

Meeting at Brunel Goods Shed, 7/8/15 – between Neil Walker, Artistic Director of SVA and Hugh Barton, Neighbourhood DP, core group

Neil explained the incremental and experimental approach of SVA to the development of activity at the Goods Shed. A new wooden floor and better loos are planned. A wide variety of artistic and cultural activities occur at the Good Shed. On occasion these spill out onto the car park area between the Goods Shed and the multistory. Sometimes the whole space identified in the draft NDP as a 'square' is colonized, with the agreement of the other leaseholder who lets space for car parking.

Hugh explained the progress of the NDP, the consultations that had already happened, and the proposals for the 'Brunel Square' in the draft plan, including the new pedestrian connections, the use of the redundant railway land and the small workshops/offices.

Neil was supportive of creating an attractive entrance from the multistory towards the station, and understood the desire for a direct route from the town centre – though suggested that the easiest way of achieving that would be to improve the quality of the route through the multistory – benefitting Brunel mall shops. He was against the idea of a line of workshops on the town side of the square, believing they would not be viable, and wanting to preserve the view of the distinctive engineering brick retaining wall as representing industrial/railway heritage. He would like the car park area better surfaced, but retained as an open space with flexible potential.

Hugh agreed to write and share this note, and bring Neil's views for discussion with the NDP core group.

HB