



Nottingham Trent Basin
Voice Opportunity Power
A Youth Engagement pilot
ZCD Architects 2020/21

Cover photo by Michael Kane

Photographs by Michael Kane, Oliver Wood and ZCD Architects

1.0 Executive Summary

This report presents a pilot project for the youth engagement programme [Voice Opportunity Power](#). Voice Opportunity Power is a five session programme, developed by ZCD Architects, Grosvenor GBI and TCPA, with funding from Sport England, which seeks to give young people a voice in new developments in their area. It is free to download and available on the website of the same name.

The pilot was run on the Trent Basin development in Nottingham and was commissioned by the developers Blueprint and delivered by ZCD Architects. We remain very grateful for the support from Switch Up and Flo Skatepark, and most importantly to the young people themselves who took part.



Group 1: Switch up

‘I never thought I’d meet an architect, and I never thought anyone would ask me what I wanted like this’

through discussion about their lived experiences. The techniques that we use focus not on what young people ‘like’ or ‘don’t like’, but rather on how they feel, where they have agency and control and how this relates to their sense of happiness and wellbeing. It skills them up to become actively engaged in changes that might affect them, to be able to voice what they want and critique what is being proposed. The process not only gives a voice to young people, it values their contributions and helps us design better communities for them and all age groups.

For this pilot project, Dinah Bornat and Daniel Lam

This approach to engagement is about listening to and hearing what young people tell us about their local spaces and places,

from ZCD, worked with young people from the Nottingham area. In usual circumstances this would have been one group taking part in all the sessions, but due to covid restrictions, safety and timings we were not able to do that. Instead we carried out the first three sessions with a group of four from Switch Up and the fourth and fifth sessions with a different group from Flo Skatepark. Their ages were between 16 and 19 and they all lived in the Nottingham area.



Group 2: Flo Skate park

The aim of the programme is to focus on the outside spaces, the public realm, parks, streets and open spaces, which are places of great importance to young people and where we believe they can have an impact on development.

These young people told us about what it is like to grow up in Nottingham and we walked with them through areas close to the site at Trent Basin and Trent Basin itself. The sessions taught the group about how to analyse spaces and for this we used a traffic light system developed for the programme.

The first three sessions with Group 1, involved walking tours and led to the production of a **manifesto** for the development. The manifesto has four themes:

A natural environment

Lots of things to do

Easy to get around

Great places

This manifesto is both strategic and specific and it asks for things that most adults would want too; feeling part of and safe in their communities, places where they feel welcome, with shops and services that they can use too. As young people, they want a

variety of things to do, to play and to hang out.

In the spring of 2021 we shifted to an online session and introduced a new group from Flo Skatepark. The design team made their first presentation to the group about the proposals, paying close attention to the manifesto. Four spaces were looked at across the development and the group gave responses as well as new ideas, such as busking, street art and activities for young people, that were taken away to then present at the fifth session.

We also talked about potential ‘meanwhile’ uses

across the site.

In the fifth and final session more detailed proposals were presented to the group, looking at the same four spaces in turn and the group responded by giving their feedback on each of the spaces and then for the scheme as a whole.



The structure of the session allowed for a discussion which was rich and varied. Their responses were

The Manifesto Themes



A natural environment

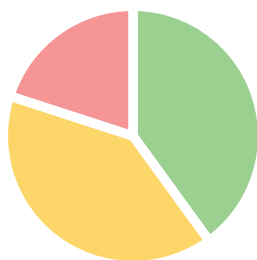
- Clean water in the basin
- Swimming
- Free canoe hire
- Wildlife
- Muddy
- Dog bowls
- Bird feeders



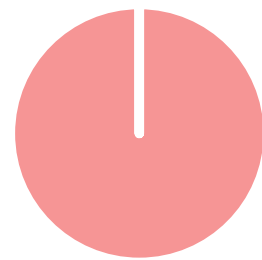
Lots of things to do

- Youth club and community centre with youth workers
- A nursery
- Skate park
- Motor bike trail
- Corner shops that you can walk to
- Free wifi
- Water fountains and drinking water taps
- Statues and sculptures
- Climbing walls and rope swings

Feedback



Feedback



mixed and we show here their overall rating of the scheme in relation to each of the manifesto themes. The more detailed responses are shown in the findings section.

In general the group was concerned that Trent Basin might not be a place for them. Throughout all five sessions the young people were concerned that the area might be for wealthy people and not people like them. They had lots of ideas about things to do there, but didn't feel these were being met. They also felt strongly that they had asked for green spaces but that the scheme was not green enough.

Young people have a powerful connection to place, but they are sensitive and can often feel excluded in their own cities. There is great potential for Trent Basin to open up for them, to make them feel as welcome as any age group. Blueprint, working at Trent Basin, with Flo Skatepark and other organisations that support young people, could help foster a welcoming and positive attitude for young people. They could help create a spirit in the new community that this is a place that welcomes everyone. The results could be transformational.



Easy to get around

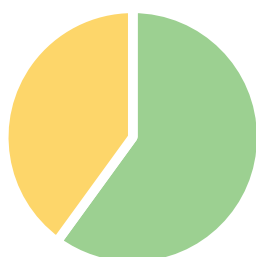
- Wheelchair friendly - accessible
- Direct access to space from homes
- Cycle lanes segregated from pedestrians
- Car free (but blue badge on street)
- Low pavements
- Shared surfaces
- Clean streets
- Big pavements



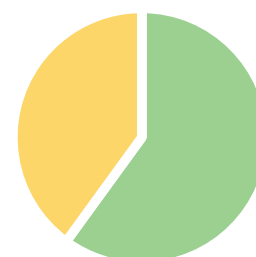
Great places

- Space for people to come together
- Shops that feel like family
- Free admittance to activities and free stuff
- Feels safe, especially at night.
- Central location
- Lots of space
- Open and not closed off spaces
- Cartoons and graffiti
- Street lighting
- Colour

Feedback



Feedback



2.0 Trent Basin background

'Trent Basin is the pioneering development in Nottingham's Waterside 100 hectare Regeneration. The Waterside area lies to the southeast of the city centre, to the north of the River Trent. It has long been seen as an important regeneration opportunity for the city. The ambition is to turn what is predominantly a light industrial and commercial area into an attractive and thriving residential neighbourhood.

The Trent Basin area lies at the heart of the Waterside area. The basin itself is an important piece of industrial heritage. The only man-made basin on the Trent, historically it was Nottingham's port and link to the North Sea via the Humber ports and onward to the international shipping routes.

Blueprint's vision is to provide a green sustainable living community with the basin at its heart. The new homes are contemporary and stylish with a lower carbon footprint. The neighbourhood will be connected and walkable for school, work and leisure, with shared spaces for meeting neighbours and play. Whilst also forming a community that is living responsibly, enjoying nature and caring for the planet.

With circa 200 new homes Trent Basin Phase 4 onwards will build upon the existing neighbourhood of over 100 homes already delivered by Blueprint and will help further connect those living in the city with access to waterside and nature. The basin's significance means it will be the local centre for the wider riverside community as it grows over the coming years.

The development will provide public access to this amazing resource, bringing waterside leisure activities to the heart of the neighbourhood. Trent Basin is also within a short walking distance of many of Nottingham's treasured green spaces, with Colwick Woods and Country Park to the northeast and Victoria Embankment to the southwest. A new pedestrian footbridge over the river will bring The Hook and Trent Fields to Trent Basin's doorstep'

Peter Conboy, Blueprint



Group 1 - Session 2 in Sneinton

3.0 Findings

The format for Voice Opportunity Power (VOP) is five sessions with a group of young people. The size of the groups are typically 10-15 and between the ages of 11 and 18. This tends to be a small enough group size to keep everyone's attention and to be able to hear the quietest voices, but large enough to allow smaller discussions to start taking place.

In sessions one, two and three the young people were from Switch Up, a local charity that 'uses tried and tested mentoring techniques along with physical training to engage Nottingham's young people in positive activity and to steer them away from the circle of crime and gang-criminality'. They came to the first session with their youth worker and then independently to the second and third sessions. These first three sessions were held close together, in November 2020, the first on a Thursday evening and the second and third over a bright but cold Saturday. The small size of the group gave us the opportunity to move swiftly with the first session and to start opening up rich conversations about the spaces and places they knew well, had lived in at different ages and could talk about honestly and clearly. The result of these three sessions was the **Manifesto**, which was then presented to the design team.

The fourth and fifth sessions were run in 2021. The fourth session was carried out online in February and the fifth in person in June. One of the young people who had attended the first session was able to join us online for the fourth so there was a little overlap. Otherwise, the group for the fourth and fifth sessions were from Flo Skatepark.

