

# Western Harbour Advisory Group

## Draft Meeting Notes

27th June 2024, 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Site Walkabout and Riverside Garden Centre

### ATTENDEES

#### WHAG members:

Lorna Allsop	Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CfD). Deaf Alzheimer's Support Group
Matt Donnelly	Young Bristol Sea Mills Boys' & Girls Club Broad Plain Boxing Club/England Boxing National Association of Boys' & Girls Clubs
Sandra Fryer	Chair of Bristol Civic Society Member Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association Chair of Governors Cotham School
Nicola Harris	Housing Festival Bristol Diocese
Helen Johnson	Co-founder of the Spike Island Bristol Community Association.
Rachel McNally	Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA) - Chair Clifton/Clifton Down / Hotwells & Harbourside Neighbourhood Forum - Co-Chair
David Crossland (sub for Steve Shaw)	Director of Riverside Garden Centre
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.

#### 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
Charli Bate	Avril Baker Consultancy	CB
Anita Craig	Avril Baker Consultancy	AC

## **APOLOGIES**

Paul Hassan	Partnership Development Manager for Ashley Community & Housing (ACH)- refugee integration specialist One City Homes & Communities Board. Harbour Festival Steering Committee 2024
Richard Holden	Underfall Yard Trust - Trustee
Celia Phipps	Chair of Action Greater Bedminster Member of Friends of Greville Smyth Park
Georgia Wigmore	Mature Architecture & Planning student at UWE

	<b>Please note: Any references to Councillor Patrick McAllister chairing the group are now outdated. Councillor McAllister is a member of the group.</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Site Walkabout</b>	
1.1	<p>The first part of the meeting involved a site walkabout starting from the Rose of Denmark and finishing at the Riverside Garden Centre. The meeting route is amended to the notes in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Members who could not attend the meeting joined the team for a walkabout on the 20th June.</p>	Note
1.2	<p>Stop 1: Cumberland Piazza:</p> <p>WHAG members highlighted how the local community has worked to improve and liven up this area by painting columns, introducing planters and skaters have added ramps. They also highlighted this as a key part of Dame Sylvia Crowe’s landscape design.</p> <p>A community event was held in June in this area to celebrate 50 years of the Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note - There was some discussion about the designation of this space - Cumberland Piazza is designated as an “Important Open Space” by Bristol City Council.</b></p> <p>The group felt there was opportunity to provide more exercise equipment here.</p> <p>The masterplanning team asked the group if they could appreciate the water from this space. The WHAG noted that the road cut off the connection with the water.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area has flooded in the past</li> <li>• The area should be used by people not cars, this feels like an anti-pedestrian area</li> <li>• In the winter and at night this area does not feel safe - people use it as a cycle connection</li> <li>• Could the space be greener?</li> <li>• The road is very busy and noisy in this area</li> <li>• Previously thought about creating a community hub/ space under the flyover here</li> <li>• There used to be public toilets/ pond/ fountain</li> <li>• Limited observed anti-social behaviour some people had observed homeless people</li> <li>• Some beautiful trees here</li> </ul>	Note

<p>1.3</p>	<p>Stop 2: Entrance Lock and Brunel's other Bridge (BoB)</p> <p>The group noted how this space benefits from amazing views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Ashton Court. This is also a place where you can watch the balloons. Lots of the group consider this a 'hidden gem' used by locals, runners, dog walkers. It's a place to discover for yourself which adds to its character.</p> <p>The masterplanning team asked the group if this is a place where lots of people should come.</p> <p>The group noted that they would like to see a more accessible space and more people enjoying the area and more seating, and people could be guided better after they emerge at the pump house. However, the group did not want to see a commercialised space.</p> <p>It was noted that this area is still operational and working. It does not feel like a safe place for young children.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How often the area floods - a discussion around whether it floods more now or whether there is just more awareness of spring tides</li> <li>• The small bridges and operational nature are part of its character</li> <li>• Gateway to the city and the harbour. Should celebrate the history of the location better and tell the story.</li> <li>• There used to be more information and maps here, should be more of a focal point that can be improved for tourism.</li> <li>• Very atmospheric area, especially when tall ships come in at night</li> <li>• Shouldn't be overly curated</li> <li>• Discussion over whether ships could moor here</li> <li>• Impact of a commercial outlet, such as a cafe, on Underfall Yard.</li> </ul>	<p>Note</p>
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Stop 3: The Viewpoint:</p> <p>The group discussed the road in this location. Also noted this is a quieter space to enjoy the view of the bridge. This is also where the city touches the country.</p> <p>AL confirmed that they are exploring traffic movement - asked the group - Would Bristol accept a reduction in car use?</p> <p>Group commented that the road feels overly engineered and a celebration of the car. This needs to change.</p> <p>People don't use the diversionary ramp in this location when moving north if one car decides to wait (when the bridge swings) the diversionary route becomes unusable.</p> <p>The group discussed this is also a key route for lorries/ HGVs accessing the Portway which are not actually entering the city.</p> <p>This is also one of the most used graffiti walls in Bristol</p>	<p>Note</p>

