



PRESS RELEASE

19th July 2021

St Mary le Port - West end of Castle Park

Bristol Civic Society supports redevelopment but cannot support current proposals

“The Civic Society is keen to see an appropriate redevelopment of this important city centre site which currently is an eyesore. **However, we cannot support this proposal which is now the subject of a detailed planning application**”, says Society Chair Simon Birch

Our strong view is that this is not an appropriate design response to this sensitive site located in Bristol’s historic core. Although we have identified a number of commendable aspects of the scheme, the harmful impacts, particularly those flowing from the heights of the buildings, outweigh these.

The site’s current condition, and the wish to see it redeveloped and brought into productive use, should not be to the detriment of the historic features and character of this sensitive part of the city.

Ideally, the Society would like to see the application site and adjoining highway land considered together in the redevelopment of the area. Not doing so potentially risks missing an opportunity to deliver an outstanding piece of place making that Bristol would be proud of.

In particular, the Society cannot support the proposed heights of the three office buildings because they would harm the setting (and views) of medieval church spires, other listed buildings and views to the development when seen from many viewpoints.

Ends

Background Information

Bristol Civic Society is a long-established charity (founded 1905) with nearly 600 members. Its aims are to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning and to ensure the preservation of the best of the historic past of the City.

Further Information

Contact Simon Birch, Chair, Bristol Civic Society on 07917 403473 or email simon.birch@bristolcivicsociety.org.uk

The planning application can be found on the Bristol Planning Website <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations/search-and-track-planning-applications>

Reference details for the application are: 21/03020/F St Mary-le-Port Wine Street Bristol BS1 2AN