



PLANTING THE SEED
PROCESS DOCUMENT

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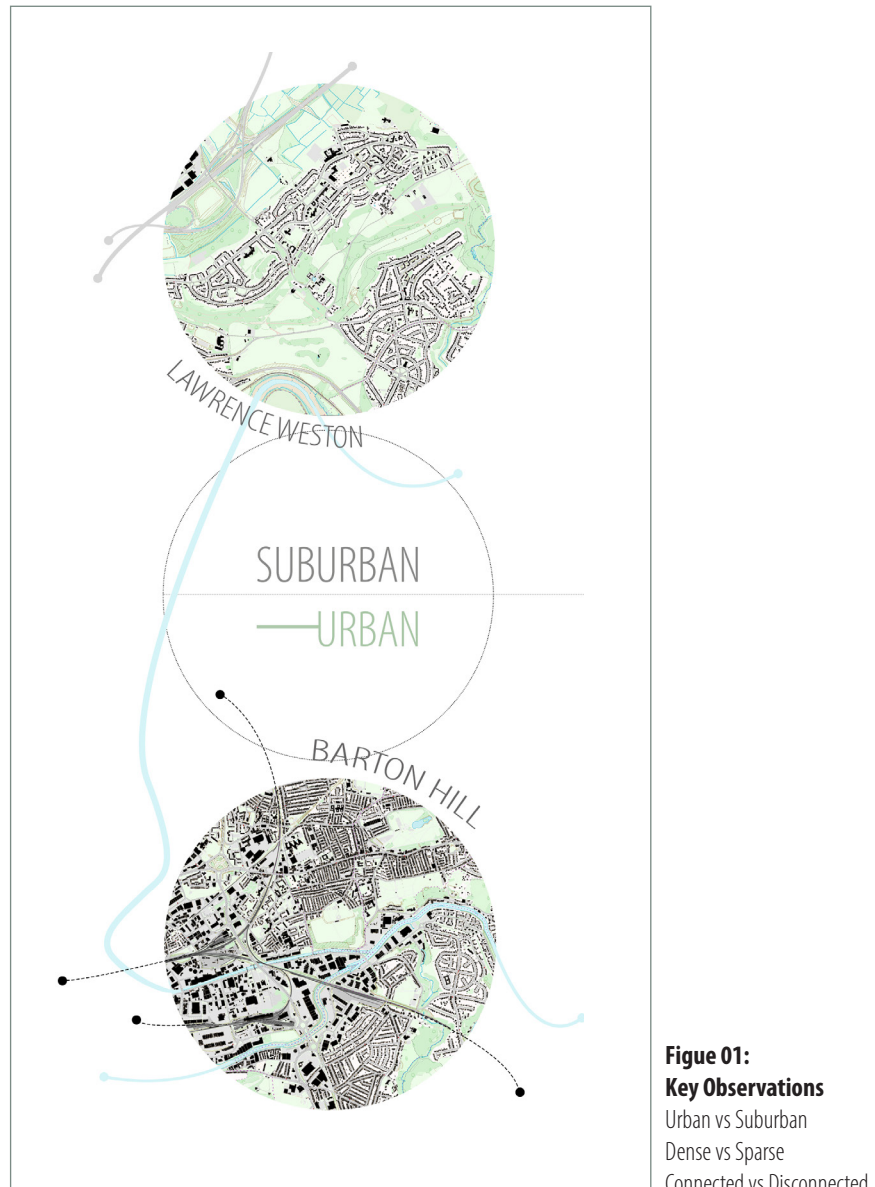
CHAPTER 01

BRIEF DEVELOPMENT

The aim of this project is to engage with the proposed communities as a means to introduce the idea of healthy urban development and instigate an interest in progressing change independently.

This has been done through a series of stages that form developed research via group studies, meetings and user consultations. This chapter seeks to unpick these processes and question their success, with the hope that they can be used and improved on in future projects.

SITE ANALYSIS



- 01** Prior to engaging with specific details in the brief, site analysis is completed as a means to develop an understanding of the chosen locations, without interference from pre-assumed qualities linked with key words. It is important to individually engage with the site before conforming to existing research so that debates and conversation can lead to a well considered proposal. One of the key challenges in this project is the diversity that both sites bring. It is clear that both offer contrasting qualities that will require unique and well considered approaches. The conflicting nature of both urban and suburban perhaps opens an opportunity to compare where each fails and succeeds and thus what each space can learn from the other.

CLIENT ANALYSIS

ORGANISATION

'Shape Our City'

A research project questioning the priorities for change amongst urban decision makers.

"With over 70% of the world's population expected to live in cities by 2050, the urban development decisions we make today will affect the health of this future generation."¹

Research Topics:

Green Space
Road Safety
Cyclability
Food Environment
Housing Quality
Walkability

These topics are condensed into five research categories from which conversation, on a public platform, will be conducted.



Green Space



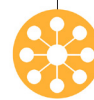
Mobility



Access to Healthy Food



Aesthetic



Integration

Green Space

An area of grass, trees, or other vegetation used for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment. [Oxford Dictionaries | English. (2018). green space | Definition of green space in US English by Oxford Dictionaries. [online] bit.ly/2Rbl8Gb.]

Mobility

The quality of being able to reach, obtain or use something, e.g affordable healthy food, transport and green space

Healthy Food

Real food does not have a long ingredient list, isn't advertised on TV, and it doesn't contain stuff like maltodextrin or sodium tripolyphosphate. Real food is things that your great-grandmother would recognize. [Pollan, M. (2014). Food rules. New York: Penguin Books.]

Aesthetic

The aesthetics of a space as a result of the buildings, litter and noise, but also its presence and atmosphere.

Integration

The ability to mix with and join society or a group of people and this creating a positive effect.

¹ UWE - Upstream. (2019). Project Background · UWE - Upstream. [online] Available at: <https://urban-health-upstream.info/project-background/> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

CLIENT ANALYSIS

USER CONSULATION

- 03** Engaging with communities through various types of consultation provides a scope of investigation that is not possible through literature readings. Knowledge provides a starting point to progress and should lead into the development of new ideas, that are tested as a means of validation.

A. OPEN USER CONVERSATION



Lawrence Weston, Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate

This consultation required an active approach that was flexible. Using bright colours caught the attention of the residents, however it did not prompt them to come over and engage. It is perhaps better to develop an activity that suits various mobilities and that forces a level of interaction, like asking specific questions, rather than having an open platform.

- A.01 Sparking new interest and discussion between friends.
- A.02 Being adaptable to the demographic.
- A.03 Making sure information is accessible to all.
- A.04 Recording movement.
- A.05 Presenting clear objectives.
- A.06 Creating interactive activities.