In effect, the manifesto was passed from one group to the other, which made it less easy for the second group to feel like they had ownership of the manifesto. However, the second group were able to add to it in the fourth session, and altogether they felt the manifesto was appropriate. However, there was less opportunity to build up a conversation and get to know this second group and in future we would suggest ensuring the group can stay committed throughout.

Online sessions can be harder to engage young people in, this is often due to personal circumstances and many young people are not able to join online with video and audio. Overall this means there is less opportunity for open discussions. Our experience during covid 19 has led us to avoid online sessions when we can, if they do occur it is best with a group we know well and using a more structured approach.

Session 1

The VOP format for the first session has a number of games, which act as ice breakers. Typically we work in a local neighbourhood undergoing change, where the group of young people live. This group lived in different parts of north Nottingham, not close to the site and most of them had moved often as children, living in Leeds, Scotland and London as well as different parts of Nottingham.

They were aged between 16 and 18 and they had shared experiences of feeling like outsiders, either through moving or not attending school. The boys particularly had negative experiences of the police, being frequently stopped and searched. When they talked about growing up they had memories of playing outside with siblings and friends, starting to roam further as they grew older and now being older teenagers, often coming into town to the shops.

Because of the size of the group, we didn't need to use the Sli.do icebreaker games, instead we started straight in by 'virtually' visiting each of the places they knew and walking through them on Google Street View. We set up a screen, controlled on a laptop, and asked each of them in turn to guide us around, some of them showing us more than one place, they showed us how they walked to school, playgrounds or the shops. One of the boys had lived in Sneinton and was able to use the map we prepared to talk to us about the places and spaces there. Unfortunately he wasn't able to attend the next two sessions, but we remembered what he had said as we walked around Sneinton, visiting Green's Mill Park and walking along the Greenway.

They each spoke fondly of local parks, some with formal play equipment 'where everyone would go' so that it felt the most safe. Some larger and wilder parks were good for one girl to walk her own dog, whom she adored. One boy took us the local recreation ground but explained he would use the ginnels to get there (which are not on street view), although not after dark.

The Engagement Sessions

4
young
people

Session 01

Date: 3rd December 2020

Attendees: Four young people

Location: One Thoresby Street, Nottingham

3
young
people

Session 02

Date: 5th December 2020

Attendees: Three young people

Location: Sneinton, Nottingham

3
young
people

Session 03

Date: 5th December 2020

Attendees: Three young people

Location: Trent Basin, Nottingham

7
young
people

Session 04

Date: 25th February 2021

Attendees: Seven young people

Location: Online via Zoom

5
young
people

Session 05

Date: 10th June 2021

Attendees: Five young people

Location: Flo Skatepark

They have lived challenging lives, and whilst we did not probe, they revealed some very difficult experiences. This did not detract from the fact that they were open and engaged, enjoying the project and understanding how to talk about spaces and how they made them feel. We could move swiftly from thinking about the importance of space close to home and the width of pavements outside local shops, to allow for socialising. These skills are the important first step to analysing a new space.

Session 2

For the second session we visited Sneinton, a neighbourhood adjacent to Trent Basin, but separated by the busy Daleside Road to the south. This walk took us to three open spaces and through quiet residential streets, back to our base at Thoresby Street. Young people at this age appreciate play equipment in parks (they still enjoy playing) as well as the quieter spaces, such as benches and planting. They rated most highly and saw potential in the rather left over space on Newark Crescent but recognised that the houses surrounding it did not have direct access and that it would be difficult for children to come out and play. They are skilful at reading places in this way and good at switching between the needs of different age groups.

Session 3

In the afternoon, we were ready to visit Trent Basin and to start talking about the recently completed streets and spaces and to visualise the new ones that are planned. For this session we were joined by members of the development team and a photographer. With such a small group we were able to continue conversations and to draw out their responses to the area. Some of these might be difficult to hear such as 'This place is for posh white people, I can tell' but others were reassuring, such as a clear understanding of the benefits of locating the river crossing at the bottom of Trent Lane, rather than the basin as this would spoil an area that is clearly to 'chill in' and where families would want to let their children play.

We knew from our conversations that they enjoy roaming (visiting parks and coming into the city centre) as well as dog walking. They could see the potential in the riverside walk, with one commenting that would be good 'for romantic walks'. They were also able to appreciate that the basin would be a good place to spend time and were curious as to whether the water was clean enough to swim in. We saw a canoeist in the basin, doing tricks whilst we were there and they thought it would be a really good idea to provide canoeing and other water sports.

We discussed the car free development, which at first they were concerned about, one girl's mother has a blue badge she told us, and she would need to park close to home. Once we had explained that there would be on street parking for blue badge users they agreed that a car free development would be positive. Children and young people are used to cars and generally don't have the lived experience of a car free life. They are often cautious about supporting car free developments, usually citing their parents and how they need their cars, or even other people. What they often reveal is that the places and spaces they most use are car free and easy to get to without crossing a road, and the experience of one young boy in the first session showed them just that. It is this lived experience that we can build on, as the time spent outside they link to their own happiness and would wish for it to be included in new developments.

During this session, we talked about housing tenure and explained that the scheme would have no affordable housing. There was a sense that the new neighbourhood wouldn't be 'for them' and they certainly didn't visit the southern side of the Trent. The challenge for the development will be for the new neighbourhood to be welcoming for all ages and types of people, even those that don't live there.

They were interested in Flo Skatepark and wanted to know whether it was free to use. The affordability of activities and shops is a key factor to making it a place where they might feel they can visit and spend time, as will being open to having teenagers 'hanging around' as they do at this age. Young people spending time together outside is often seen as threatening behaviour, but it almost usually isn't. They often spend time in groups and may appear unaware of adults around them. Underneath the bravado they are highly sensitive to adults' attitudes. The Flo Skatepark offers a formal and legitimate reason for young people to visit the area. Other places outdoors, with a variety of things to do such as good seating, including for groups and also play equipment such as basket swings that don't include signs prohibiting their use, would be good for this age group as well as others. This could go alongside spaces that residents can spill out onto, right outside their

‘I think the bridge a very good idea. It would feel more safe as you can avoid the lanes of traffic and the dodgy crossings. It’s also a more direct route from Flo to Ladybay/ the hook’

Nottingham and experience public space. This group are skateboarders and read and use the city in a different way. For example, using the pavements to skate and cycle to college or work. To gather a wider range of lived experience, we started a discussion about access to open space and parks near where they live. One expressed how important having nature in a city is and how some have very limited access to parks. The quality of pavements and roads really affected how easy it is for these young people to move around the city. We also discussed about having access to amenities near to where they live and they came up with some ideas for things to do around the basin including climbing walls and rope swings.

The group was divided into two breakout rooms and shown images of the four spaces, which provoked conversations about the bridge across the River Trent and the spaces around the scheme. One young person, who had been in the first session, asked about the bridge being from the basin to the hook because he thought it would be used more that way. Another noted how a pedestrian bridge would be more comfortable for parents with children. The adjacent Lady bay bridge is difficult to cycle across because of the traffic. They all agreed that lighting on the bridge and in the scheme would be important for safety at night.

By using a Google Form and the RAG system we found that the spaces in the development were considered green during the day and become amber after dark. This coincides with their feedback about lighting of spaces and safety. The Basin nib was seen as all red after dark, but if lighting was to be confirmed we think this could change.

After the breakout rooms, we discussed the meanwhile precedents and what ideas the young people had come up with. One young person put forward the idea of a busking space and this was received well by the design team. Other ideas included street art, colourful street furniture, climbing equipment for kids, stepping stones and ponds, space for socialising and places for food and drink. Both groups were happy with the idea of a reduced car scheme because it encourages other modes of transport.

Session 5

The workshop started with two short recap presentations from Deetu and ZCD to show the young people what had happened on the project so far. A walk around the basin followed and found that the group understood the need to reduce the use of the car and were positive about alternative modes of transport. They gave examples of other countries that have cycle and pedestrian friendly cities and how this linked to their lived experience of moving around the city on a skateboard or by bike. When passing the residential gardens, one talked about how allotments would be good for the residents to grow their own food and felt the shared green spaces should be left to grow naturally. They thought the contractor’s building and the warehouses should be used for community uses or creative spaces.

The group analysed the space from the walk and presentation. They gave responses and ideas for how to improve the design compared to the manifesto. For example, having kayak lessons on the pontoon that are accessible for everyone and how more greenery and more softplay for children would be good for health. They also felt it should be more exciting and have activities such as rock climbing. The survey results show that the group believed the spaces did not have many things to do and in general there should be more green and nature. The group recognised the difference between some of the quieter and less public courtyards and that

homes.

