

200 IDEAS FOR BRISTOL

Re-claim Cumberland Basin

Bristol's very own Spaghetti Junction was planned in the 1950's. At that time the A38 was the main road from the North of England to the South & West, and the locks were busy on every tide, causing huge hold ups of traffic in busy periods. The new road system including the Plimsoll Bridge was designed to allow vehicles to cross the docks with the locks in operation. On the Bedminster side, the road system had to accommodate the dock railway and avoid the electrical substation in Avon Crescent which served much of the dock infrastructure. Both of these are now out of use.

This allows demolition of one of the up ramps to create a large waterfront site, Avon Crescent can become a cul de sac and several dangerous junctions can be eliminated. Access to A and B bond (the Create Centre) can be improved and the road between the Create Centre and the new cut can be removed.

Development of the waterfront site and A bond for housing, employment and commercial activities (including land around A bond warehouse) can be used to subsidise public projects. The upper floors of the Create Centre could be bought into use for the Council and organisations involved in sustainability. The island between the Nova Scotia and the Pump House could be improved for public uses, with a new Hope Centre perhaps.

The development land released will generate sufficient profit to enable the demolition and highway rebuilding work, and also to fund significant public buildings and spaces, a new neighbourhood in fact, because all of the land involved is owned by Bristol City Council except for 2 houses.

Alf Perry
Arup
 63 St Thomas Street
 Bristol BS1 6JZ
 T: 0117 976 5432
 F: 0117 976 5433
 E: alf.perry@arup.com
 www.arup.com/bristol