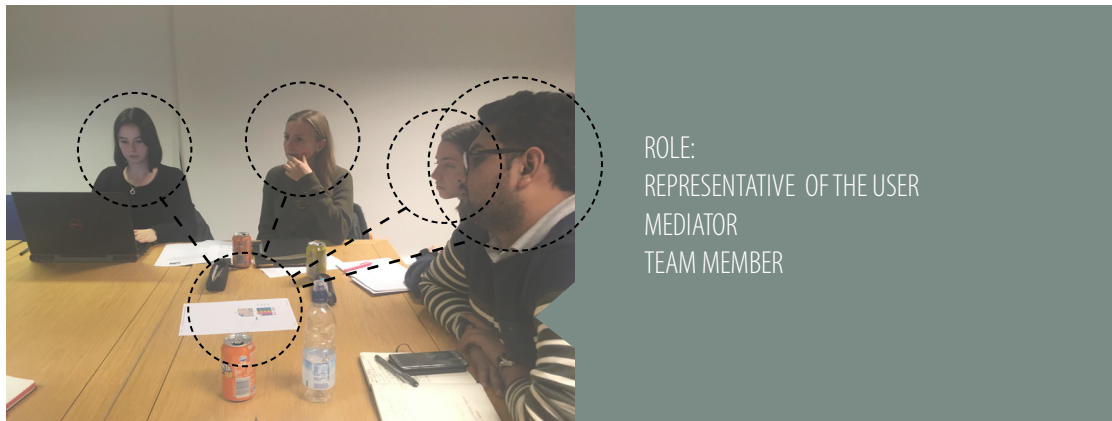
B. CLOSED USER CONVERSATION

Barton Hill, Hanover Street

Closed consultations required a more direct approach. Ideas were shared and discussed openly as a group alongside various media, such as photos and hand drawings. Whilst the priority is to hear the views of Hanover Street residents, it is important to provide a sense of direction to the conversation so that discussions don't stretch to far from the organisation's brief.



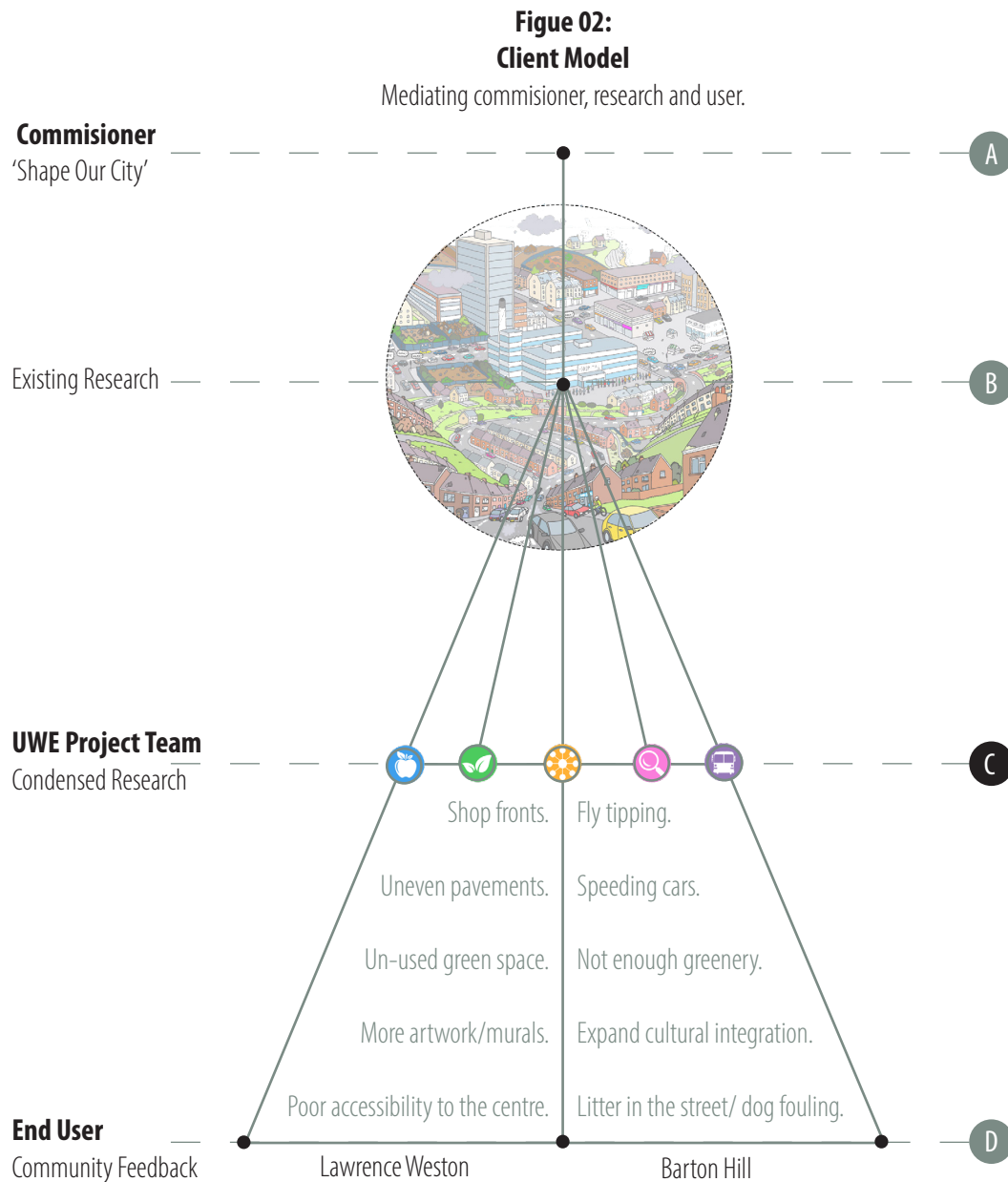
C. PRIVATE CLIENT MEETING



Shape Our City, Sophie Laggan

Meetings with the client commanded relaying user research and presenting ideas through co-ordinated conversation. Here it is important to define the results of external consultations and sign off on proposed outputs. Whilst these meetings went well, it should be noted that there was limited work to show in each client meeting, due to the extent of consultation. Bringing precedents or draft ideas would have made outputs clearer in later development stages.

ROLE



- 02** Dealing with both the organisations who commission the work and the users of the final product can open speculation as to whom the client is. Mediating between the two involves developing a brief that works for both parties and the various relationships within. In this case, the project team is positioned equally between the commissioner and the user. This project aims to act as a mediator between high end research and the relevance of it on a local scale. This is being done by reducing the existing research topics from Shape Our City and testing them within the chosen communities.