Session 4

The 4th Session was arranged online using Zoom, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The aim of the session was for the design team to present their scheme and for the group to analyse four particular spaces against the manifesto themes.

The change in group allowed us to gain another perspective on how young people move around

‘Street art that is constantly changing like at the Sneinton developments’

some spaces would be primarily for residents. They were keen to think about the potential of the riverside walk and the basin.

They were positive about more sustainable forms of transport, such as cycling and walking and recognised the need to reduce car useage and ownership.

During informal discussions following the presentations, we found some concerns in the group that their ideas from the last session hadn't been taken in board, in particular this was in relation to a lack of nature and greenness.

The findings of this report are intended to inform the design of the development prior to planning, which should centre around public realm, connectivity, nature and activities. It should be welcoming for young people, including those that do not live there.

The meanwhile uses should include some of the more favourable ideas such as busking space, colourful street furniture and activities for young people.

‘More greenery. Tap into nature for well being and all round better health’ - survey feedback



Group 2 - Session 5 in Flo Skatepark

4.0 Engagement Sessions

Session 01 - Workshop

Date and time: 3rd December 2020 5 - 7pm
Attendees: Four young people with their youth worker. Dinah Bornat and Dan Lam from ZCD Architects

Format: Round table workshop. An introduction to the project and toolkit. Lived experience discussion, using Google Street View and introduction to traffic light (RAG) system and manifesto first thoughts.



We carried out the first session with four young people from Switch Up. Due to the small nature of the group (covid restrictions meant that other young people had cancelled) we adapted the format of the session and were able to start to discuss what their own neighbourhoods were like, through using Google Street View which allowed them to ‘walk us round’ describing places as we went. The session began with sharing favourite play memories. Most of these included a variety of ‘knock down ginger’ with friends playing outdoors without adults.

We introduced the RAG system (see page 11) and asked them to describe roads, playgrounds and parks they visited as children and where they go now. One recalled memories from living in Sneinton as a child and marked out red, amber and green spaces on the map of Sneinton on the table.

The group talked about issues of identity, most of them had moved frequently as children, with one saying had a keen sense of not belonging. He linked this to the way he felt ‘different’. Both boys talked of the frequency of being stopped and searched by police.

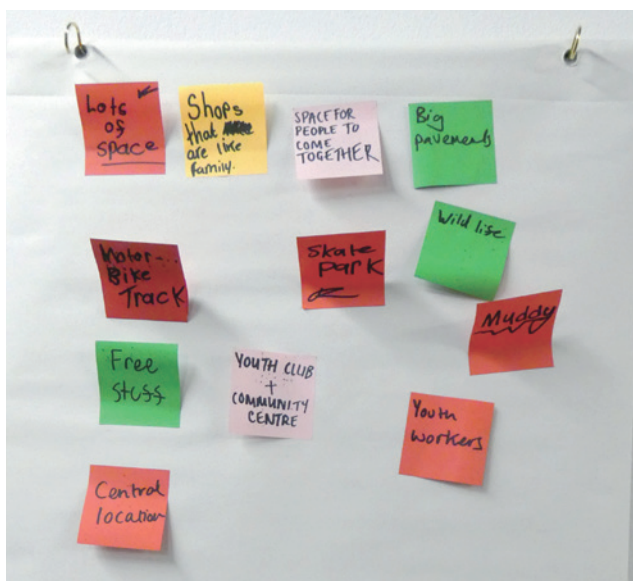
They walked us through the parks and open spaces that they spent time in and also showed us the local shops. The parks were a variety of smaller and larger spaces, some quite large, with wild areas and woodland, others more formal. One boy explained that the small green space outside his front door was used by him and his friends in the houses around. Their local shops were also important. They knew the names of the shopkeepers and one girl said they are ‘like family’ to her. They talked about the width of pavements, that could be wider to allow for socialising.

The Pirate adventure playground was known by

all, and was considered a ‘green’ space in the RAG rating. It was nearby to where one of the girls lived and she said it felt safe as all the children in the area would come together there to play.

They talked about how they got around, with one boy describing the short cuts he liked to take down ginnels (or alleyways), but not after dark. They all had freedom to play out, one telling us he was allowed out ‘until the street lights come on’.

These descriptions led us to start writing a list of what things would be important to consider in a new area. The list was made on post-it notes and stuck on the wall as the beginnings of the manifesto, to be continued in the next session.



Top: Session 01 Manifesto first thoughts
Bottom: Discussion

Walking around the neighbourhood with friends

Going to the forest behind my house with my brothers

What is your favourite childhood memory?

Playing knock and don't run with friends

Going to the pirate park after school

Basket swings for sharing

Easy to access, but safe

Big pavements outside shops

What makes a good place to play or hang out?

Places with character

I like cycling, it is a nice feeling when you have the wind on your face.

Organised activities

Lots of space

Skate parks and activities

Wildlife

Free stuff

Space for people to come together

What would make you go to a new development?

Bike track

Shops keepers that are like family

Natural muddy spaces

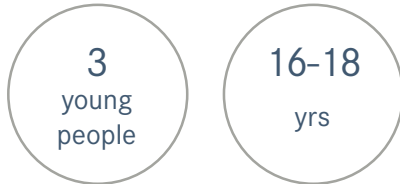
Youth workers

Youth club and community centre

Session 02 - Sneinton Walking Tour

Date: 5th December 2020 10.30 to 12.30pm
Attendees: Three young people, with Dinah Bornat and Dan Lam from ZCD Architects

Format: Walking tour of Sneinton, photographs taken by the young people, instagram videos and survey worksheets



In the second session, we took the group on a walking tour of Sneinton where we looked at three spaces and analysed them using the RAG system (opposite). The young people had a camera each and we also took two short videos for the instagram account : ZCD_engage

There were three young people this day and we were able to give each of them a camera. Taking well composed photographs is a different way of looking and each of them appreciated this, they were all pleased they had been able to explore a new area in this way and the photographs they took are testament to their level of engagement and enthusiasm. These photographs will form a small exhibition in the fifth and final session.

The first space was looked at was Newark Crescent, an open space surrounded by two storey residential blocks. The group thought the space was a bit neglected but had potential. They thought it could be used for activities and events but was difficult to access from homes and therefore difficult for children to get home easily.

We then went to Green's Mill Park. The group thought the space had some good play equipment and was suitable for all ages. However, they thought that it might be harder for people with physical disabilities to access. They thought it might be less safe after dark because of the lack of lighting. They liked the sculpture area, saying it was unique and added character.

The last space was the Sneinton greenway. We took a moment to reflect on the Sneinton area and to look across at the busy road and car park that needed to be navigated. They had enjoyed the quiet of the residential streets and preferred walking thought that type of environment.

Once back from the walking tour the group drew their

route on the large map and we began gathering more detail for the manifesto.

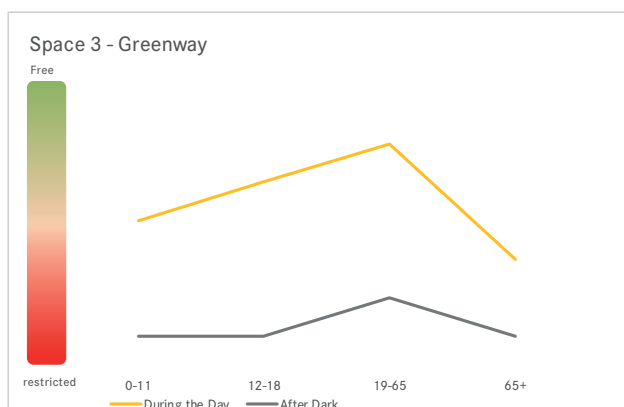
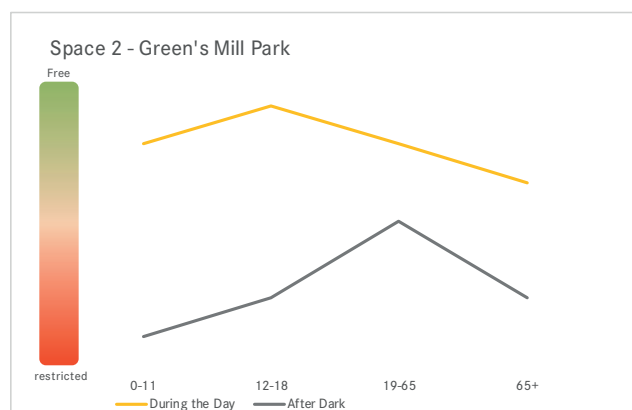
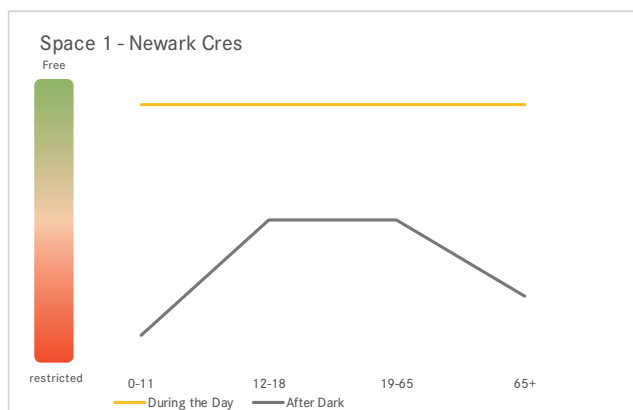
Comparing their results for the three spaces, Newark Crescent scores the highest both during the day and after dark. The presence of homes overlooking this space is something that the group recognise as being valuable, and would make it feel usable and safe after dark as well.

