c) Filming and Events**

<b>BFO</b>		<b>Income 2016/2017</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Description / Episode</b>	<b>BFO Filming Commission</b>	<b>Downs</b>
25/04/2016	Good Spaces	Velo Vixen	185.00	46.25
22/09/2016	Twenty Twenty	The Choir	40.00	40
20/10/2016	Electric Ray Ltd	Dancing for the Weekend	50.00	50
01/11/2016	Icon Films	River Monsters	40.00	40
<b>Totals</b>			315.00	176.25

*\*There is currently no future filming activity proposed to take place on the Downs*

### **Event & Festival Updates**

Events that have taken place since the last meeting under delegated powers

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>85% site fee income, to the downs Committee</b>	<b>15% site fee income to BCC</b>
Continental Circus	Sept/Oct	£27,200	£4,800
SU Welcome Fair	Sept	£2550	£450
	<b>TOTAL</b>	£29,750	£5,250

Proposed future events that will take place under Delegated Powers between Committee Meetings

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>Site Fee</b>	<b>85% site fee income, to the Downs Committee</b>	<b>15% site fee, income to BCC</b>
Funderworld	April	£21,900(2016 fee, 2017 hire fee to be agreed)	£18,700	£3,200
Foodies Festival	May	£6,500(2016 fee, (2017 hire fee to be agreed)	£5,610	£890
Lady Boys of Bangkok	June	£9,900 (2015 fee, 2017 hire fee to be agreed)	£8,500	£1,400
Music Concert	September	£45,000 (2016 fee, 2017 hire fee to be agreed)	£38,250	£6,750

### **Proposed future events**

Bristol city Council has received a number of applications to hold small-medium scale on the Downs in 2017, these include:

1. *Funderworld* returning event would like to use the site from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April.
2. *The Foodies Festival* would like to return to the Downs in May. They would be onsite from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May with the event being live on the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May. The site plan and build will be similar to last year's event.
3. Bristol City Council, Site Permissions Team has been approached by the organisers of *The Lady Boys of Bangkok* a touring cabaret held in the Sabai Pavilion, which has previously been held in Castle Park in Bristol City Centre. Due to Castle Park developments a meeting has been set up with the organiser to discuss alternate sites. One of the sites they have requested is the Downs. If the Downs Committee were in support of this event taking place they would wish to pull onsite from 5<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June. The event days would be 9<sup>th</sup> June to the 24<sup>th</sup> June.
4. Bristol Community Health to hold a *Summer Mini Festival* on the Downs. They held a summer event at Ashton Court. We are waiting for the organiser to come back to us with 2017 dates and more information about the event itself.

5. The Committee is therefore requested to decide on whether they approve to the listed Small-medium scale events taking place on the Downs in principle. Bristol City Council officers can provide further information and respond to any questions on each of these events if required at the meeting.

### **Summary of the Massive attack Concert**

1. Report circulated on behalf of the Organisers of The Downs Concert 2016 to be presented by Director of Team Love and Event Manager for the Massive attack Concert, Tom Paine.

### **Proposal to use The Downs for a Music Concert in 2017**

1. Bristol City Council has received an application from Team Love to hold a large scale concert on the Downs in 2017
2. Bristol City Council is required to report to the committee on progress and plans for new event proposals. Team Love would like to propose a follow up the 2016 Music, with a similar 30,000 capacity event for 2017. The organisers would be happy to use the same weekend of 2016, which in 2017 would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.
3. Report circulated on behalf of the Organisers of The Downs Concert 2016
4. Recommendation that the application for the music event of The Downs 2017 be referred to the Events Sub group for consideration and for the Event Subgroup committee to present recommendations at the next full committee meeting.

### **Financial**

#### **(a) Revenue**

Income since last report under Delegated Powers:

#### **Net figures to date**

Filming site fee income to date: £1138.75

Events site fee income to date to the Downs Committee: £68,850

Site Fees are based on the schedule of charges 2015-16/16/17

### **Downs Management update**

#### **3d) Enjoyment:**

FODAG are in the process of looking at how they can raise the necessary funds for four information panels describing the history of each location (Haven, Tramway and Gully Victorian footsteps) and the restoration works

carried out. The quote for these from City Design Team is £4,294. The Haven panel will hopefully be in place in early 2017 with the other panels installed later in the year.