PROPOSED OUTCOME

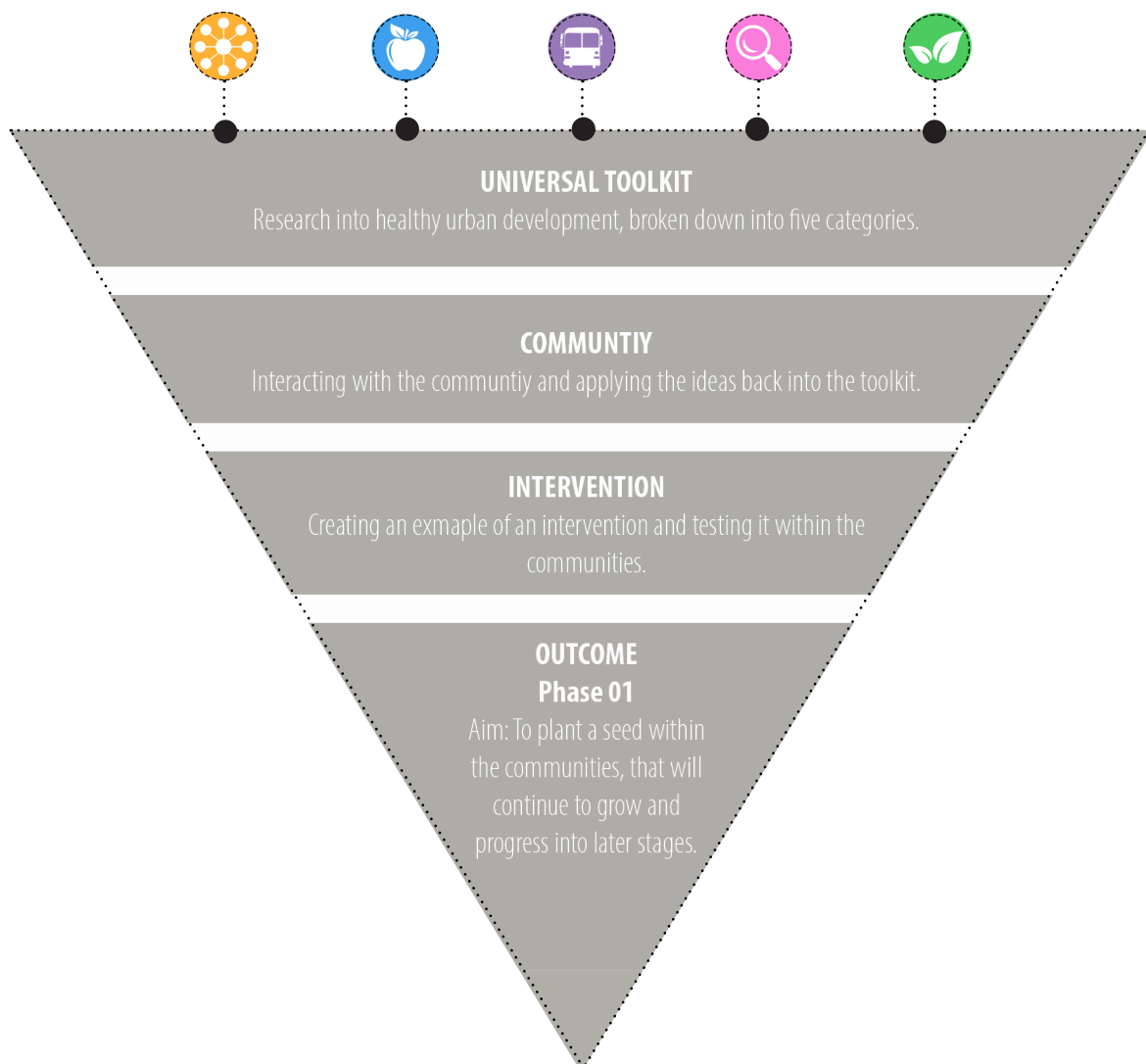
- 04** Following the mediated collaboration between organisation and user, project outcomes are finalised. Clearly stating what the aims are and how the end result will be catered for offers stability and clarity for all parties involved.

Figure 03:

The diagram below shows the outputs of the project, in order of how they feed into one another.

- A Condensed research categories.
- B Using these categories to focus the toolkit.
- C Stages of intervention to research the process' within the toolkit and test our findings.
- D Highlighting the longevity of the project by emphasising its role as a catalyst for further change.

Whilst doing such a diagram defines the structure of the project, it is important not to be confined by the boundaries and deadlines set within it. During the course of this project, the brief changed several times as further research and consultation was conducted. The brief should allow slight variation of the final product as the success of the project will be determined against how well it harmonises with an entire city and singular communities.



CHAPTER 02

NETWORKING

The toolkit was developed alongside vigorous networking and the planning of events, so that experience can be combined with research to provide a well rounded and considered approach to healthy urban development.

One of the key ambitions of this project was to let people know that even the smallest of things can make a difference to individual and communal health. The events we planned are an example of what can be done.

DIAGRAMMING

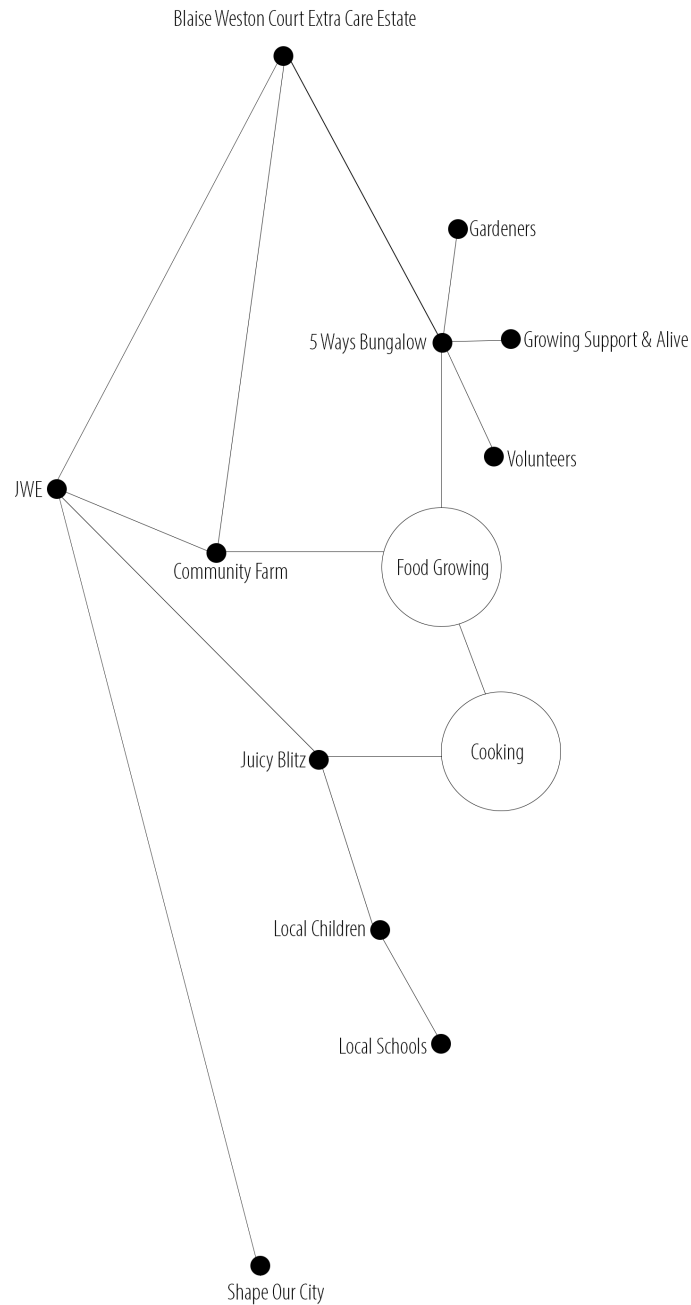


Figure 04

Lawrence Weston Networking Diagram.

04

The foundations of a connected and healthy city are already rooted in the day to day lives of Bristol occupiers, yet the awareness of its presence is limited. Bristol is filled with organisations, companies, groups and individuals that already engage with creating healthy environments. To connect all these individual points is to increase the scope of the project and accentuate the levels of engagement across the city.

DIAGRAMS DEVELOP



Photo 03

Networking in action at Lawrence Weston, Blaise Court Extra Care Centre.

Networking helped to frame the desired events for both communities. Collating common interests, contacts and skills focused the conversation around what existing facilities can be utilised within the local area. In the case of Lawrence Weston, the relocation of 5 Ways Bungalow acts as a strong foundation for communal integration. Community engagement is already present and there is existing connection with the residents of Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate. By connecting this source with others, such as Juicy Blitz, the scope of the project is broadened to various age groups, thus increasing integration.

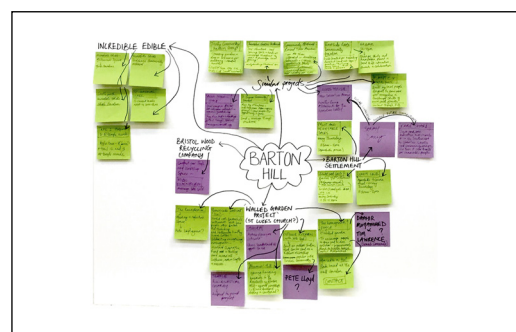


Figure 05

Barton Hill Networking Diagram

FACILITATING EXISTING CONNECTIONS

BLAISE WESTON COURT EXTRA CARE ESTATE



LAWRENCE WESTON

The challenge set by Lawrence Weston was to facilitate the existing connections whilst taking a step back to watch them grow from the sidelines. In this instance, the event at 5 Ways Bungalow was facilitated through widening the scope of the project.