This is in contrast to the greenway which scores less well than the other two spaces. Whilst they liked the greenway they felt that it was cut off and this chimed with the comments from the Thursday session, where one boy said it was 'where the smokers hang out'.



Top: Instagram post
Bottom: On Sneinton Greenway

Session 02 - Space analysis



RAG system:

Green: A space when you feel safe and totally free to do what you want to do or something that you really enjoy.

Amber: A space where you are safe to play or hang out, but there might some rules in place.

Red: Spaces that you can't use or where you feel very restricted or unsafe. You couldn't do what you wanted to do.

Session 02 - Interviews

Sneinton - 'To the left of us is a peaceful residential area where we were able to walk in the road'

A612 main road south of Sneinton - 'To the right is really busy'

Green's Mill Park - 'Was relaxing, accessible and there was a space for kids and for the elderly'

'If I lived there I would go there myself to chill out'



Bottom: young people being interviewed on Sneinton Greenway

Session 02 - Sneinton Walking Tour

The map of Sneinton below shows the walking route of the young people in Session 02

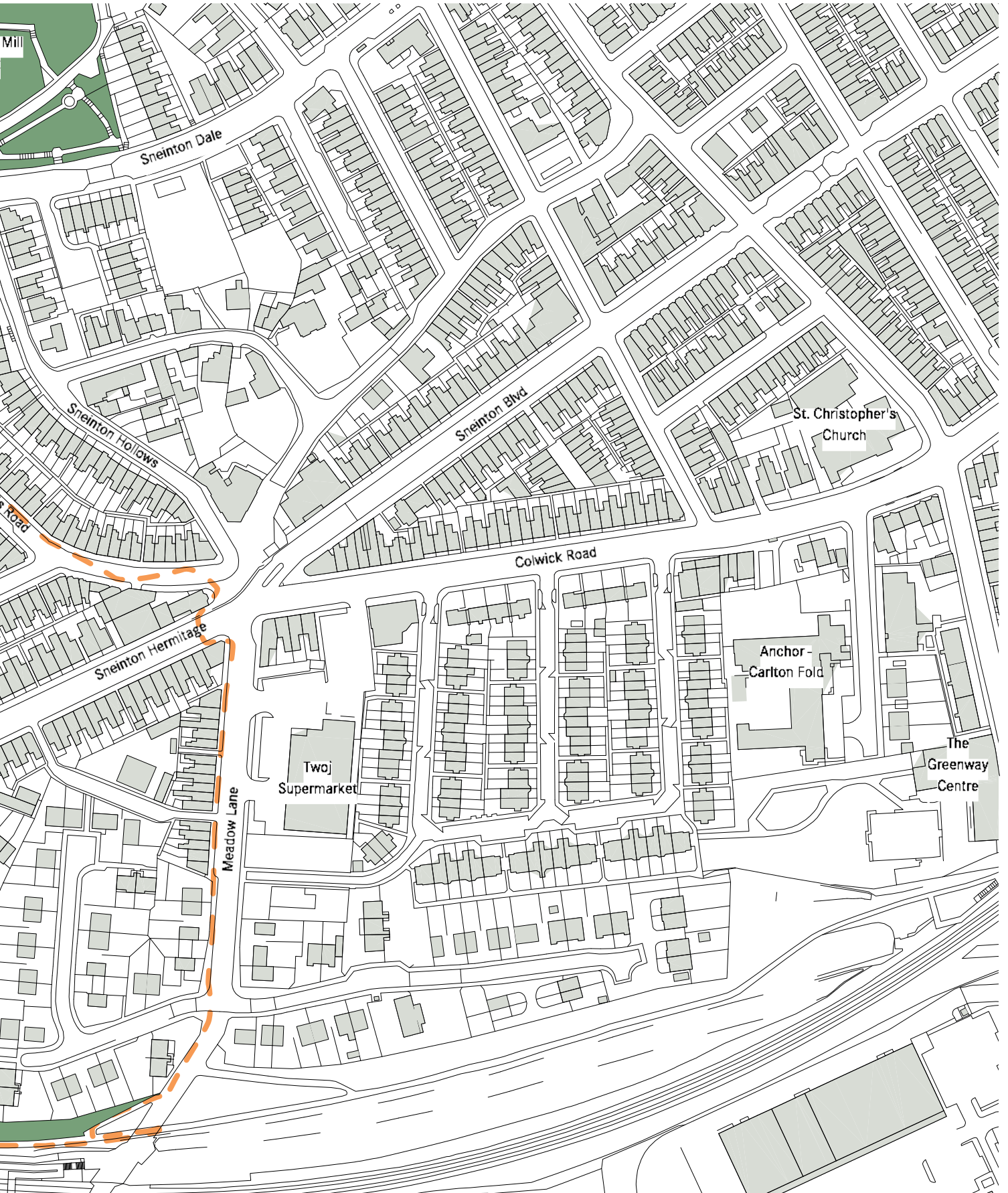
→ Sneinton Walking Tour Route



① Newark Crescent

③ Sneinton Greenway

② Green's Mill Park



Session 03 - Trent Basin Walking Tour

Date: 5th December 2020 1.30 to 3.30pm

Attendees: 3 young people, with Dinah Bornat and Dan Lam from ZCD Architects. Also Peter Conboy from Blueprint/Igloo, Andy Wright from Flo, Josh Dickerson from Deetu and Thomas Humphries from Nottingham City Council.

Format: Walking tour session of Trent Basin, photographs taken by the young people, discussions, worksheets. Completion of manifesto



The session started at One Thoresby Street where Peter Conboy from Blueprint explained the Trent Basin development to the group.

The route taken is shown on the next page. We started on Trent Lane, where we could see some of the recently completed homes. The group were initially uncomfortable and explained that they felt out of place, one of them saying ‘You can tell this is a place for rich white people’.

We stopped at 1 Trent Villa and Peter explained that they were thinking about future uses. The group suggested it could be a sports facilities, a youth centre, a library or something that works with the adjacent school.

The scheme has a specific car parking strategy where the roads are car free apart from blue badge spaces and kept in a ‘car parking barn’ to one side of the development. The group discussed this with one of the girls pointing out that they should allow blue badge parking on the street.

The group reviewed three spaces, all four scored well for their age group. This is encouraging. They will use the same methods for looking at the proposals for the new spaces in the next two sessions.

At the junction of Navigation Street and Trent Lane, they commented on how clean the space was and appreciated the low traffic (we could walk in the middle of the road).

At the Trent Lane/River spot the group agreed that this was the best location for the new bridge across the Trent. They thought the green space and the view

make it a nice place for relaxing in the summer and that the water front was a nice place for romantic walks.

At the Trent Basin, we looked at the existing homes to one side and explained that the proposed homes to the west of the basin would have a similar public realm, but no car parking. They agreed this would be an improvement. In terms of the location of the bridge, they thought this would spoil somewhere that was chill.

They were keen for the basin to include swimming and water sports and hoped that activities could be free, with free to hire canoes. They asked about the quality of the water as well.

