

Subject: Status of work on the Western Harbour proposals

Dear Marvin,

First, I hope that you and yours are keeping well.

Second, it is important for me to say a thank you to you and your officers, on behalf of the Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group, for all that you are doing to try and keep Bristol and its people safe and well in these difficult times. We wish you well in continuing this work and supporting people into the future.

Third, you may not be surprised to hear that we are keen to learn exactly what is or is not going on with the planned proposals and timetable in relation to the Western Harbour development. You will know only too well that some people might fear that in this time, while people's focus is elsewhere and meaningful engagement is not possible, that you and your officers would be pushing ahead with the proposals, seeking to engage master-planners and so on. I made the point to Nuala and John Savage back in March that *"I would therefore strongly recommend that Marvin is advised to post a statement on the Western Harbour site to the effect that despite current circumstances he is still committed to carrying out a full engagement programme with all concerned as originally planned"*.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note how the Riverside parks and open spaces which are at least threatened by the Western Harbour scheme are in heavy use by the existing local populations of four or more wards, exercising their lockdown breakout time at social distance in the recent brilliant weather! Appreciation of their psychological and leisure value as destination or transit spaces for so many hours of the day has seldom been greater.

I understand from Nuala that my point to her in March is being pursued. I know people have been very busy in the meanwhile, but we would urge you to make a clear statement on the current situation with this project. We would very much hope to hear that the project is literally paused while efforts are focussed on handling the pandemic in Bristol and planning for the return to more normal living and working when that comes about.

We are conscious that if none of this had happened we would have been in the purdah period before elections. Obviously, this won't apply now until next year, but perhaps there is a different sort of purdah for all major development plans, including Western Harbour, brought on by the pandemic? We can't help feeling that we are going to emerge into quite a different world at least for some time given the economic forecasts we hear. So, we will be keen to learn, when dialogue starts again, whether we are looking at the same vision, timetable etc. or not.

Most important of all is we want to be able to tell people, or point people to the place where they can read it for themselves, what is going on – if anything – with the Western Harbour development plans and the commitment to engage with people at the earliest stages.

We look forward to hearing from you

Keep well

Best wishes

Dennis Gornall

Chairman Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group