<p>1.5</p>	<p>Stop 4: Back of B Bond Warehouse beneath the Cumberland Road flyover</p> <p>The masterplanning team asked if the group could imagine housing in this location.</p> <p>The group had mixed views, a few members commented that it was hard to imagine what's possible without knowing the future of the road - but also noted that much of the spaghetti system in this part of the site is rarely used.</p> <p>Some of the group felt that at the moment there is not enough local amenities/services to support housing - they could imagine a market in this area.</p> <p>One member mentioned that the Tobacco Factory was empty 30 years ago and an example of how places and derelict buildings can be revitalised.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the south edge of Cumberland Basin - this area hosts cinema screenings in the summer months.</li> <li>• This is a cavernous space it could be somewhere for concerts and music</li> <li>• This is an expensive part of the city to live in, but near the city centre, and it needs a mix of people</li> <li>• We need to clarify how we talk about the site - it is not a 'blank canvas'</li> <li>• A discussion was held about the costs of removing infrastructure and the funding strategy.</li> <li>• Cumberland Basin is really attractive and the waterfront on the south side should complement the views looking north.</li> </ul>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p>1.6</p>	<p>Stop 5: Avon Crescent and substation</p> <p>The group noted that traffic management is an issue in this area. Previously the Crescent was closed to traffic and now it has been reopened to traffic. This area is a busy location for walkers and cyclists particularly at weekends.</p> <p>AL explained that the project team are keen to see the inside of the substation, but as it's operational difficult to gain access. The substation is a great asset to the site, it would be great to re-purpose.</p> <p>The group noted it is important for future development to link with other local developments coming forward.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bus Gate is an ongoing issue for some members of the group.</li> <li>• The roads here feel like wasted space</li> <li>• Issues with other parts of BCC services are eroding trust</li> <li>• Discussion around the connection to Underfall Yard and making this more visible</li> </ul>	<p>Note</p>

<p>1.7</p>	<p>Stop 6: Butterfly Junction, North side of Ashton Avenue Bridge</p> <p>The group held a discussion around the Bonded Warehouses. AL explained that to make them suitable for housing lots of work would need to be done due to low floor to ceiling heights - but there are example of converting warehouses to housing. These are not straightforward conversions.</p> <p>Other uses could also be looked at such as archive storage, office. The top floors have great views and they are assets to the site.</p> <p>A discussion was held around public transport connections. There is the heritage railway which links to M-Shed and an obligation for this to be reinstated. EP clarified that we will need to look at Metro Bus future plans and funding. One member pointed out that other cities have electric trams and better connections - keen for more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Some members pointed out the biodiversity running along the new cut - a biodiversity corridor that runs all the way to Temple Meads.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butterfly Junction has been cared for by the local community for 10/15 years - specific planting for butterflies</li> <li>• The role of Riverside in connecting existing and new communities</li> <li>• Other types of housing - for example a residential village for older people</li> <li>• The reinstatement of the Bristol Temple Meads to Portishead rail line - via Pill</li> </ul>	<p>Note</p>
<p>1.8</p>	<p>Stop 7: Ashton Meadows and pump track</p> <p>The pump track is used by all ages. People bike, skate, BMX and scooter. Ramps have been built and added to the community has invested in it. The development to the south, [Ashton Rail Yard] means another informal skate park will be demolished. This is a multi-generational space, it is also used for raves and events such as the BMX jam.</p> <p>Some of the group asked if programming/planning skateboarding means it loses it's appeal. Skateboarding can thrive in unused spaces but the community is becoming more accepting.</p> <p>Question around red line boundary - why is it where it is? EP and AL explained that the council owns most of the land. The team will still consider the wider context and linkages beyond the red line.</p> <p>This area is a corridor to the green lungs of the city - Leigh Woods, Ashton Court, and Greville Smyth. Legibility to Coronation Road is difficult - more routes and connections would be useful.</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the proximity of Greville Smyth Park this area feels disconnected from the park due to the roads</li> <li>• The importance of allotments, growing food brings people together.</li> </ul>	<p>Note</p>