### **3e) Access:**

Councillor Champion-Smith has received an e-mail from a constituent reporting 5 incidents of people in mobile homes staying overnight in the slip road between Westbury Road and Parry's Lane over the weekend, leaving significant amounts of rubbish. Neighbourhood Enforcement Team are to establish what powers BCC has to deal with the activity.

### **3f) Movement and Place Framework subgroup**

Meeting date to be confirmed and sub group members confirmed.

## **4. Landscape:**

### **Wildlife**

#### **4a) Summary of activities of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project education programme for September and October 2016**

During this period, we engaged with 945 people directly through the education programme. We ran 11 public events including: five guided walks, one talk, two children's and family events and gave three talks to community groups.

We ran 17 education sessions for 473 school children and took 24 students, on the Foundation Degree in Integrated Wildlife Conservation, on a guided tour of the Avon Gorge and Downs. In September, we shared a stall with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FODAG) at the University of Bristol Freshers' Fair which was held on the Downs. Over the course of the day we spoke to 155 students about the project and volunteering opportunities. We also teamed up with FODAG to lead a 'Your Downs' guided walk for 13 people from the Headway (a charity that works with people recovering from brain injury).

At the end of October, the Avon Gorge and Downs seasonal education officer departed. Her report is presented as a separate item on the agenda.

#### **4b) Tree safety works**

Through the Summer/Autumn dead/dying trees have been felled. The tree officer will be inspecting for dead or high risk trees in the Gorge within the next 2 weeks. This will then inform the locations in which rope access inspections are carried out. Tree removals are likely to follow.

#### **4c) Management and Resources: Downs Team Report**

Daily duties continue on an ongoing basis; litter collection, football pitch provision and goat monitoring.

Works completed through the Summer/Autumn:

- Grass cutting has continued due to mild conditions and visitor numbers have remained high.
- Significant tree canopy lifting works have taken place mainly on trees on the bus routes around the Downs.
- The summer bedding from the plant beds at the top of Blackboy Hill and at the Thomas Memorial have been removed and replaced with tulip bulbs and wallflowers.
- The Circus site has been cut, chained and spiked and will recover well.

Works planned through the Autumn/Winter include:

- Leaf clearing operations on The Promenade and other locations as required.
- Scrub management plan work, this will continue up to January.
- Further tree clearance on the banks around the Observatory in Clifton also opening up more viewpoints through the woodland edge along the cliff tops next to the Promenade in Clifton.
- The continued restoration and repainting of the urinal.
- 3 new memorial benches will be installed
- 1 damaged dog bin will be replaced.

The football pitches where the Massive Attack concert was held are recovering well. As members know subsequent to this event we have accommodated the Tour of Britain, the BU Freshers Fair, and then the Circus. Due to predominantly dry weather conditions throughout this time, the team have been able to carry out relatively minor grounds reinstatement works. Low impact activities through the Winter will allow good recovery of the grounds.

#### **4d) Management Plan**

A first working draft has been produced by the BCC Conservation Officer together with the Heritage Partnership and Planning Officer. A meeting is now to be held with Parks and Asset Management teams to complete the draft action plan.

A sub group meeting will then be held to review the plan before the final draft is presented to the Downs Committee in April 2017 for approval. Once approved the draft plan will then go to a 12 week citywide public consultation. Following this, a sub group meeting will be held to review the consultation comments and produce the final version.

#### **4e) Risk Assessment:**

Consultants working for the Transport Asset team have been commissioned to collate available information, to prepare a risk register of known Bristol City Council cliff faces. The consequence of failure and the confidence in asset condition knowledge are being used to prioritise the case for asset inspection investment by the Council. The register will include the Bristol side of the

Avon Gorge.

Contractor has been appointed to carry out the replacement of the Black Rock Quarry catchment fence.

Following an update of the fire risk assessment for the changing rooms the outstanding health and safety items are being carried out. This is being completed by the Parks North team and is due to be completed by mid-November.

## **5. Public Sector Equality Duties**

5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
  - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
  - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
  - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
  - tackle prejudice; and
  - promote understanding.

## **6. Legal and Resource Implications**

### **Legal**

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that the Downs

should remain as a place for the resort and recreation of the citizens of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The recommendations of this report are within the powers conferred by this statute.

## **Financial**

### **(a) Revenue:**

### **(b) Capital**

None

Financial advice provided by Mike Allen. Business Partner.

## **7. Land**

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

## **8. Personnel**

Not applicable

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

Background Papers: None