In this process, new skills were learned and experience was gained through the eyes of the user. Learning to take instruction, as well as observing how to deliver instruction, formulated further understanding of what it means to get involved. This leads back to the toolkit.

Learning from previous consultations, the final stage at Lawrence Weston entailed a circular discussion with the residents. Sitting in a circle focussed attention to the middle, and forming discussions indirectly around food growing helped to get residents talking.

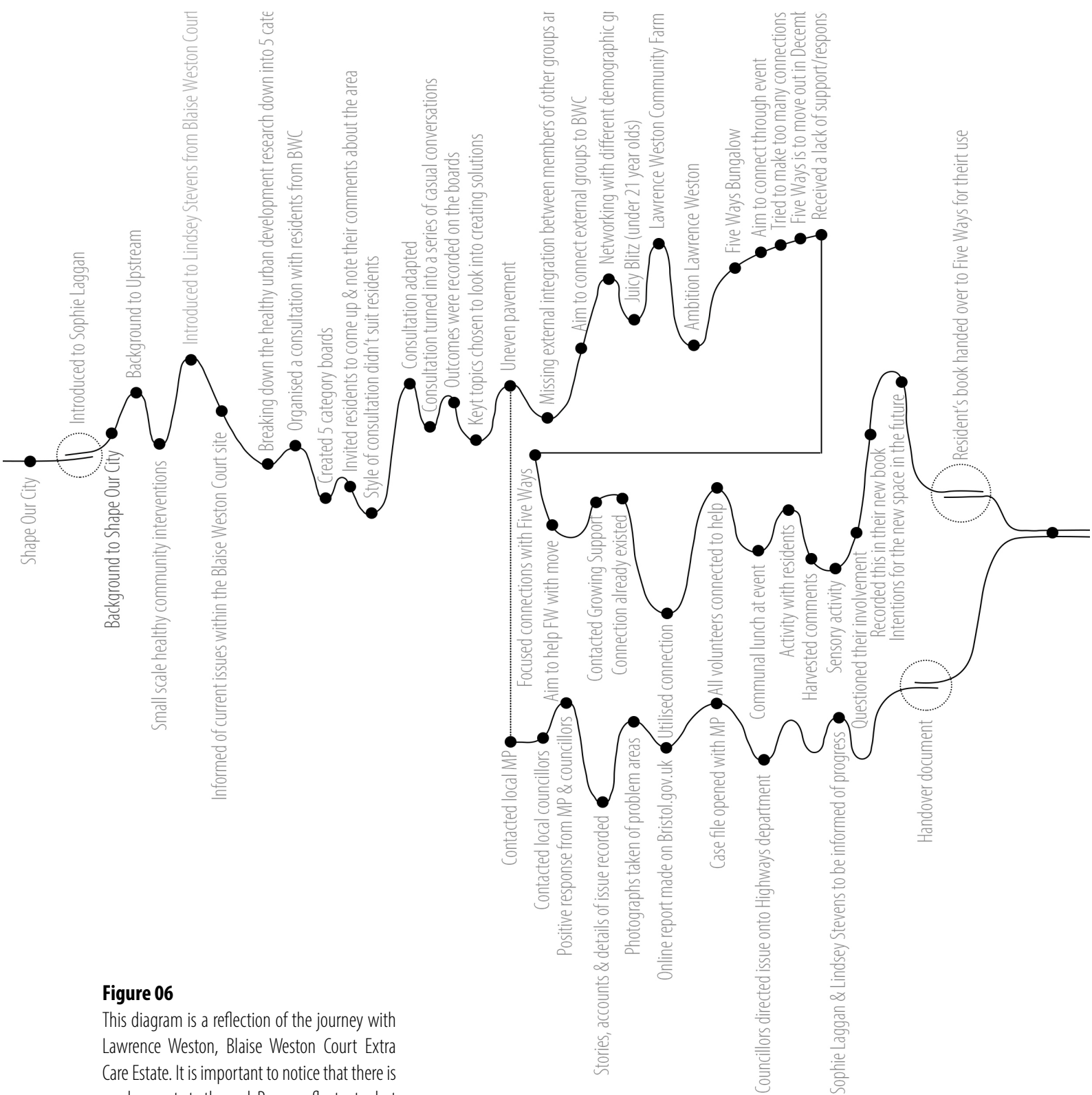


Figure 06

This diagram is a reflection of the journey with Lawrence Weston, Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate. It is important to notice that there is no clear route to the end. Progress fluctuates but this should not dishearten at any stage. It is a natural part of the journey that requires flexible response.



NEW CONNECTIONS: EVENT MANAGEMENT

BARTON HILL, HANOVER STREET

The next pages highlight the key steps taken in the planning of an event, including how to decide what the event should be and how to facilitate it.

The event at Barton Hill consisted of a workshop in which the residents of Hanover Street could build and style their own street planters, in response to comments on lack of greenery and social activity outside the fronts of houses.

Photo 07 - Planting at Hanover Street.

1: TARGET AUDIENCE

Who is the event for?

Developing an event that responds accordingly to the specific targets of the users/attendees and the larger scheme required attention to the various scales of the project.

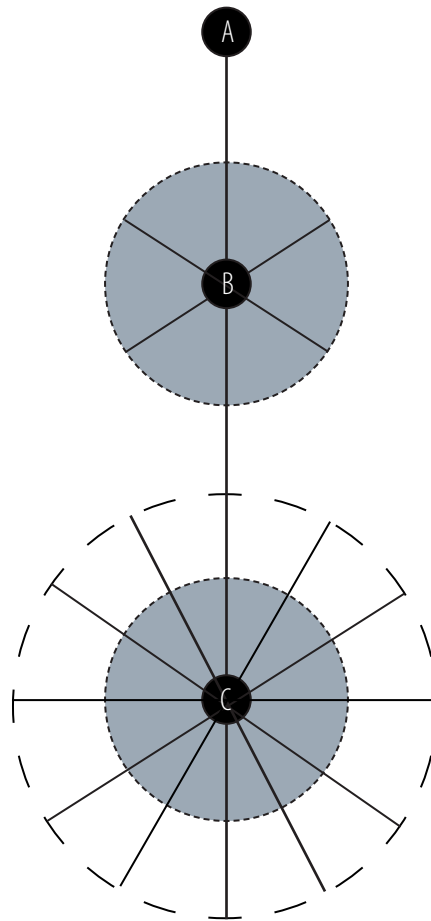


Figure 07

This digram indicates the various users benefiting from the event.

- A** The priority audience are the attendees at the event. Through various consultations, the residents of Hanover Street and UWE decided upon an output that suited all parties involved.
- B** Following this, the wider community is considered. To leave a lasting effect, others are to be informed of what is going on and why it is happening. To cause intrigue, the outputs if the event should benefit the surrounding neighbourhood.
- C** Finally, there is consideration towards how this event is linked to the wider city. As this is a researched based project, the data gathered will be fed back to a larger stakeholder, as a means to develop a larger scheme. The event should provide insight into what works well and test community engagement, so that it may be repeated to consolidate a healthy city.

2: WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO **DO**?