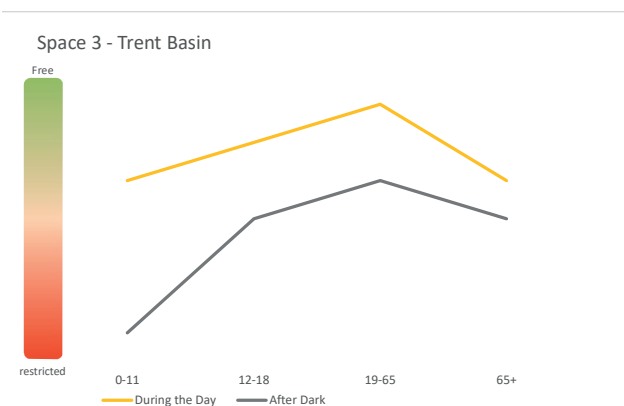
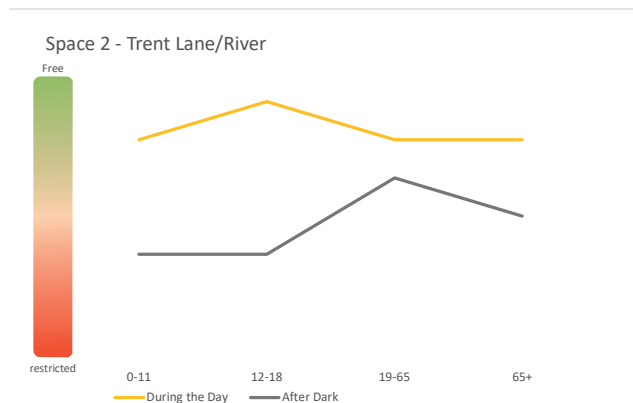
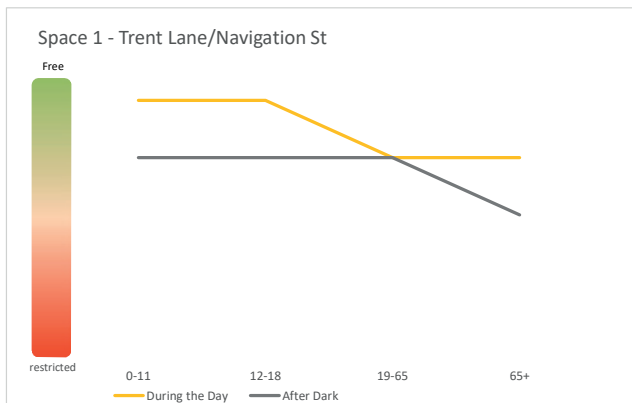
We finished the session at Flo Skatepark and finalised the manifesto, shown in the summary pages.

The fourth session is planned for January where the group will apply the manifesto to the proposed development. We thanked them at the end of the session and gave each of them a payment for their time.



All: Walking tour along Trent Basin (photo credit: Michael Kane)

Session 03 - Worksheet Results



- Green:** A space when you feel safe and totally free to do what you want to do or something that you really enjoy.
- Amber:** A space where you are safe to play or hang out, but there might some rules in place.
- Red:** Spaces that you can't use or where you felt very restricted or unsafe. You couldn't do what you wanted to do.



Session 03 - Trent Basin Walking Tour

The map of Trent Basin below shows the walking route of the young people and Design Team in Session 03

→ Trent Basin Walking Tour Route



- ① Corner of Navigation Street and Trent Lane
- ② End of Trent Lane waterfront
- ③ Trent Basin



Walking tour along Trent Basin (photo credit: Michael Kane)

Session 04 - Trent Basin Zoom Session

Date: 25th February 2021 10:00am to 12:00pm

Attendees: 7 young people, with Dinah Bornat and Dan Lam from ZCD Architects. Also Peter Conboy from Blueprint/Igloo, Andrew Matthews from Proctor and Matthews Architects, Andy Wright from Flo, Josh Dickerson and Izaak Sabo from Deetu and Keith Morgan from Nottingham City Council.

Format: Online session on zoom with breakout rooms.

Who attended?



Note: In advance of the session each of the group had been sent a pack of images, showing the spaces they would be looking at and some meanwhile precedents (see Appendix).

All of the group apart from one were linked to Flo Skatepark and were skateboarders. This affected responses, but did add an interesting perspective of how they move around the city and highlighted the dominance of the car in Nottingham.

The aim of this session was to present the proposals to the group and give them time to discuss and respond. The workshop was carried out online. It started with a slide show of photographs taken in session 3 as the group joined. The design team, all the adults present and the young people introduced themselves.

We started a discussion about access to open space and parks near where they live. Some of the participants were from Ruddington and noted Rushcliffe Country Park as a local park that is good for dog walking and that a new skatepark is going to be built there. One was involved in the design process but some explained how the roads around the park are busy and make it difficult to get to. This was noted as a similar issue that the Trent Basin may have with Daleside Road to the north of the basin.

We then presented the report from the previous sessions, starting with the manifesto to gather their thoughts on the themes. Nature was important to this group also. One expressed how important having nature in a city is and how some have very limited access to parks. The quality of pavements and roads really affected how easy it is for these young people

to access amenities. They came up with some ideas for things to do around the basin including climbing walls and rope swings.

We talked about walking through Sneinton with the last group. We introduced the RAG system by explaining how we got the last group to rate each space and showed the graphs. We then asked them to rate Flo Skatepark. This helped us explain how different people can have different feelings about spaces, even if they are familiar with it.

Lighting was a key talking point when discussing Lady Bay skatepark across the river. They pointed out how spaces like this will change to amber or red after dark, especially in the winter due to the lack of lighting. Some did not have this issue in their local parks because they live in a small village where they know the community. But generally walking in parks alone in the dark was seen as unsafe in unknown and deprived areas.

The design team then presented the proposal by using the online tool from Deetu, the printed pack sent to the participants (see appendix) and other materials showing the history and the site.

We then split into two breakout rooms for 50 minutes to discuss the bridge and three spaces:

- Bridge across the Trent
- Space 1 - Basin Nib
- Space 2 - Courtyards
- Space 3 - Basin Park

A link to a Google Form was posted in the chat so that each young person could rate the three spaces using the RAG system and provide comments on the proposed bridge and its position. The results are shown on the opposite page.

The breakout rooms started with discussions about the bridge across the Trent. Responses showed that a cycling and walking bridge could be safer and easier for young people.

The graphs on the opposite page show how each space was rated (red, amber or green) generally most score well during the day, but slightly less so after dark. The group were very keen on lighting of spaces after dark and this has affected their responses.

Basin nib and Basin park scored all green during the day and the courtyard was rated 5 green and 1 amber. The Basin nib was seen as all red after dark, but if lighting was to be confirmed we think this

would change.

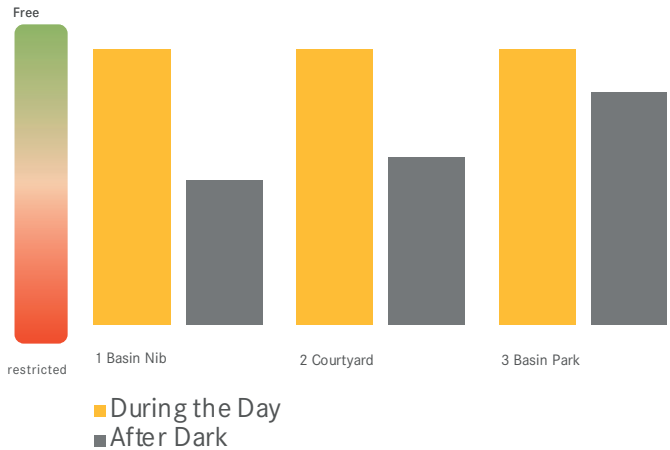
The courtyards had one red rating after dark. This was because compared to the other images it seemed closed off. We discussed the overlooking of the space and how it felt like more of a space for residents. The group thought this restricted what they could do in this space.

After the breakout discussions we returned to the main group and we discussed ideas for meanwhile use by going through the meanwhile precedent slides. The participants came up with a range of permanent and meanwhile ideas for the basin area. One young person put forward the idea of a busking space and

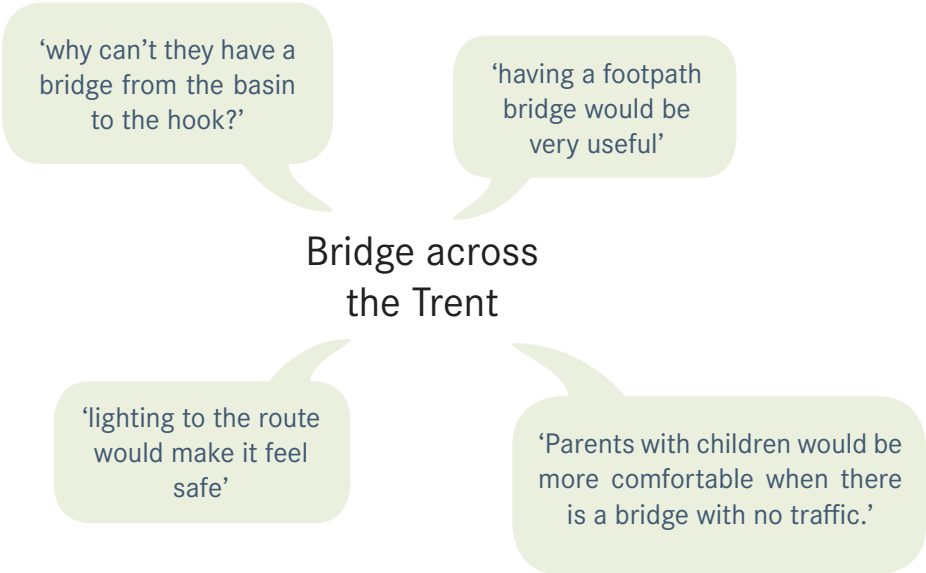
this was received well by the design team. Other ideas included street art, colourful street furniture, climbing equipment for kids, stepping stones and ponds, space for socialising and places for food and drink.