2.0	<b>Riverside Garden Centre - EP update</b>	
2.1	<p>EP thanked Riverside for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>EP clarified that agreement of the draft meeting notes for WHAG held in May would be agreed via email.</p> <p>EP explained that she has briefed the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Economy and Skills Committee - Councillor Andrew Brown (Liberal Democrats) and Councillor Jenny Bartle (Green Party) on WHAG.</p> <p>EP confirmed that following the briefing it has been confirmed the Councillor Patrick McAllister - ward member for Hotwells and Harbourside - will chair the group.</p> <p>Some WHAG members expressed concern around the appointment - there was not time to discuss this in detail.</p>	Outcome
3.0	<b>Community Engagement - Led by Avril Baker Consultancy</b>	
3.1	<p>AB introduced initial ideas for consultation and confirmed the objectives of the consultation and engagement strategy would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage</li> <li>• Listen</li> <li>• Colloborate</li> <li>• Co-Create</li> </ul> <p>We will continue to engage through WHAG, the Harbour Hopes website, and site walks with groups.</p> <p>AB confirmed we plan to engage in the Autumn on initial ideas for the masterplan.</p>	Note
3.2	<p>The ABC team ran an activity in which WHAG were invited to respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking about the community you represent are there any methods of engagement you think could be effective for Western Harbour?</li> <li>• How can we engage effectively with groups that often feel less heard from?</li> <li>• How shall we measure success of our engagement activities?</li> <li>• Where do you think it would be best to host a permanent regularly updated display?</li> <li>• Where do you think we should host public consultation events?</li> <li>• Is there anything else you want to add following our site walk?</li> </ul> <p>The ideas generated from this activity are appended to the meeting notes.</p>	Note
3.3	<p>AB confirmed the question for WHAG to take away to their communities is:</p> <p>What do you think contributes to a healthy community?</p>	Action: WHAG

<b>4.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
4.1	EP confirmed that the team would circulate a survey as part of a Health Impact Assessment for Western Harbour conducted in partnership with the regeneration team's researcher-in-residence who works with TRUUD "Tackling Root Causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development"	Action BCC
4.2	EP confirmed the community engagement questions would be circulated to WHAG and any further comments could be shared with the team.	Action BCC
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Meeting Summary</b>	
5.1	A Meeting Summary is appended to the Meeting Notes	Note
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>	
6.1	The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th July at 5.30 pm at City Hall	Note



# Western Harbour Advisory Group

## Meeting Summary

27th June 2024

### **We were presented with...**

- A map of Western Harbour to follow on our site tour
- Questions to consider regarding the community engagement strategy

### **We considered...**

- What we value about the existing site
- Thoughts and ideas for what Western Harbour might be
- How much road infrastructure we might need in the future
- Where new homes might be
- Ideas for the community engagement strategy