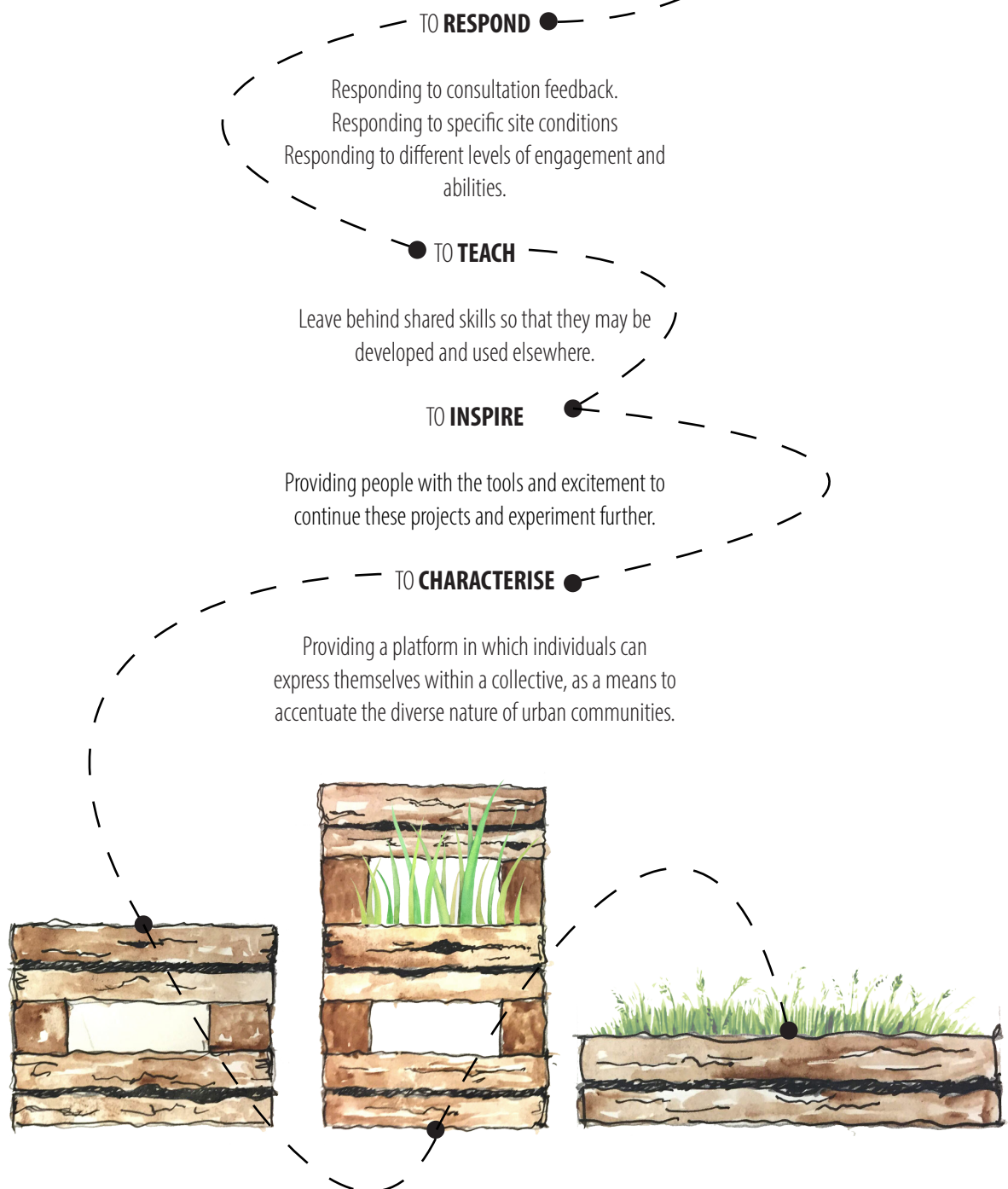


Figure 08

Initial sketch drawing of pallet to planter designs. Variations in size were developed to give people a level of unique adaptation.

3: WHY?

“Climate change, air pollution and chronic diseases are huge threats to our health will the decisions we make as a city today lessen their future impact?”²

In conjunction with planning what to do, a justification of why the events take place is to be established. To legitimise the echoes of the event, it must be substantiated through the development of existing research topics via further investigation. If we can confirm that a simple event within a community, such as this, can effect the health of those living within it, then what happens when a collective city follow in the same footsteps to achieve a common goal?

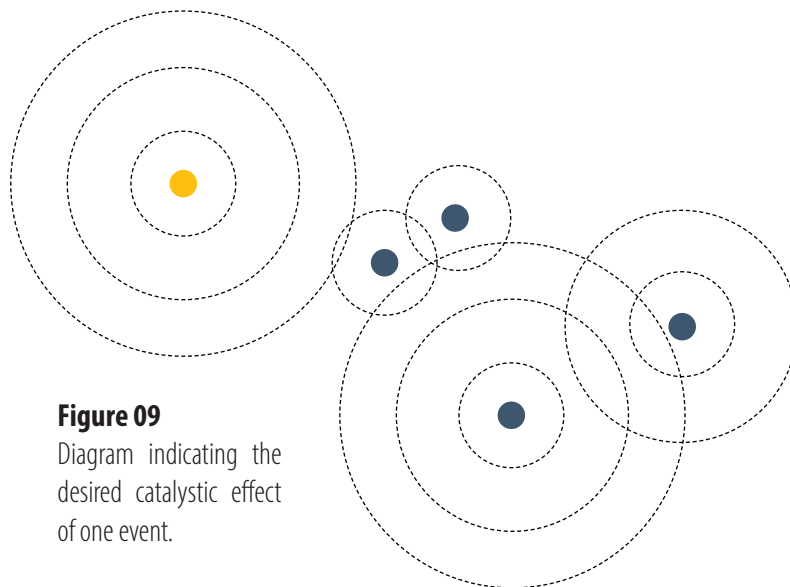


Figure 09

Diagram indicating the desired catalytic effect of one event.

THE URBAN CATALYST

Urban catalysts are redevelopment strategies that guide urban development. Previous redevelopment strategies have often jeopardized the strength of urban peripheries. The urban catalyst differs from these as it does not seek to bring in new development, but takes a holistic approach in attempts to revitalise the existing urban fabric through a series of catalytic proposals (Bohannon, 2004).

“The urban catalyst theory says that design can be linked to place through the study of contextual factors in urban design. These factors include: morphological, social, functional, perceptual, visual and temporal. For the urban catalyst to respond to its setting it also must possess an strong sense of place and authenticity.”³

²Urban-health-upstream.info.(2018). Shape Our City.[online] Available at: <https://urbanhealthupstream.info/shapeourcity/>[Accessed 28 Nov 2018].

³ Bohannon, C. (2004). The urban catalyst concept. [Blacksburg, Va.]: [University Libraries, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University].