The quotes and the discussions were generally very positive and aligned with the design team’s ideas. A full set can be found in the appendix. To finish the session we explained that we would return for the final session, hopefully in the summer and in person.

Ranking of spaces during the day and after dark



Quotes from Session 04



Quotes from Session 04

'warm LEDs can be warm and use less energy and these also make me feel safe.'

'Planting and greenery is important'

Basin Nib

'safe space during the day, especially with no cars'

'could be a space for older children, because there is more freedom compared to the courtyards'

Basin Park

'a space you can enjoy with your neighbours'

'it's better to not use cars so much'

'could feel creepy after dark' - 'lighting could help a bit'

'an area mainly for residents'

Courtyards

'European/Dutch space that is peaceful and relaxing'

'overlooking of the space makes it safer for younger people, especially after dark'

'A permanent busking space could go in the head of basin or in the pocket park.'

'A place for food/drink. Similar to the riverside cafe in Beeston.'

Meanwhile ideas

'Street furniture that can be used for skating too'

'street art that is constantly changing'



Session 04 Zoom Call

Session 05 - Trent Basin Session

Date: 10th June 2021 17:00am to 19:30pm

Attendees: 5 young people, with Dinah Bornat and Dan Lam from ZCD Architects. Also Peter Conboy from Blueprint/Igloo, Andrew Matthews from Proctor and Matthews Architects, Andy Wright from Flo, Josh Dickerson from Deetu and Keith Morgan from Nottingham City Council.

Format: In person session at Flo Skatepark, with walk around Trent Basin and presentation

Who attended?



All of the group were linked to Flo Skatepark and were skateboarders. Some were involved in Session 4 but some were new to the project.

The aim of this session was to present the changes that had been made to the design and meanwhile use ideas.

The workshop started with short recap presentations from Deetu and ZCD to show the young people what has happened on the project so far. This included the spaces that had been analysed in the previous sessions which were:

- Bridge across the Trent
- Space 1 - Basin Nib
- Space 2 - Courtyards
- Space 3 - Basin Park

We then took the opportunity to have a walking tour of the site, which introduced the group to the spaces for the first time. This was a good opportunity to gather feedback about the spaces and how they would look in reality.

The group then returned to Flo Skatepark for the remainder of the session where they were asked to fill in responses to each of the spaces in relation to the manifesto. The responses are shown on the opposite page.

After the formal session and discussion, Dinah and Dan were able to discuss the proposal over refreshments. This provided us with some useful quotes for the team, which can be found in full in the appendix.

Manifesto Survey




The manifesto survey uses smiley faces to rate how well each space has responded to the feedback and how well they achieve manifesto aims.

Each smiley face is given a score out of 3:

Good = 2, Fair = 1, Bad = 0

All the responses are then added up and the charts on the right show the averages.

Respond each space with good, fair or bad:

	Good		Fair		Bad
Whole Scheme	Space 1	Space 2	Space 3		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Survey example

More greenery. Tap into nature for well being and all round better health

I think the design of it does not look natural, due to the harsh edges.'

Love the yellow streak with the benches on, as I think it looks really vibrant and interesting. looks very skate friendly as well.

I would love a bridge between the hook and the north side of the river as it would make it a lot easier to travel between lady bay skatepark and flo.

Let the greenery be more open

Basin Nib

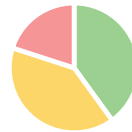
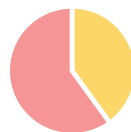
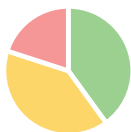
Courtyards

Basin Park

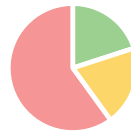
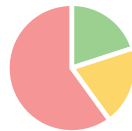
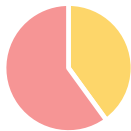
Whole Scheme



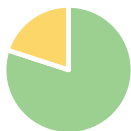
A natural environment



Lots of things to do



Getting Around



Great Places



Appendix

Session 02 - Sneinton Worksheets

Nottingham Trent Basin - Session 02 Saturday 5th December

Your name.....

Hello, please fill in the below:

Are you: Male Female Prefer not to say

Age:

Ethnicity:

Map of the neighbourhood

① ③ ⑤
② ④ ⑥

Your name.....

Name of space:

Traffic Light System

- GREEN SPACE - you feel safe and totally free to do what you want
- AMBER SPACE - you feel safe to play or hang out but you can't do everything you want
- RED SPACE - you feel unsafe or there are lots of restrictions and rules

	During the day (Please circle one)			After dark (Please circle one)		
Children (0-11)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people (12-18)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people with a physical disability	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people with a learning disability	●	●	●	●	●	●
Adults (19 to 65)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Older people 65+	●	●	●	●	●	●

What can you see or do in this space?

Activity

Things

Transport

Session 03 - Trent Basin Worksheets

Nottingham Trent Basin - Session 03 Saturday 5th December

Your name.....

Hello, please fill in the below:

Are you: Male Female Prefer not to say

Age:

Ethnicity:

Map of the neighbourhood

① ③ ⑤
② ④

Your name.....

Name of space:

Traffic Light System

- GREEN SPACE - you feel safe and totally free to do what you want
- AMBER SPACE - you feel safe to play or hang out but you can't do everything you want
- RED SPACE - you feel unsafe or there are lots of restrictions and rules

	During the day (Please circle one)			After dark (Please circle one)		
Children (0-11)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people (12-18)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people with a physical disability	●	●	●	●	●	●
Young people with a learning disability	●	●	●	●	●	●
Adults (19 to 65)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Older people 65+	●	●	●	●	●	●

What can you see or do in this space?

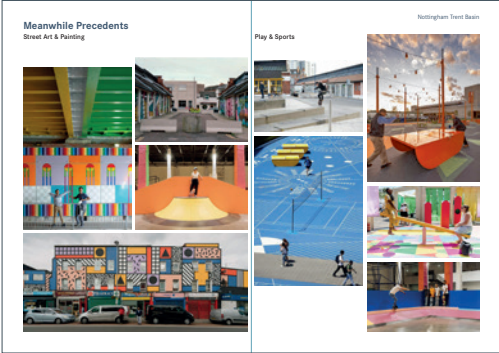
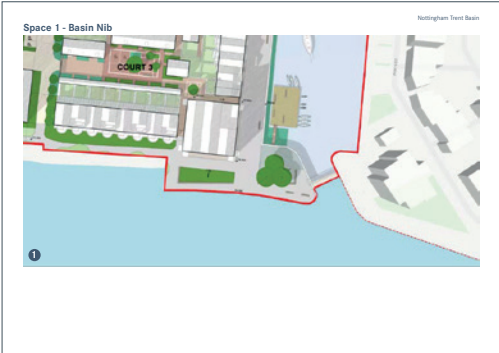
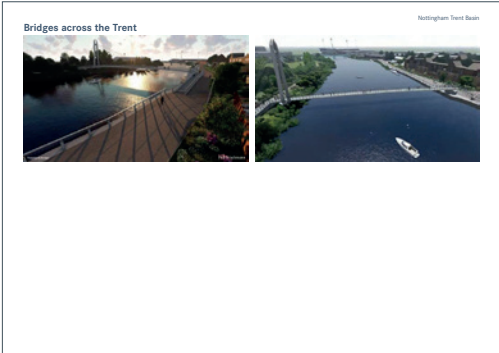
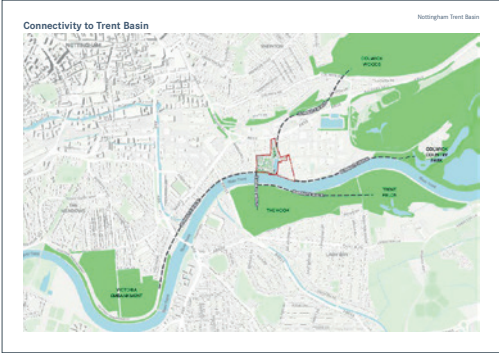
Activity