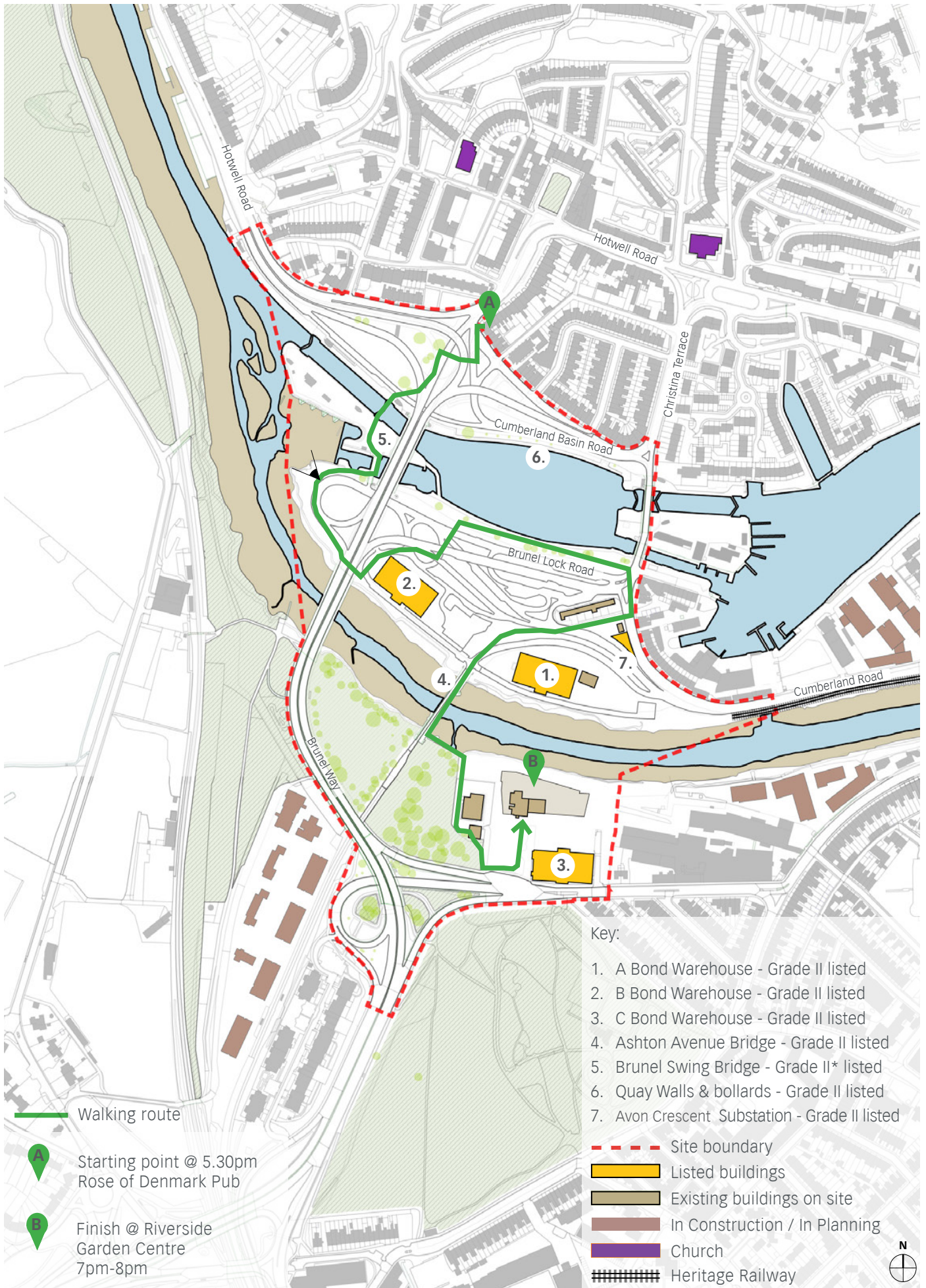
### **We want to keep talking about...**

- Balancing the existing and future community's needs
- How the project will be funded
- Plans for the flood and road infrastructure

### **We want to talk to our communities about...**

- What do you think contributes to a healthy community?

# Appendix 1: Walkabout Map



## Appendix 2: Community Engagement write-up

Group feedback via Post It notes

**Q. Thinking about the community you represent, are there any different methods of engagement you think could be effective for Western Harbour?**

