

WESTERN HARBOUR

Notes prepared for meeting between Turner.Works and Bristol Civic Society on 22nd September 2021

The Area

Western Harbour is a special and unique part of the City. Not just another area for development. Relatively small and very complex.

Critical to appreciate and understand what's here before proposing change.

What makes Western Harbour so special?

- Where the City meets the countryside and what high quality countryside – with Ashton Court and Avon Gorge

- Where there is so much history:
 - the Floating Harbour, Brunel's Lock, his swivel Bridge, and the working locks, New Cut, hydraulics, Underfall Yard. Great technical and historic importance

 - tobacco – the big three bonded warehouses, evidence of one of Bristol's major industries. Under appreciated, little understood

 - Hotwells, Cliftonwood and Clifton

 - Bedminster, Ashton

 - Where the topography gives such sensational views
 - outwards and inwards and along

 - to the Suspension Bridge, Avon Gorge, Ashton Court

 - along the Floating harbour

 - Clifton and Clifton Woods

- Where there is so much current activity
- still navigation along the Avon and Harbour
- boats and people on the water
- boat building (Underfall Yard)
- social activity – Cottage PH, Pumphouse, cafes
- businesses

SCOPE FOR CHANGE

The need for a modern safe **road system** incorporating a crossing of the River Avon / Harbour / New Cut

The need for modern and effective **flood defences**

The **industrial & maritime heritage** assets are unique to Bristol, historically important, and offer huge potential as educational/recreational amenities for Bristolians, and an attraction to visitors to the City.

- The history of the Floating Harbour / Avon / New Cut must be retained, protected and interpreted. Water, locks, hydraulics etc....
- The tobacco bonds need to be recognised and appreciated

Important **views** both into and out of the area need to be identified and protected eg Avon Gorge / Suspension Bridge, Ashton Court, Cliftonwood / Hotwells, along the Floating Harbour

The need for the area to be much easier to **access** – for everyone. Currently greatly under appreciated – by visitors to the Harbour – relatively remote, not very well signed, looks a bit dangerous, big drops, graffiti. We don't realise what we have here!

And, of course, the scope for **new development** – well designed (architectural competitions) – respecting the context (views, heritage) – housing, culture, employment

BRISTOL CIVIC SOCIETY

BCS active since 1905, nearly 600 members

Pro protection of heritage, pro quality new development

Definitely not a nimby organisation

Geoff Wallis very happy to meet with Turner Works at any time after 28th September and conduct a tour of the heritage assets.

We have held meetings (on zoom) to give an opportunity for members to input their views – nearly 50 at each event. We have also held smaller group walks around the area.

We are working with UWE – Planning. Two students – Alex and Sarah – attended our meetings and conducted a survey – copy available.

Articles to raise awareness in our magazine Better Bristol