

# RESTORATION OF QUEEN SQUARE

## THE FINAL STAGES



## REPORT OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

**JULY 22 2004**

## INTRODUCTION

*In this report you will find all the comments noted at the workshop, those written on post-its and those written by the participants or the facilitators on flip chart paper. Please may we apologise in advance if we have misread your handwriting! We took photos of some of the plans but the originals will be given to the Urban Design Team. BJ Associates hold the original flip charts notes should you wish to query anything.*

*The report is to act as an aide-memoire to those who attended the meeting and may require explanation to others. Explanatory notes are added in italic text. There is no interpretation or summary. A summary report will be provided separately.*

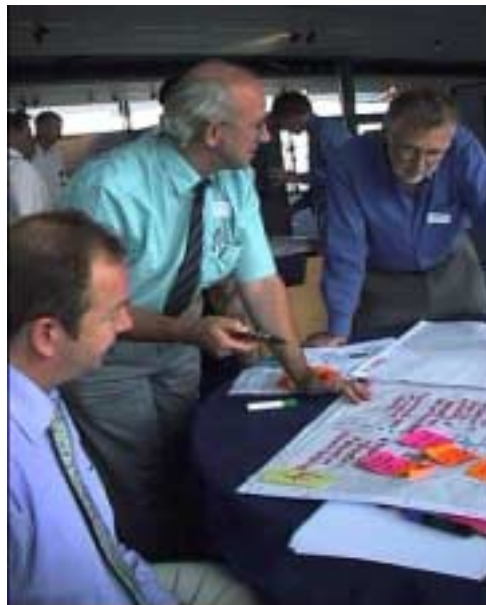
*Rowena Harris*

## AIMS

- Update stakeholders on progress
- Share the Urban Design Team's aspirations for the site
- Explain the constraints upon the site
- Give stakeholders and Council Officers an opportunity to work together to suggest creative ideas for the design of the site.

## SESSION 1

*Chris Heath of BCC Urban Design Team gave a presentation. Notes were provided to the participants. A short video was shown of the site as it is now.*



# GROUP WORK

*Groups formed as follows*

## **Group 1**

**Joe Jeffrey**

Portfolio Management, BCC, Property Valuation Practice

**Wesley Sedman**

Stride Treglown Architects, Queen Anne House

**Richard Francis**

AWW Architects

**Tim Edwards**

Charterfield Asset Management, Pearl Assurance House

**Jackie Childs**

King Sturge, Broad Quay House

**Simon Trafford**

Central Area Development Control Team, BCC

## **Group 2**

**Neil Stacey**

Sustrans (Special Projects)

**Richard Goldthorpe**

Landscape Architect, BCC

**John Payne**

Bristol Civic Society

**Stefan Brooks**

Crime Reduction Officer, Avon & Somerset Police

## **Group 3**

**Tom Appleby**

The Queen Square Association

**John Roy**

Walking & Cycling Officer, BCC

**Anthony Brown**

Society of Merchant Venturers

**Jerry Baker**

City Centre Spaces Manager, BCC

## **Group 4**

**Zoe Chalk**

Business Centre Manager, HQ Executive Offices Venturers House

**Paul Bufton**

Traffic Management co-ordinator, BCC

**Robert Huddleston**

Conservation Advisory Panel

**Mike Buck**

Principal Engineer, Engineering Consultancy, BCC

## **Group 5**

**Jeremy Newick**

Conservation Advisory Panel

**Janet Mary Wilson**

Queen Square resident

**Charles Laws**

Society of Merchant Venturers

**Alan Atkins**

Atkins Walters Webster

*Each group was given plans to look at and asked to create a 'vision' for this area - to use the plans or tracing paper, draw pictures or write words and include features they both wanted & didn't want. Each group made comments on each other's ideas. What follows is a type up of notes made by each group and a photograph of their plan if there was one produced.*

## **Group 1.**

### **Summary comments on existing site**

- Dominated by traffic & signage & clutter – a barrier
- Roundabout a visual block
- Negative elevation treatment
- Debate on the given traffic solution – buses turning circle is still destructive, if the best engineering solution. Not bike/pedestrian friendly.

**Conclusion.** We challenge the new roundabout. However, the treatment of our site not radically changed if we can improve the above.

### **Urban design**

- Transitional, not destination space
- Not a centralized sculpture site
- Use of dynamic lighting to emphasise route
- Taking some of the space as a welcome into the square. Restaurant & spill out. Give identity to this space – emphasis of entrance to Queen Square
- Encourage extension of Post Office
- Encourage extension of 66, & 24 – 20 King Street
- Not to be drinking bars with security/activity aspects
- Opening out of route includes visual link – do not build across line of site
- Return to traffic block concern
- Building uses around d the site – All B1 – likely to stop.

### **Finishes**

- Water? Good for route & movement, and in construction with light warnings ref. Maintenance & abuse
- Hard spaces predominantly. Green link with Alms Houses valuable, and a large scale greening of Princes Street ditto, but must not close down.

