

## **Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group and the Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association**

### **Statement and request for information regarding the Plimsoll bridge and the Cumberland Basin Road Scheme.**

**February 2021**

The Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group (CBSG) and the Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA) have noted from reports in local media that Bristol City Council plans to return to the drawing board for its plans for the development of the Western Harbour area. This is welcomed by both organisations.

The CBSG and HCCA also note that BCC's initial 2019 proposals for the area emphasised the need to make significant investment into the Cumberland Basin road scheme (including the Plimsoll Bridge) if it were to remain in use. This investment is understood to mean the urgent maintenance as recommended in the Ekspan report, from 2012, to counter various corrosion problems.

It now seems inevitable, due to the delays and effects of the pandemic, that the existing road network will have to remain in use for longer than anticipated whilst new plans are developed. Therefore, in the interests of trust and transparency, we are asking the Council to advise us and make clear to the public what the level of investment in the Plimsoll Bridge and the surrounding road network will be during this period.

This statement arises because of fears that maintenance requirements as identified in a specialist's report (the Ekspan report) of 2012 are not being carried out thus allowing the bridge and road to deteriorate. We believe that until there is a firm and acceptable alternative to the current infrastructure it should be maintained to a high standard. We hope to be able to report positively on this in the near future.