THINGS TO CONSIDER

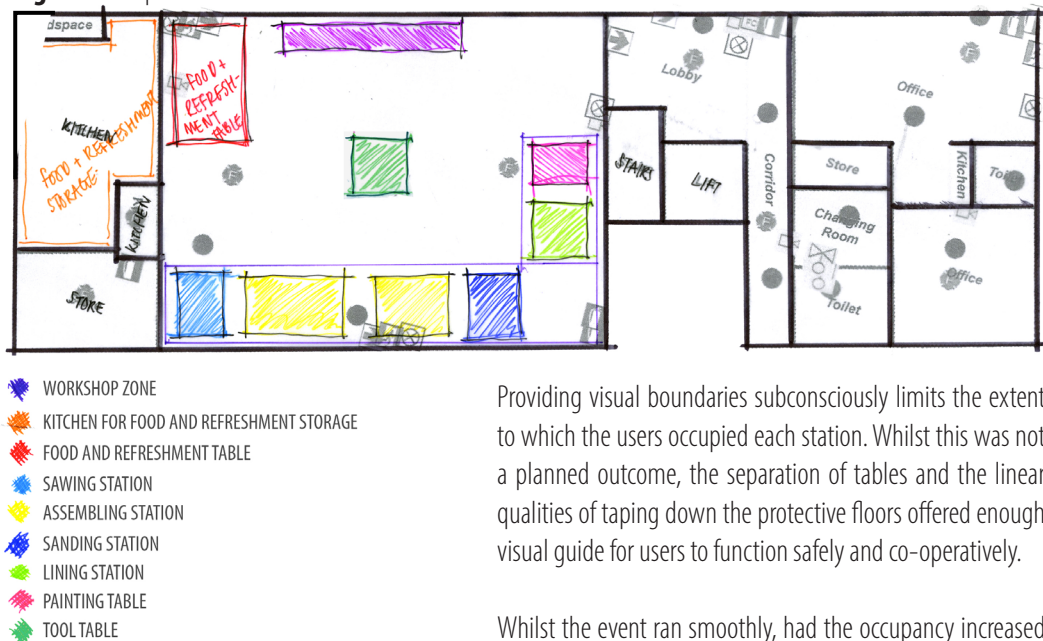
In the planning of an event, there are certain things to prepare for so that flexibility is warranted prior to the tasks starting. The next few pages highlight a selection of examples encountered.

Photo 08 - Building at Hanover Street.

VISUAL AND SPATIAL

To ensure a mediated control over the event, spatial planning was tested to assess how attention and time can be best divided. Providing designated stations for hosts to attend provided a sufficient scope of observation to ensure regulations, rules and the required assistance was maximised. These stations also acted as a visual time frame in which users can position themselves prior to engaging with the event. It allows them to prepare without the potential verbal confusion between the language of the host and themselves. This is covered further on the following pages when the range of user is considered.

Figure 10: Spatial Plan



Providing visual boundaries subconsciously limits the extent to which the users occupied each station. Whilst this was not a planned outcome, the separation of tables and the linear qualities of taping down the protective floors offered enough visual guide for users to function safely and co-operatively.

Whilst the event ran smoothly, had the occupancy increased the extent to which we organised ourselves would need to be increased. It is important to keep an eye on your station and focus your attention.



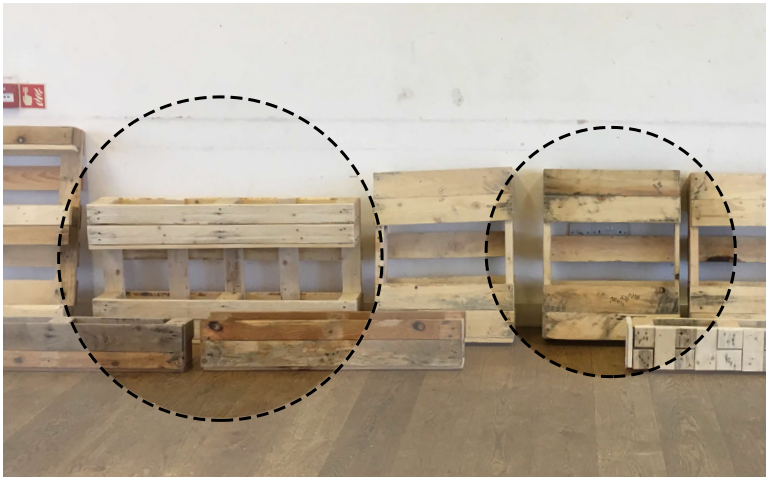
Photo 09 - Sanding



Figure 11: Spatial Zoning

AGES AND ABILITIES

When events are opened up to the public/wider community, all ages and abilities are to be catered for as there are no limits/ regulations against who can turn up.



Providing a selection of stages to engage with meets the different levels of engagement throughout the event.



Photo 10 –
Providing various levels to work at and surfaces to work on means a variety of physical needs could be met.



Photo 11 –
Adapting the levels of engagement with individuals varied, depending on the age. Changing mannerisms and the delivery of instruction should adapted to suit the user.

RISKS AND LIMITATIONS

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT



Tools received a designated area in which they must always be returned to. Prior to engaging with the building of a planter, users are to receive warnings and tool instructions.

Whilst users may be aware of the risks involved, this does not guarantee that rules will be followed. Ensuring one team member is posted at this station should further limit any risk.

PREVENTING RISK



Making users aware of the risks is of vital importance. The completion of a risk assessment provides consideration towards the hazardous implications of having tools in site. With proper planning, the extent of danger can be minimised.

01 Manual Handling
02 Risk Assessment

LIMITATIONS

Whilst precautions can be made, it is important to consider how much the team can handle. Knowing your limits means controlling the amount of tools on site and limiting the amount of people in the room. Calculating how many people each host can handle gives a vague numerical number to this, however understanding comfort zones is an essential guide.