### **Key issues**

1. Urban space includes treatment of King Street and the roundabout (if it is to remain, which must be challenged)
2. If roundabout remains, lead route to one side (King Street seems most appropriate)
3. If ditto, some pedestrian barrier and leading paving solution to encourage principal access route but not interrupt visual link – this is a transitional space.
4. Lose 2 elevations (S & E of space.)



**Other participants comments to Group 1.**

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	THINGS YOU LIKE
Do not clutter or confuse with too much lighting or water	Transitional space (As above)
Uninterrupted visual link from Queen Square to Centre	Idea of bringing square out towards King Street  Abolishing ropundabout  Pedestrian level walkway across King Street

**Group 2.**

- Gateway to Queen Square  
Archways? Pillars? Change of materials. Different to Queen Square. "Entrance"!!!
- 'Less is more' landscaping
  - simple, geometric (as Q Sq)
  - clear parking strategy
- large specimen trees to define space  
or  
pleached trees different character to Q Sq/define space
- materials grass
  - hard (Skateboarding? Café overspill?)
- Extend space across King Street & Prince Street
- Pedestrian continuity
- Home zone
- No traffic clues etc
- Extend street tree planting along Prince Street
- Focal point at apex of diagonal from Q Sq.

Terminate route

Re-orientate pedestrians around roundabout i.e. across a 'home zone'd' Prince Street/King Street

Add to/enhance enclosure of new 'entrance' space ie.along with pleached trees or large specimen trees

Statue/fountain/tree?

- Lighting – no 'street'/traffic lighting
- Place lighting
- Uplight trees? Artwork? Light buildings?

## SUSTRANS

(Additional info/ suggestion)

- National Cycle Network routes 3,4 and 41 exist in one form or other in the general Queen Sq area
- Signing them in this historic area is problematic
- This final piece of the Queen Square project could/should be accompanied by a re-shuffling of the routes such that they all meet at this corner of Queen Sq
- Create the epicenter for the National Cycle Network
- Low key orientation point eg 'medallion' in surface footpaths presenting a map of routes



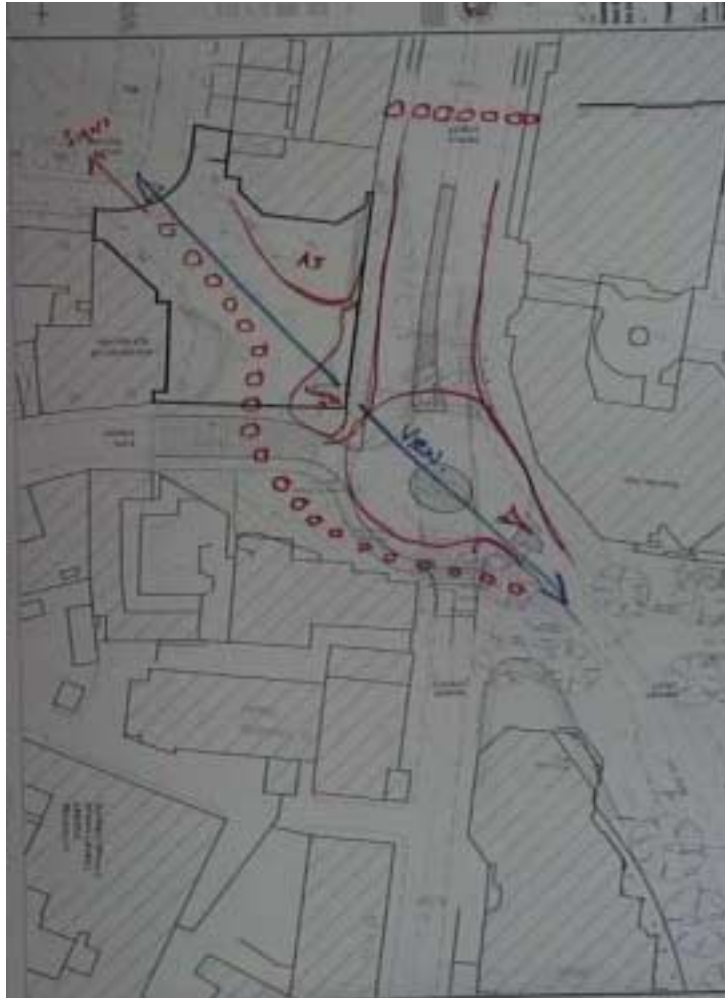
**Other participants comments to Group 2.**

*Where similar comments are shown more than once they were given by different participants*

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	THINGS YOU LIKE
Roundabout	Extend across King Street
Reducing pavement & roundabout	Stop the diagonal route
Not keen on built gateway to Q Sq	Extend across King Street
Taxi rank Prince Street – negative ending over Prince Street, but like idea	Stop the diagonal route
	Extend planting down P St
	Stop the diagonal route
	Extend across King Street
	Gateway (low key only)

**Group 3.**

- Access orientated hard space
- With adjacent terrace café
- Visual conduit
- Ground level water feature & lighting, eyeline to King Street in evenings
- Brunel's statue at accessible level
- Pedestrian traffic flow round one side ie: raised base of King Street
- Same set for roundabout as Broad Quay Road
- Moving traffic lights back to stop cyclists on curb
- Prince Street aspect can be designed out. Barrier/extension of café terrace.



