

Western Harbour Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes

16th July 2024, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

City Hall

ATTENDEES

WHAG members:

David Crossland (sub for Steve Shaw)	Director of Riverside Garden Centre
Matt Donnelly	Young Bristol Sea Mills Boys' & Girls Club Broad Plain Boxing Club/England Boxing National Association of Boys' & Girls Clubs
Paul Hassan	Partnership Development Manager for Ashley Community & Housing (ACH)- refugee integration specialist One City Homes & Communities Board. Harbour Festival Steering Committee 2024
Helen Johnson	Co-founder of the Spike Island Bristol Community Association.
Councillor Patrick McAllister	Green Party, Ward Member for Hotwells and Harbourside
Rachel McNally	Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA) - Chair Clifton/Clifton Down / Hotwells & Harbourside Neighbourhood Forum - Co-Chair
Celia Phipps	Chair of Action Greater Bedminster Member of Friends of Greville Smyth Park
Gerry Swarbrick	Co-Chair of Clifton, Clifton Down, Hotwells & Harbourside Neighbourhood Forum. Founder of Clifton Neighbours
Matthew Symonds	Lead volunteer for Blooming Bedminster community growing project Secretary of South Bristol Gardening Club
Richard Walker	Nominated representative of Harbourheads Residents Group
Bella Warley	Skateable Spaces Development Officer at Skateboard GB.
Georgia Wigmore	Mature Architecture & Planning student at UWE

Project Team:

Emily Price	BCC Regeneration Team	EP
Elizabeth Atherton	BCC Regeneration Team	EA
Alex Lifschutz	Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands	AL
Abigail Thomas	Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands	AT
Avril Baker	Avril Baker Consultancy	AB

APOLOGIES

Lorna Allsop	Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CfD). Deaf Alzheimer's Support Group
Sandra Fryer	Chair of Bristol Civic Society Member Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association Chair of Governors Cotham School
Nicola Harris	Housing Festival Bristol Diocese
Richard Holden	Underfall Yard Trust - Trustee

1.0	Introduction and welcome to Cllr Patrick McAllister	
1.1	<p>Cllr Patrick McAllister introduced himself to the group. He confirmed he will attend the group in capacity as a member.</p> <p>The group agreed that they would like the project team to continue to facilitate the WHAG meetings.</p>	Outcome
2.0	Agree previous meeting notes	
2.1	The group agreed the notes of the last meeting held on 27th June 2024	Outcome
3.0	Feedback from site-walk	
3.1	<p>AB explained that the team received very useful feedback from members of the WHAG during the site walks. The team is exploring how site walks and tours - including self guided walks - could be used in the community engagement strategy.</p> <p>AB explained that we also received helpful suggestions for venues and locations for community engagement - the team is considering a fixed exhibition taking place at a central venue and also satellite exhibitions in and around the site.</p> <p>The project team is continuing to work on a strategy focusing on less heard from groups - informed by the Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>AB explained that if there are opportunities to link up the engagement with WHAG's networks or the group identifies something missing from the strategy they are welcome to raise this or email.</p>	Note
3.2	<p>A member enquired about the engagement connecting with the Harbour Festival.</p> <p>EP confirmed that it would be premature to share thinking at this stage.</p>	Note

4.0	What If...	
4.1	<p>AT and AL presented current conceptual thinking on key elements of the WH masterplan. It was clarified that this thinking is high level and confidential at this stage and framed as ‘what..if?’</p> <p>Members of the WHAG received the principle of the propositions positively.</p> <p>Feedback and questions from WHAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was raised it is important to acknowledge and represent residents who live or in close proximity to the Western Harbour site boundary within the thinking • Bonded Warehouses - a member asked are all the Bonded Warehouses being imagined as different uses. EP confirmed that all three bonded warehouses are owned by Bristol City Council. C Bond (Safestore) is on a long lease until 2038. • It was raised that the WHAG are keen to see Western Harbour in its wider context: for example by describing how a cultural use in one of the bonded warehouses complements Bristol’s wider cultural offer and balances with other cultural activity. AL agreed that we do not want to duplicate or compete. • Beyond road connectivity, there was a large discussion around cycling, walking, rail, bus, and ferry connections. WHAG members were keen to understand how the site would be connected and joined up with the wider city and provide sustainable transport options as we think about the future of Western Harbour. There was discussion around whether the heritage railway could deliver a service beyond purely a leisure route for commuters, the group were keen to understand wider rail and ferry connectivity options. • The group welcomed the "What..If" to retain Ashton Meadows as a green space and place for skaters and bikers. • Post meeting note: A member of the group raised if the skate park next Ashton meadows could be officially designated as a skateable area. The project team will explore this. 	Note

4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a lengthy discussion around the flood infrastructure and Bristol Avon Flood Strategy (BAFS), its necessity, cost and the funding implications for the project. • AT and AL explained that, as a design team, the strategy is treated as fixed and there is an assumption it will be progressed - it is not within their scope or brief to look at the premise of the strategy. The BAFS strategy has been adopted by BCC and is currently in it's final stages of approval at the Environment Agency. • EP will explore if members of the BAFS team can run a learning session with WHAG. • Post meeting note: The Bristol Avon Flood Strategy Outline Business Case has since been approved by the Environment Agency. 	Action BCC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group collectively acknowledged the need for affordable housing. There was discussion over the % of affordable housing and the definition of affordable housing. The group reflected on the importance of achieving mixed communities and meeting varied housing need. Some members of the group raised that they would like to see 80% affordable housing on the site. • EP clarified that there is a commitment to 50% affordable housing within the vision. The development will not pay for the cost of the infrastructure works so we will have to seek a variety of funding sources to pay for housing. 	
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was welcomed by some members of WHAG that the design team is considering how more people can enjoy and benefit from the water as Bristol lacks places for people to connect to the water. • It was raised by a member if the precedents shown in relation to 'maximising the waterfront' were achievable in the Cumberland Basin due to the scour, ferries and other operational practicalities. 	Note
5.0	27th September Trip to London and next meeting	
5.1	<p>EP explained that WHAG and elected members would be invited to a trip to London to visit precedents and examples in Paddington and London's South Bank.</p> <p>EP confirmed there would be a break over August and the next WHAG meeting would be held on the 12th September.</p>	Note
6.0	Web Update	
6.1	EA ran through the website update and also reminded the group to submit their payment for involvement claims on Open Collective	Action WHAG