BARTON HILL PROCESS DIAGRAM

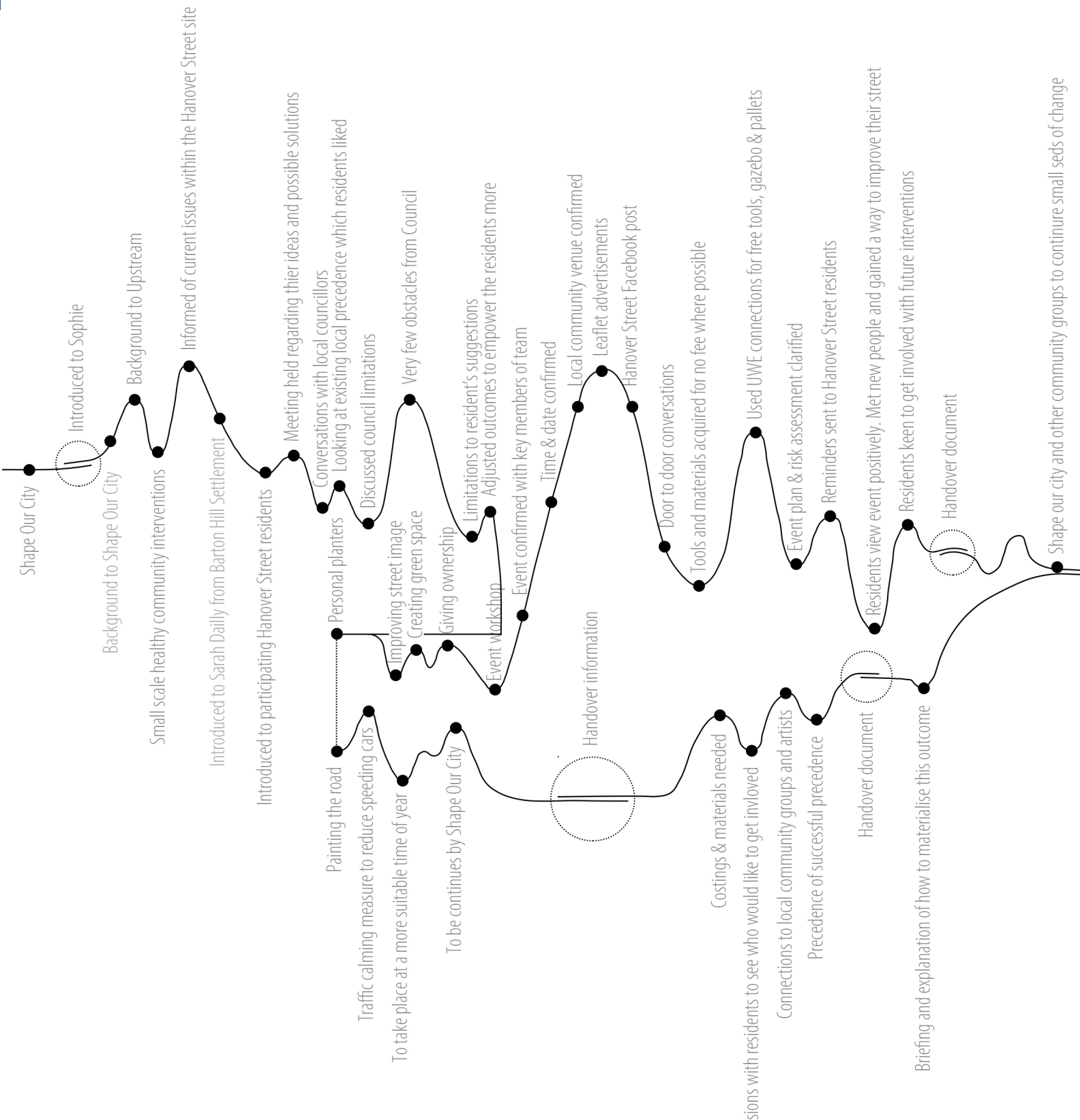


Figure 06

This diagram is a reflection of the journey with Barton Hill, Hanover Street. The journey fluctuates in a similar manner to the progress at Lawrence Weston, however it is more fluid. Different projects will move at their own pace and it is important to remain flexible.

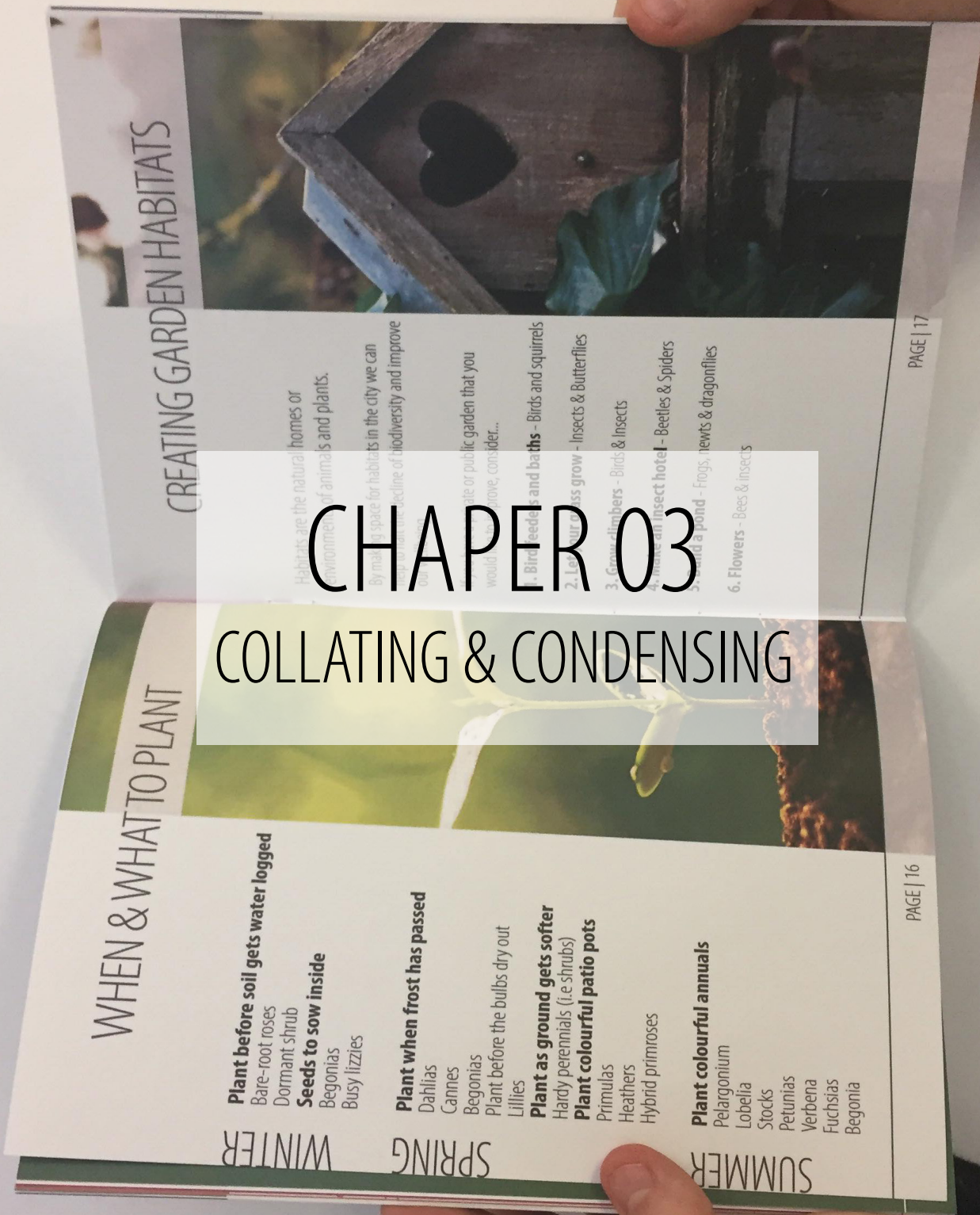
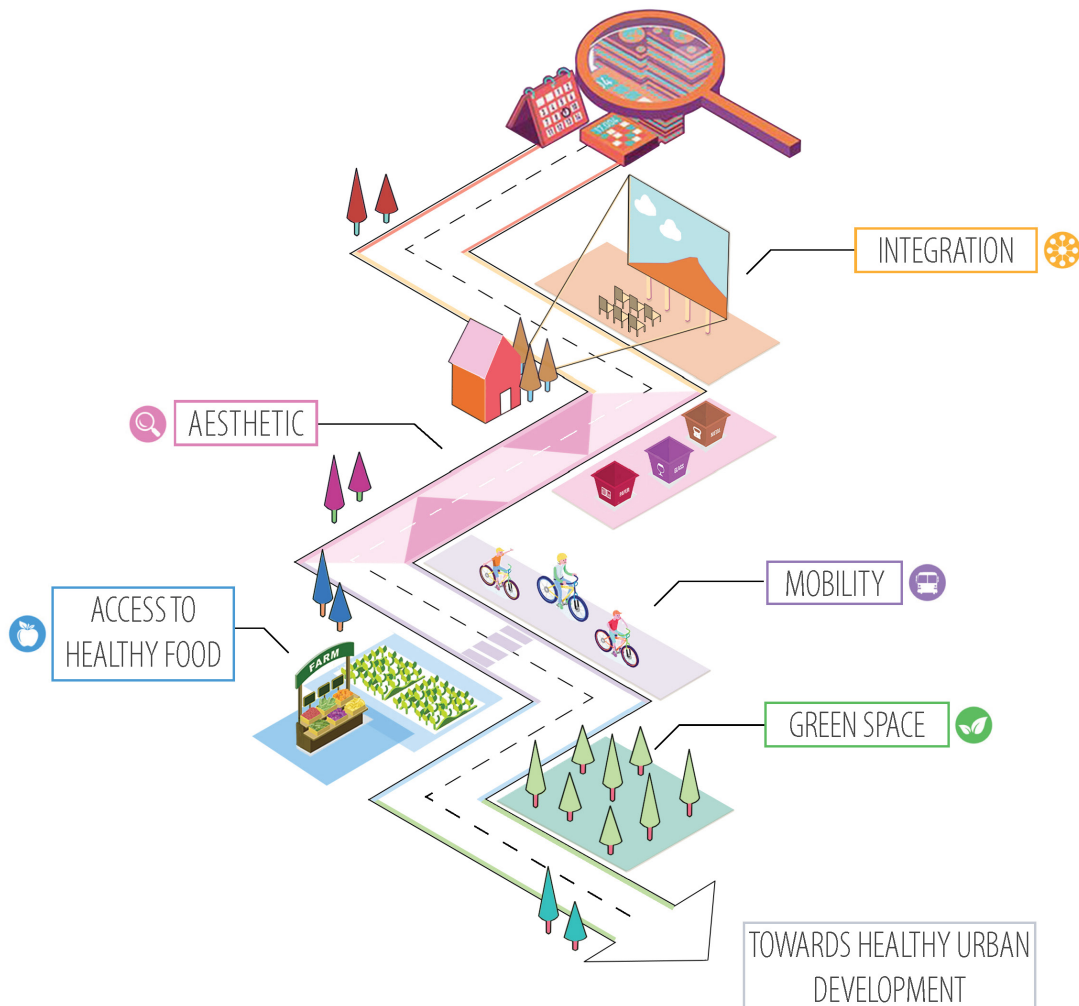


