

WESTERN HARBOUR - MAKING YOUR VOICE* HEARD!

(* And the Civic Society's voice)

There is clearly interest, even concern, amongst Civic Society members about what might happen with Bristol's Western Harbour. And it is also likely (certain surely?) that members would have some valuable ideas to suggest. This note and the attachments explain how all of you might contribute in ways from very quick and easy to slightly more lengthy, challenging but potentially extremely useful. These ideas have been developed by me as a Society member with help from Iain Boyd, also a Society member, as well as Simon Birch.

Your contributions will all be assembled and sent to the City Council's engagement consultants. Please send anything to me at: patandjeff@cbnd.com

Please contribute! Thank you.

Jeff Bishop

IN ADVANCE

Overleaf you will see a map showing a suggested **Guided Walk** around the whole Western Harbour area (with instructions on the route). Many of you may know it but do you know it well enough? Others may not think they know it well so it is probably good to all have an enjoyable walk around before doing what follows.

1. THE EASY AND QUICK TASK

If you go to the community engagement website – www.harbourhopes.co.uk – and then to the Interactive Map, you will see lots of pins on the map. Click on any pin and you should find a comment. You can add your own comment or two ... or more, using the instructions top left. Don't get stuck with the geography of the map; move around and you can add a comment anywhere, e.g. as I did about the view from the Suspension Bridge. The map for the Guided Walk may give you some hints about what to say where but do not get stuck with what we have highlighted. (Please let me have a copy of any comments you add to the website.)

2. LEARNING FROM ELSEWHERE

No doubt many of you are well travelled. If you think back, you may recall somewhere you have visited that might offer – in principle, not just to copy – a hint of something that would work well for the future Western Harbour: some waterside housing, uses of an old dock, creative activities etc. If so, let me know, ideally with a photo and a brief note, or just a brief note (being sure to say where it is of).

3. VISIONS FOR WESTERN HARBOUR 2041

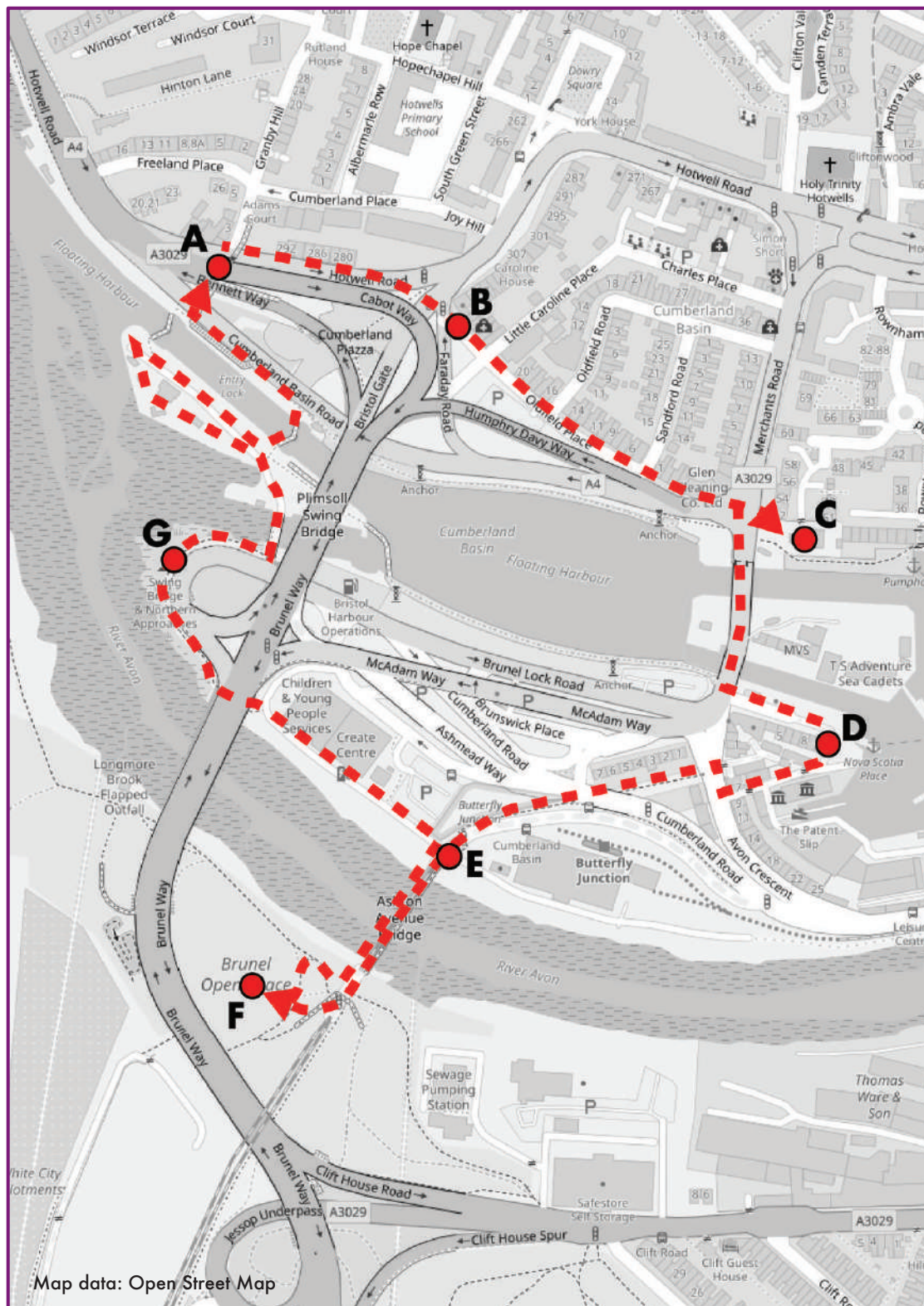
This is the more lengthy, challenging but potentially more useful task – and you may actually find it enjoyable to do, as others have found when I have used the method before! The brief for the task follows the Guided Walk overleaf.

