Developing a community-led "Charter for Bedminster Green"

This charter was devised by local community organisations working with developers, land owners, city council officers and elected members, local residents, traders and other stakeholders including the University of Bristol. It seeks to find common ground and shared positions on the opportunity to develop the area known as 'Bedminster Green' and to provide community facilities within the development.

The charter uses the development framework adopted by Bristol City Council in March 2019 as a practical starting point by which development of the area can create a vibrant new neighbourhood in the heart of Bedminster that can be an exemplar of sustainable growth; of incorporating high environmental standars; and of how good development can advance the aims of the city.

The manifesto has six related themes that capture the aspirations of all stakeholders.

People
Creating a great place to live that meets people's current and future needs.

- **A mixture of housing** to foster an inclusive community where families can grow or shrink without leaving the neighbourhood and people can afford to live.

- **Young people** can play and activity for all ages is included. There is space for spontaneous activity and imaginative uses.

- **Local and independent shops** are nurtured and supported to create a unique identity and a place people will linger.

- **Sustainability** is inherent with homes and lifestyles that are more energy, water and food efficient. Community involvement is encouraged for all residents.

Business
Creating a vibrant economy and a great place to work and generate wealth.

- **Support** and inclusion of existing businesses enables them to grasp the opportunities emerging from the changing area.
- **Improving the skills** of the local workforce by linking enterprise with City of Bristol college, local young people and university students
- **Digital** services create a 'silicon green' with innovation and future thinking.
- **Evening economy** is improved to complement the existing scene and retain people in the area after dark.

Wildlife and green spaces
Creating a place that encourages biodiversity and enriches people's wellbeing.

- **Wildlife** and habitats are enhanced to connect nearby green spaces and naturalise the Malago stream with wildlife-friendly planting.
- **Green spaces** are clean, attractive and wildlife friendly with improved tree canopy and integrated transport plans.
- **Air quality** is improved, road traffic reduced and green transport enabled.
- **Building design** with ambitious standards that makes Bedminster Green the greenest in Bristol. Green roofs, vertical gardens, areas for growing food and accessible to all.

Learning, arts and culture
Creating a place where people grow and their lives are enriched.

- **Linking** university and community with a combined study, work and library space with links to local schools and community groups.
- **Supporting** local events (like Upfest or the Lantern Parade) and providing space for arts and artists to practice and exhibit their work.
- **Ensuring** accessibility for those less usually engaged in education, training or the arts.
- **Social action**. Providing opportunities for involvement with local initiatives and organisations.

Regeneration and place
Creating a place with a unique, attractive identity.

- **Creating** positive public spaces that are safe, shared places where people naturally meet and interact.
- **Embracing the bigger picture**. Enhancing the development of neighbouring areas: East St, North St and Windmill Hill.
- **Bringing together** people, history and communities to build a unique identity.
- **Creating wealth** by realising the potential of the development site.

Cohesion
Creating a place where new and existing residents integrate well

- **Build links** between students and local people in mixed facilities across term and holiday times.
- **Recognise** local needs, wishes, fears and hopes. Listen to the needs and aspirations of all.
- **Create positive actions** like street parties, traffic free days, playable city spaces
- **A multi-cultural approach** to ensure support for residents from other countries and cultures.

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With its roots in local community, this charter provides a call to all involved in this development to take a step towards a thriving new neighbourhood at the heart of Bedminster.

Bedminster Green can

- Engage local people in its design to ensure it works for all needs.
- Promote enterprise, businesses and skills.
- Be the greenest neighbourhood in Bristol.
- Incorporate opportunities for learning and the arts.
- Demonstrate regeneration that is inclusive and reflect Bedminster's rich history.
- Be welcoming to all those who call Bedminster Green home.

Next Steps

Many of these aspirations will be met through good design as a result of robust planning and development processes. There are some, however, that are particular to this development at this time and require a greater effort and investment to realise.

Developers, planners and land-owners need to set aside space in their plans to help to realise this vision. It may involve some risk and uncertainty. We believe that building partnerships that enable community ownership of spaces in the development will make a better development that realises benefits for all stakeholders in the long run.

We need to find the mechanisms by which all parties can realise their ambitions: Section 106 funds, Corporate Social Responsibility and commercial opportunities. By connecting seemingly unconnected issues new approaches may be possible. For example, the university may see the benefits to student wellbeing as a reason to invest in their living environment; the city may see an opportunity to improve its library facilities in partnership with university and communities; developers may find more supporters of their planning applications where they have been designed with community at their heart.

We aim for this charter to be a catalyst to greater collaboration on the development.

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