Photo 13 - Toolkit 'Green Space'.

THE 'TOOLKIT'



The toolkit is a visual guide to healthy urban development. The categories established at the beginning have formed the basis of research topics that have been fed into communities through consultation and events.

There were many attempts at the toolkit, that took various different forms and visuals. It is important to ensure the visuals are clear and captivating so that individuals and communities fully engage with what it has to offer.

It should be noted that documentation such as this should be fed back into the community at various stages of completion to ensure dialogue is readable and relevant to those who will be using it.

CHAPTER 04
-THE NEXT STEPS-
HANDOVER

BARTON HILL

PAINTING STREET

TOOLS

Painting brushes
Rollers
Trays
Slip resistant road paint

TIPS

Ensure the surface is dry
before applying paint.

Check the paint drying time
as the weather must remain
dry during this period.

CONTACT

In Bristol studio
inbristol.org

Councillor Afzal Shah
07775 026 384
cllr.afzal.shah@bristol.gov.uk

Contact has been made with Sarah from Barton Hill Settlement and two residents, Karen and Kerry, regarding implementing positive changes to their street. One of the issues that was brought up was speeding cars down the street and general street image needing some improvements. The residents suggested painting the road as a deterrent measure for the speeding cars as well as it brightening up the street. Contact has already been made with 'In Bristol studio' inviting them to get involved in this project as a part of the design team. They will meet with Hanover street and 'Shape Our City' team to progress towards this became reality.



Lang-Baumann
Street Painting 2013
Rennes.



Antonio Perez
Street painting 2015
Lakeview neighborhood
Chicago.



Camille Walala
Street painting 2016
Better bankside
London

STREET PLANTER

TOOLS

Wood cable reel
Hammer & Nails
Drill
Wooden slats
Soil
Plants
Hand trowel
Plastic lining

TIPS

Always use caution with tools.

Plan the design prior to building.

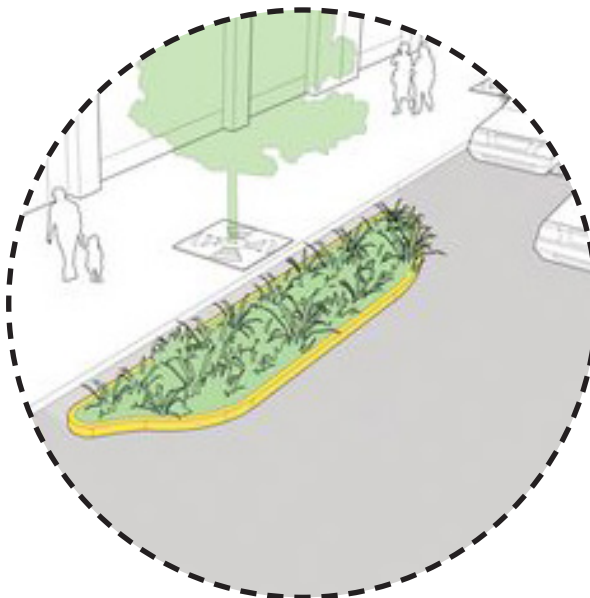
Be imaginative- cable reels are an example of how materials can be re-used.

CONTACT

Bristol Wood Recycling Project
www.bwrp.org.uk
info@bwrp.org.uk

Councillor Afzal Shah
07775 026 384
cllr.afzal.shah@bristol.gov.uk

The second solution that residents suggested as a deterrent measure for the speeding cars and as a means to brightening up the street, is to use big planters. Contact has already been made with 'Bristol Wood Recycling Project' inviting them to get involved in this project. They are looking to work with more community projects and they suggested the use of old cable cylinders, which they stock.



Urban Street Design
Guide, (2013) Island
press [online]

LAWRENCE WESTON

UNEVEN PAVEMENTS



Between Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate and the local shops, there are a series of dips in the pavements, that lead onto driveways. Those in mobility scooters have voiced their concern with this change in level and wish to seek a solution.

Contact has been made with the local MP and a report has been submitted along with photo evidence.

bit.ly/2znJJtX bit.ly/2znJJtX - Website for report submission.



CONTACTS

MP: Durren Jones
Councillors: Donald Alexander and Jo Seargent

The next steps involve waiting for further contact. All the relevant information has been submitted and sent over to highways control to assess what can be done. Their point of contact is currently Sophie from UWE, however all relevant emails will be forwarded on to Sophie Laggan.

PATHWAYS



- 01** There was talk of introducing a new pathway between the back entrance of Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate (adjacent to the dining hall) and the new site of 5 ways bungalow so that residents with poor mobility will have an easier journey. No further plans have been made with regards to this. The location of 5 ways Bungalow is yet to be confirmed.
- 02** Placing plants down the alley way adjacent to the local shops and Kirkby Road. This requires further investigation and consultation. No contacts have been made regarding this, however Lynne from Blaise Weston Court Extra Care Estate suggest this proposal.



CONTACTS

Abi Sweet
Lindsey Stevens

SHAPE OUR CITY & UWE



FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UWE AND SHAPE OUR CITY

Building upon the relationship between UWE and Shape Our City could provide a new level of engagement for students to connect with their city. Forming a new platform of communication will inform UWE students, and potentially a wider community, about upcoming events, volunteer possibilities and projects. The scale of this could vary from small gardening opportunities to larger developing programmes.

- 1: Weekly bulletin board.
- 2: Monthly conversation/ walk in chat.
- 3: A link to the Shape Our City website on the UWE students portal.

REFERENCES

Photography by Eight
<https://eight.org.uk>

Photo 02

Photo 03

Photo 04

Photo 05

Photo 06

Photo 09

Photo 10

Photo 11

Photo 12

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¹ UWE - Upstream. (2019). Project Background · UWE - Upstream. [online] Available at: <https://urban-health-upstream.info/project-background/> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

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² Urban-health-upstream.info. (2018). Shape Our City (online) Available at: <https://urban-health-upstream.info/shapeourcity/> [Accessed 28 Nov 2018]

³ Bohannon, C. (2004). The urban catalyst concept. [Blacksburg, Va.]: [University Libraries, Virginia