**Other participants comments to Group 3.**

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	THINGS YOU LIKE
<p>Poss. Conflict between terrace in front of PO building &amp; desire line to King Street</p> <p>Roundabout must go</p> <p>Too much of a thoroughfare</p> <p>HLF will not be safe</p>	<p>Raised pedestrian levels</p> <p>Statue</p> <p>Routing of traffic up bottom King Street</p>

**Group 4.**

- Improve levels of lighting to link Centre to Queen Sq
- New crossing on Princes Street
- Trees along Princes Street
- Possibility of additional taxi rank on Prince Street
- Keep design for space as simple as possible

- Fountains?
- Fountain like Somerset House?
- Raised road table for safety
- Raised area of grass
- Extend restaurant/bar
- Historical information displayed on relevant buildings



#### Other participants comments to Group 4.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	THINGS YOU LIKE
High level of lighting forms a visual barrier	Wide crossing – ditto
Lack of 'barrier' (visual or otherwise) between Queen Sq & new space	Raised table on King Street – ditto
Against use as a thoroughfare	Trees down prince Street – ditto
Position of wide crossing	Lighting proposals subject to detail
Pinch points for pedestrians around crossing	Single crossing
	Taxi rank

**Group 5.**

1. Provision to rebuild wing of Almshouse.
2. Re-affirm the architectural integrity of Queen Square by re-establishing the corners
3. No need for visual thoroughfare. Queen Square should be separate place – linked but not integrated
4. A building should occupy the space as a special feature (Glass, pavilion, daytime, coffee)

**Other participants comments to Group 5.**

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	THINGS YOU LIKE
Building would block light and flow from Centre to Queen Square	Would encourage more mixed use of area.
Central building would limit sight line between Centre and Queen Square	Re-establishing historical integrity and architectural design
Solution focuses on closing down Square and possibly limits links from Square to Centre.	Concept of Queen Sq & new square as different spaces. Need interesting features to draw people along the route. Not an uninterrupted vista.  Pavilion in new square. Good visual block to new roundabout

## KEY MESSAGES TO THE DESIGN TEAM

*By this time some people had left so the groups had fewer members. Groups were asked to generate key messages for the Design Team. These were called out, one point per group at a time until there were no more to add, and recorded as a 'masterlist' on the front wall. Those first called out (i.e down to about number 10 on the list) were considered to be most significant. What follows is the list with items numbered for ease of reference.*

1. Please let's see a unified treatment of King Street, Merchant Venturers & roundabout – NOT a BLACK HARD LINE around the space as on the Plans!
2. Keep the design simple
3. New space should retain the serenity & calmness of Queen Sq while being visually different
4. Celebrate the entrance & draw people in to the Square
5. Would like to see a central dominant feature perhaps incorporating light & water eg: like Somerset House. The special feature could be a 'transparent' building to occupy the space.
6. Provide areas of visual interest (e.g. creative use of lighting) for pedestrians along through route from Centre & ensure pedestrian continuity of top quality all the way
7. Wide single face pedestrian crossing at Prince Street (like Hippodrome)
8. Get rid of roundabout & find an alternative - if roundabout necessary, pedestrian & cycle route should follow one side of it
9. Like the idea of big trees down the middle Prince Street
10. Taxi rank on Prince Street
11. Try to reduce perceived accessibility for cars into King Street
12. Do some traffic & pedestrian movement monitoring before design
13. Champion innovative transport engineering as part of this scheme
14. Set aside an area for A3 use (café, seating, food & drink) – but not a bar.
15. Not absolute need for visual thoroughfare, consider the idea that Queen Sq should unfold naturally
16. Some say...predominantly hard surface, not skateboard friendly, not grass, some disagree because raised areas with grass & paths might be better for pedestrians – but consider need for variety of surfaces
17. Consider reaffirming architectural integrity of square – possibly “closing” off N.W. corner like the other corners.
18. Corners PO & King Street need to be looked at, possibly increased in area
19. Remove Brunel statue & possibly place in new site or elsewhere
20. Not sure about re-building missing bit of Merchant Venturer's House
21. Space is primarily a transition space

## CLOSING DISCUSSION

- Roundabout – a major issue, never wanted by anyone
- Traffic layout must now change to create space

- £1/4 million just achieved – actual current plans cost £1/2 million – the first part of the funding must be used now (Heritage Lottery Fund). Highway allocation must be spent first so time pressure to get on with first stage
- Roundabout may go at a future point if an alternative solution found.
- Some re-examination of the necessity of the roundabout is agreed by the Design team.

### **Next Steps.**

- This report on BCC's website & via email/post.
- A summary design based on today will be submitted to Heritage Lottery in October
- Also send Designs to Development Committee of BCC, then application to remove trees/start work "shortly" ie within six weeks?
- Chris Heath to organise a lunchtime presentation at the Architecture Centre in November – and on the web.
- Tenders are in progress, materials being received
- March 2005 construction work begins – if not we lose the money
- Aim to complete by end 2005

Please send any additional thoughts to

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