- HCCA could host events – perhaps by topics?
- Clubs + groups at Trinity Church could be engaged
- A young people's summit with students from local schools?
- Address outstanding issues that local communities have - e.g. avon cres – this will help rebuild trust
- Exhibition should be at Underfall Yard – maybe a temporary pod
- You can reach skaters pretty easily through the local skateshop
- Skaters spend a lot of time on Instagram
- Don't overlook the skateboarders – Talk to them! – they love that space
- Holding community engagement events in local churches e.g. Hope Chapel and Holy Trinity Church
- Up date leaflets available at Riverside or display board with information
- For people interested in plants/wildlife maybe organise walks that appeal to those and tag onto that a bit about Weston Harborside
- I'm mindful we have no one here from an ethnic minority group & yet Bedminster is a very diverse community I believe - more reading into this community needed – “door knocking” - in local shops?
- Create awareness of engagement in HCW – Leaflet drop through doors.  
Create engagement in HCW – go to people and groups – offer named person or people to contact. Show how comments and thoughts are feeding the process
- Don't really just on online methods – HCCA has notice boards
- Need material and updates suitable to use and present at community meetings. Needs to be substantive and meaningful. Also need to anticipate and meet expectations on timescales of progress.
- Tag onto successful engagement events – e.g. things people take part in like UPFEST, the Harbour Festival, Bedminster's secret gardens trail etc.
- Hold a big Western Harbour's day picnic (with some music) and tag an engagement/consultation event onto it
- Create a temporary Western Harbourside garden beside the Cumberland Basin (on the grass) that would attract people and have information displayed within it.
- Use an interactive IT platform which others can see.....
- Young Bristol – Youth club on wheels, mobile youth club put into community to engage young people and families – water based canoe tour. Different aspect/view. Understand water usage impact with development
- Bristol Civic Society – would be pleased to host an 'event' probably virtual
- Several info points – Riverside – Hotwells Primary School – Aldi/Tobacco Factory
- Underfall Harbour fest weekend 'Morbet' 20/21st do stall
- Special meeting with Bristol Chamber of Commerce planning & Transport Group

### Additional Stakeholder groups

- Sports - leisure - creative
- Night time economy – hospitality

## Appendix 2: Community Engagement write-up (cont.)

### Q. Where do you think we should host public consultation events?

- Pubs – schools – Clifton library – Bridge club – Holy Trinity
- Central based to draw attention to the Western harbour works
- The many pockets of mini communities like we visited. – Skate Park, fitness groups
- Host consultancy events in the bridge watch room – I'd go! – or other interesting places people would like to go
- St Paul's Bedminster – v engaged local groups going into space + schools too so local people
- Hope Chapel/Holy Trinity churches – good spaces assessed by local community
- The car park next to Cumberland basin beside the bridge near Pump house/ Avon Crescent

### Q. Where do you think it would be best to host a permanent regularly updated display?

- Can the permanent display be outside where it can be accessible or engaging rather than being somewhere you need to go? Maybe use the existing pillars on the as outdoor exhibition space
- An outdoor screen that people can post their message/ images about Western Harbourside too – would probably need to have a way to approve posts.
- Several locations- Not just Create as closed on weekends - outside in Cumberland piazza? – M shed – local pubs – maybe a more diffuse approach. M Shed is good too!

### Q. How shall we measure success of our engagement activities?

- Measure success by then being lots of it from a diverse range of people
- When the most cynical diehards agree to disagree or feel heard / when local anxiety and concern turns to excitement
- Asking the local community if they feel listened to - quantitative measurements of a qualitative thing!

### Q. How can we engage effectively with groups that are often less heard from?

- Engage with groups that advocate for minority groups i.e young people are brilliantly represented by "Playing out"
- School visits + competitions – workshops on developing a city? Then you get the parents potentially!
- Interactive map like was on website previously
- Meeting with local community leaders + inviting them on site visits
- Offer groups / people follow up opportunities
- Meet in their spaces e.g. community rooms in social housing, Trinity lunch club Cumberland piazza – fitness classes
- Engage St. Monicas older peoples living
- Engage with less heard form groups by doing things that appeal with them e.g. support events or a signed event etc.
- Make engagement interactive e.g. invite people to submit / maybe a competition of photo or poems, perhaps ask people to make tic tock reels (if that's what they're called?)
- Engage with less heard from groups by doing things that appeal to them e.g. support skate event or a signed event etc

## Appendix 2: Community Engagement write-up (cont.)

Q. Is there anything else you want to add following the site walk?

- What are mechanisms/links to ensure Harbour Placemaking + W.H + Harbour Review are joined up?
- SI and Harbour need essential services (e.g health) + greenspace NOW – what is being done to secure / protect those now + for the future WH development?
- Many of these spaces are already used by different groups. We need more pedestrian crossings!