Things

Transport

Appendix

Session 04 - Presentation Slides (sent to participants)



Appendix

Session 04 - Presentation Slides (sent to participants)

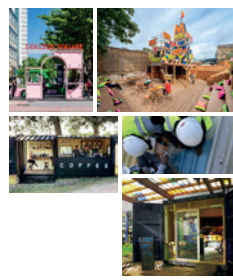
Meanwhile Precedents
Places to sit & hosting Events



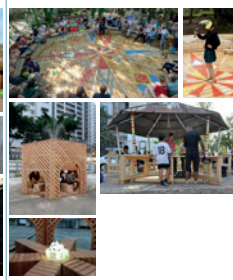
Nottingham Trent Basin
Waterside Structures



Meanwhile Precedents
Café's & Workshops



Nottingham Trent Basin
Other Structures



Appendix

Session 04 Breakout discussion notes

Breakout Room 1 (Dinah)

Peter, Andy, Keegan, Ellie, Ben, Finn

Finn and Ellie have not been to the basin

Keegan – ‘why can’t they have a bridge from the basin to the hook, it would be much more accessible and you won’t have to walk all the way around.’

Would you use this bridge?

Keegan – it is a bridge I would use because it is accessible

If I’m in town and I want to go chill in the hook I would use the bridge.

Finn – South to north side – Parents with children of 13/14 years old are more comfortable when there is a bridge with no traffic.

Ben and Finn lives south of river

Keegan and Ellie lives north

Finn – I use my bike to go across lady bay bridge, which is a four lane road and is difficult to time right.

Ben – same as Finn

Lady bay bridge is very busy

Ellie – ‘having a footpath bridge would be very useful’

Space 1 – Basin Nib

Currently inaccessible

Finn ‘will they light it up at night?’

East side already has lighting

How does the lighting affect the ecology of the area – needs to be bat friendly

Bats only like red lights.

Finn – ‘the lights on the Wilford Suspension Bridge have a green light going to the bridge and orange lights on the bridge’

Ellie – ‘warm LEDs can be warm and use less energy and these also make me feel safe.’

Not marked as red at night

Finn – ‘project in Marseille, France, where they made everyday objects/surfaces that are skateable too’

‘something the discreetly involves skateboarding.

Ellie ‘street skating area to compliment Flo’

Space 2 – Courtyards

Keegan – ‘looks spacious’

Finn – ‘great for young people and spacious’

‘Considering the residents, would they be happy with noise?’ – an area mainly for residents

‘not a space for skateboarding’

‘European/Dutch space that is peaceful and relaxing’

Ben – ‘seems closed off. People could congregate after dark which would be undesirable’

Ellie – ‘could feel creepy after dark’ - ‘lighting could help a bit’

Would the overlooking of doors and windows make it seem safer?

Place in Sherwood like this Carrington Point in an estate with a green space and path overlooked by residents. - It seems safe after dark there.

Space 3 – Basin Park

Finn – timescale of the whole project –

December 2025 for whole project, but some will be done before this.

Car club – communal cars

Ellie ‘its good because it stops using cars unnecessarily by encouraging another mode of transport’

Ben – ‘better to not use cars so much’

Keegan – same as rest

What activities would you do in this place?

Peter – activities for young people adjacent to primary school

Ellie – things for kids to climb on for kids from the primary school

Finn – shallow pond with stepping stones

Keegan – ‘too many parking spaces’

These houses could have gardens instead – these all have roof terraces

Appendix

Session 04 Breakout discussion notes

Breakout Room 2 (with Dan)

Bridge over the Trent

Joe – adding another bridge is good. Because the closest one is far from the Basin.

Would you feel safe? – lighting to the route would make it feel safe

Some routes currently have no lights

Andrew - Getting a route with active frontage along the river would be much safer

Alistair – I would feel safer with more street lights

Space 1 – Basin Nib

Joe – safe space during the day, especially with no cars. Only pedestrians on bikes so this would be safe in day and night. Green during the day. Planting and greenery is important because then it is on the front door of the residents. As a lot of people need to travel to see this.

Space 2 – Courtyards

Andrew - Parking barn allows for car free courtyards

Keith – thoughts on car driving

Joe - using the riverside – using a bike would be good for a while. Good because this is separated from the cars.

Buying/renting – I would learn drive, but not to own one. Since the world is moving towards cycling

Other countries have cycle paths on every road. Which I think is a great idea.

Car free

How things would change for young people and children

Joe – having housing around makes it safer

The housing overlooking the space makes it safer for younger people, especially after dark

Karim – lots of skate spots, but feels more of a peaceful environment everyone would like to go. Restrictive in terms of skating because busy.

Children would have fun here because there is nature where they can play and it is not too close to the water.

Josh – safe spaces for children to play that is away from the water.

Joe – Cul-de-sac anecdote – A cul-de-sac is a safe area at the end of the road where being car free means they can play there without their parents. On pavement and on the road.

Space 3 – Basin Park

Joe – taking it back to the community is nice. The houses are very close to the park for you to enjoy and where you would know the other neighbours.

Joe - Confetti College has a dedicated space for busking. A clean space would be much better than current dirty busking spaces.

A busking space could go in the head of basin or in the pocket park.

Alistair – The Basin Park could be a space for older children, because there is more freedom compared to the courtyards.

Transport hub – information and rental bikes, water sports or tickets for river cruise.

Keith – car is the hardest form of transport to reach. Walk past bus stop bike stands etc first

Electric scooters – limited to city centre and looking into electric bike scheme

Electric car charging in car barn.

Joe – Will spaces be dog friendly? – yes

Time frame for project – 5 years

What else could you add to the spaces/activities

Non skateboarding related

Karim - Basket ball/ football court

A MUGA would be good to add.

Andrew – not enough space, but can look into water sports and go back to the council.

Joe – wakeboarding near long Eaton

Price for activities to be fair

Joe – some places become cheeky with the prices

A fair price would be accepted.

Appendix

Session 04 Google Form and Meanwhile discussion notes

Notes from Google Form responses

Bridges across the Trent - Let us know your thoughts

- 'I would love a bridge between the hook and the north side of the river as it would make it a lot easier to travel between lady bay skatepark and flo.'
- 'opens up a safer connection to the city'
- 'I think it's a very good idea. It would feel more safe as you can avoid the lanes of traffic and the dodgy crossings. It's also a more direct route from Flo to Ladybay/ the hook'
- 'If I'm walking through town and I want to go somewhere to chill on my own I'll go to the hook'
- 'would make travel between flo and lady bay park a lot quicker and more enjoyable as you wouldn't have to go all the way around'
- 'Great idea because down where this bridge is on the other side of lady bay bridge there is not as many ways to get across the river and adding this new one that leads into this lovely space would be amazing.'

Notes from Meanwhile use discussion

Keegan - this project is a good environment to help improve Nottingham

'good for the environment, everyone coming together to make new homes for people. Because there are people struggling for homes. It's a good environment for Nottingham, next to the famous Trent. And also them doing up the Nottingham town and this will all come together.'

Alistair - DIY skate spot would attract a lot of people.

Joe - Busking could become more permanent busking spots with power and easy to clean. Somewhere that is a nice place to be.

Peter - likes idea of busking with electric supply and could be in space 1 by the basin nib.

Ellie - riverside café in Beeston and the walk to Attenborough. Encourages walking and cycling and helps independent businesses by bringing more people to the area other than the people who just live there.

Joe - yellow streak - adds more personality to the space

Karim - I like the design because people can look at each other and also away from each other at the

same time. Good for skating.

Notes from chat about meanwhile ideas:

Joe : encouraging performance and busking, along with giving spaces for other things like food stands to make the space still have allot of liveliness

This could also be a more permanent use

Ellie Stainsby-Grenville : A place for food/drink. Similar to the riverside cafe in Beeston. It would attract cyclists and walkers along with just the general public. Maybe a little outdoor performance area for the summer.