To repeat – please contribute, this is your harbour!

WESTERN HARBOUR GUIDED WALK

The map is below.

Overleaf you will find the walk instructions and some hints at points we think may be of particular importance (ignore as you wish).



Walk Instructions

- **Start** your walk on the pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Granby Hill **(A)**. Just about all you can see looking mainly south (towards the bonded warehouses) is the area being considered for the Western Harbour project. But be sure to look back at the Suspension Bridge and across the river (a stretch of which is in the project area). *One road scheme has roads across the river and 1 or 2 bridges back over to the Portway quite near the Suspension Bridge. Good idea?*
- Go back down towards Granby Hill, turn right round then turn left along the pavement to what was Hotwell Road **(B)**. We have highlighted this point because, despite intentions to change the road layout (especially the flyovers), the roads to your left that take huge amounts of traffic are – inexplicably – not included in the project area! *Do you think the flyovers should come down?* Cross carefully at the traffic lights towards the Rose of Denmark pub. Go in front of it and continue along the pavement. There are no traffic lights here so cross very carefully towards the Pump House pub.
- Dip briefly in front of the Pump House **(C)** to look as far as you can east down the docks. This is a turning point in the very popular docks walking circuit. *Do you think the future character around Western Harbour should have more of the same character as this main docks area?*
- Cross the water towards the Nova Scotia pub (NB. the last on this walk!) and turn left in front of it, go down, through the gate to your right* and round to the Underfall Yard café **(D)**. *This area still has real, active businesses – particularly boatbuilding – so is it important for the future Western Harbour to also have businesses and other uses? (* The gate is occasionally locked because of boatbuilding work so you may have to miss this bit out. If so, back to the Nova, left then right on the footpath to your right.)*
- Leave Underfall Yard towards the entrance in the direction of the bonded warehouse. Almost ahead of you across the now closed road is an entrance to a footpath. Go down and carry on to where it joins the Metrobus line and over the bridge. Just over the bridge, turn right onto the footpath. Look around here **(E)** because this is where roads might come back down to ground level if flyovers are removed. It is the edge of the project area and the green areas may go for housing. *Thoughts on that and the amount and heights of housing generally in this whole area?*
- Now go back over the bridge, turn left onto the footpath along the riverside, past the Create Centre, under the flyover and round to the viewpoint to the Suspension bridge (note the odd concrete seat thingy) **(F)**. This viewpoint offers an internationally known view to the Suspension Bridge and a very quiet, almost tranquil area (apart from some road noise). In the future, the flyovers behind you may go but you might see roads and bridges between you and the Suspension bridge. *Should that viewpoint be protected and no building take place near here?*
- Carry on round the path that got you to this point and watch for where you can cross the old iron bridge left. Then watch again for how you can get back off it on the other side and round onto the promontory towards **(G)**. This offers more views in different directions. *Should this area be built on?*
- *If you wish to use it, the route takes you over the lock back towards the flyover then out onto the pavement to get to the pedestrian bridge.*
- *If you want to go another route from here according to how/where you arrived, over to you!*

YOUR VISION FOR WESTERN HARBOUR 2041

- 20 years have elapsed and **it is now 2041**.
- You are standing in front of the Underfall Yard café, looking along the docks to the city centre.
- You are about to follow the guided walk suggested back in 2021 and see and comment on all the positive changes that have taken place or are taking place* in Western Harbour. (* It won't be finished by 2041!)

Please imagine this route and write your notes of what you see in that better future Vision.

- This can be in **text** (max. 400 words) or just **bullet points**.
- It would be good (in no way essential) if your Vision could address some of the key issues from 2021 as suggested below based on comments and queries raised to date
- When done, send it to Jeff.

*Be as **practical or pushy** as you wish,
addressing the issues **you** most care about!*

You might want to say something about

- The road system (for residents, commuters, service vehicles etc.)
- Roads (on flyovers, at ground level, in a tunnel?)
- Bridges (for cars etc., buses, pedestrians?)
- Lighting
- Water based activity
- New uses such as housing
- Employment opportunities
- Views in and out
- Building heights (in relation to the tobacco warehouses?)
- Trams, bikes scooters
- Heritage
- Green spaces
- Air quality
- Noise
- Overall ambience

But **do not** feel overly constrained by these points.