

Southwest St Helier Stakeholder Workshop Summary

This document summarises the feedback gathered during the Southwest St Helier Stakeholder Workshop held via video call on Thursday 26 November 2020 10am - 11.45am.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Workshop was to gather feedback on topics from key local representatives. A separate workshop was undertaken with the community, advertised on the consultation website and to those who had registered their interest with the team following widespread advertising.

The workshop was facilitated by Icen Projects and commenced with an introduction from Lee Henry, the Jersey Development Company followed by a summary of the previous work led by the Design Council. The design team then presented their initial thoughts focusing on aspirations for the waterfront, connectivity and open spaces. The presentation was followed by a group discussion and concluded with a summary of the topics raised.

Attendance

The workshop was via invitation and many of those who attended had been involved in previous design workshops with the Design Council to shape the future of the waterfront.

A total of 13 representatives attended the session including:

- Ports of Jersey
- Visit Jersey
- Association of Jersey Architects (AJA)
- Jersey Action Group
- Save Our Shoreline Jersey
- Earth Project Jersey
- Historic Building Consultants
- Cyclejersey
- Socrates Architects
- Local Dial
- Waddington Design
- Jersey Disability Partnership
- Parish of St Helier

The following representatives from JDC and the design team took part in the workshop:

- Lee Henry, JDC
- Jude Lindsey, JDC
- Stephen Richards, Gillespies
- Matthew Pepper, Gillespies

- Hakan Agca, Gillespies
- Maria Aksarina, Gillespies
- Michele Farley, Gillespies
- Ben Stuart, Heta
- Nicholas Arthurell, Heta
- Philippa Curran, Icen
- Livi Smith, Icen
- Victoria Lee, Design Council

Summary of Topics Raised

A summary of the topics raised by participants either in the session or afterwards via email are listed below:

Design

- The need for the architecture to reflect the character of Jersey with strong influence drawn from existing buildings
- The need for significant new public spaces that also incorporate public art
- Ensure the landscape proposals consider the changing seasons
- The importance of the public realm in welcoming visitors, particularly given the proximity to the Harbour
- The location of the leisure space and opportunity to shorten the distance from the proposed open spaces in order to encourage more indoor activities to take place outdoors
- Reference to Folkstone Harbour as a good example of waterside development and meanwhile use

Uses

- Balancing the need for new homes with the ambition to create a vibrant new area with different uses
- The proposed future artistic and cultural uses for the waterfront were welcomed
- The need for a cultural focal point
- The opportunity for a National Art Gallery to be accommodated as a part of the proposals
- The opportunity for a boutique hotel
- The opportunity for an educational indoor winter garden
- The preference for La Fregate Café to remain
- The importance of spaces for young people being included as a part of the proposals
- The suggestion that the design team refer to The Product Audit when thinking about future uses of the waterfront

Connections

- The plans for new pedestrian and cycle routes were welcomed
- The need to consider connections from all directions of the site was raised
- The importance of creating new opportunities for active travel
- A discussion around trams, and the benefits they can bring to connectivity
- The need to make sure the proposed connection with the Old Town is accurate
- A request that roads are referred to locally by their full name rather than number in the proposals
- A discussion around how the proposals will support footfall to and from the Old Town and what analysis had been undertaken around that
- Suggestion that the connection from the Town Centre towards the Liberation Centre could be stronger, creating a key desire line through Castle Street to Victoria Avenue
- How the new connections might encourage greater pedestrian use of Gloucester Street
- The opportunity for pedestrian access to the waterfront via Elizabeth Marina

Sustainability

- The opportunity for the proposals to set a precedent for a car free future in St Helier
- The provision for flood protection and challenges of climate change
- The sustainability credentials of the proposals and the need to work towards carbon neutrality

Land remediation

- Questions around how the waste produced as a consequence of raising land levels will be managed and the importance of preventing marine contamination
- Managing public safety during land remediation and any measures that will be put in place
- The costs of land remediation

Consultation

- The need to involve young people in the consultation process
- The opportunity to involve young people in designing public art
- The need for the proposals to consider community aspirations for the site as well as government body objectives
- The development of the harbour and how this will complement the waterfront development to be explored further in the next session