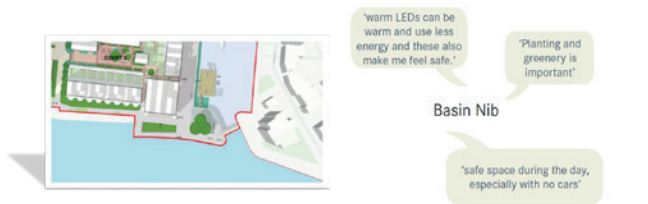
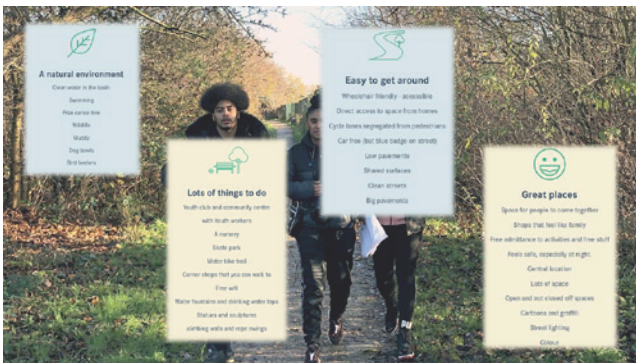
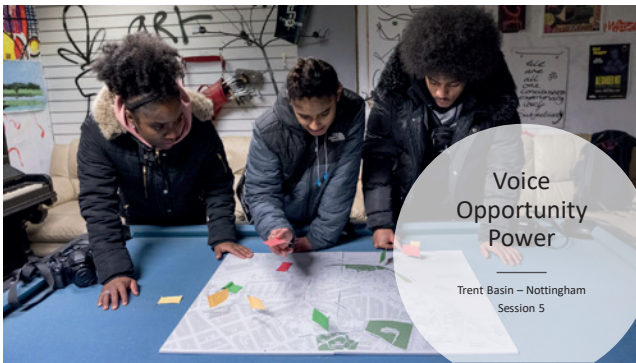
Finn Stevenson : street art that is constantly changing like at the Sneinton developments in the photos. I also like Ben's point about the yellow streak.

James: Space to just be able to sit with your friends and talk.

Ben: Love the yellow streak with the benches on, as I think it looks really vibrant and interesting. looks very skate friendly as well.

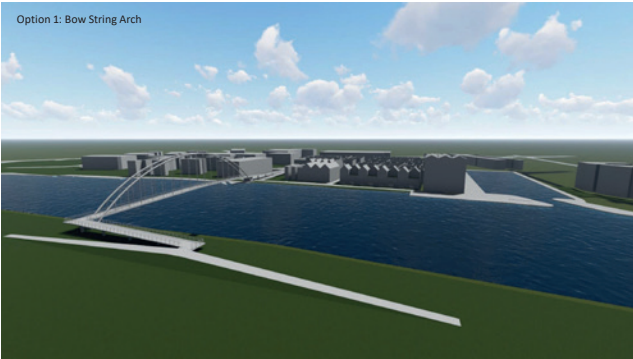
Appendix

Session 05 - Presentation Slides (Deetu)

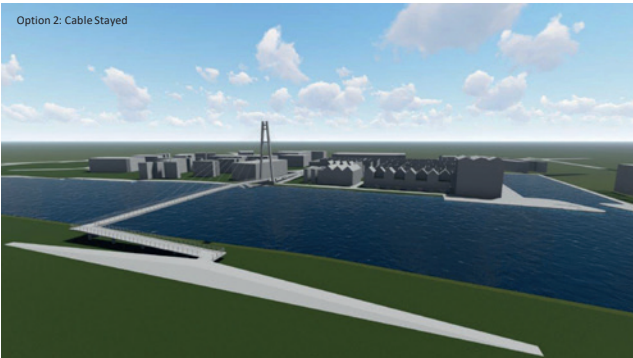




Option 1: Bow String Arch

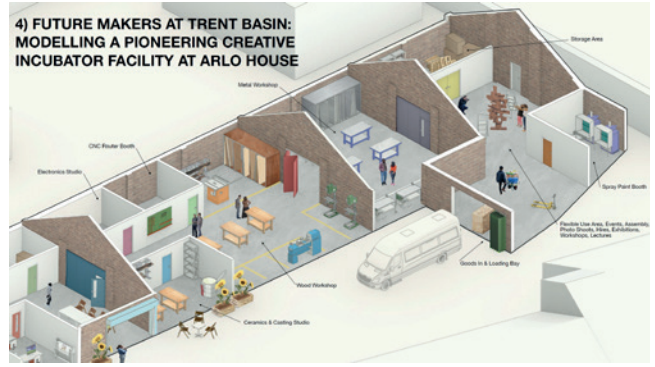


Option 2: Cable Stayed



What to do with the space until then?





TRENT BASIN

Appendix

Session 05 Manifesto Survey

NOTTINGHAM TRENT BASIN MANIFESTO SURVEY

Name _____

How well have we responded to what you said?



Good



Fair



Bad

Appendix

Session 05 Manifesto Survey

NOTTINGHAM TRENT BASIN MANIFESTO SURVEY

Respond each space with good, fair or bad:



Good



Fair



Bad

A natural environment

- Clean water in the basin
- Swimming
- Free canoe hire
- Wildlife, planting and greenery
- Muddy
- Dog bowls
- Bird feeders

Whole
Scheme

Space
1

Space
2

Space
3

Lots of things to do

- Youth club and community centre
with Youth workers
- A nursery
- Skate park
- Motor bike trail
- Corner shops that you can walk to
- Free wifi
- Water fountains and drinking water taps
- Statues and sculptures
- climbing walls and rope swings

Whole
Scheme

Space
1

Space
2

Space
3

Easy to get around

- Wheelchair friendly - accessible
- Direct access to space from homes
- Cycle lanes segregated from pedestrians
- Car free (but blue badge on street)
- Shared surfaces
- Clean streets
- Big pavements
- Footpath Bridge over the Trent

Whole
Scheme

Space
1

Space
2

Space
3

Great places

- Space for people to come together
- Shops that feel like family
- Free admittance to activities and free stuff
- Feels safe, especially at night.
- Central location
- Lots of space
- Open and not closed off spaces
- Cartoons and graffiti
- Street lighting - Warm LEDs
- Colour

Whole
Scheme

Space
1

Space
2

Space
3

Appendix

Session 05 Discussion notes from presentations

Young people from Flo

you want rather than a bus

Josh Mandaracas

- Some have a 45 min cycle to college

Penny C

Contractors building

Ben

- Restore it

Joe Deans

- Communal centre

Lewis Blower

- Village hall

- Youth club

- Have a bar

Walk around the Trent Basin

Would you come here?

2 warehouses on Daleside Road

- too far for us to visit, but would come if there was a reason
- It is good to skate through
- Would come if we lived close
- It would be good to bike down the path over the river
- Josh said allotments would be great, I have been doing some growing in lockdown
- Let some of the grass over grow
- Canvas made the new skatepark near Ruddington with Skate Nottingham
- Old wooden one
- One was from Titchfield and the skatepark there is a red space Or orange
- Bad in the evening
- Sketchy area

- Bike works
- Artist space
- Model and prototype
- Facade design
- Beautiful art
- Rock climbing wall
- Space for anyone to graffiti
- Mural artist commission

DL Notes:

- The river is the biggest appeal
- How affordable is the housing? It looks expensive
- The landscape looks like more of a front garden than public space
- The design needs to have more personality
- For busking you will need power and a roof to cover them
- Peter – this could go at the top of the basin

Transport

Gated access

- Netherlands has a more cycle friendly approach
- Safe and smooth for cycling
- A bus route would be beneficial to reduce the cars. This road is not cycle friendly (Trent Lane)
- Buses should be free to everyone can get around
- The Trams are good too
- Cars are needed sometimes
- Cycling is better because you are free to go when

- it should allow anyone to access
- Just the pontoon is gated – should be free to access, maybe a membership to draw people back in
- Gated pontoon

- Kayak lessons

made.'

Parks

- needs to look less organised and more natural
- You can tell it is not natural
- Should be more wild and public, not so well trimmed
- More flowers, wild flowers
- Bees and biodiversity are important

'More greenery. Tap into nature for well being and all round better health'

'The amount of green is good however I think the design of it does not look natural, due to the harsh edges.'

Seating

- 'you don't want someone right in front of you'
- Like the Victoria Centre
- Good for conversations
- Orange playspace – could be more spread out
- Add a softplay area
- Add climbing walls
- Statues
- Playspace needs to be more exciting!
- More curved
- Looks like they are just ticking the list

'Range of nature/plants to cater to wildlife (bees etc).'

'Let the greenery be more open'

Courtyards

- You don't want just anyone walking through
- More greenery
- Gravel path could be better
- Not a skateable area because it is residential

Shared surface

- This does not seem safe

Feedback from sheets

'It ll just seems like a bunch of lies. Making promises and points that aren't being shown which is worrying because the people who live there wont want to live there need trust to feel safe living with what you

Appendix

Session 05 - Walking tour and presentations



Photos from Session 05

