



reCREATE FILWOOD

A community-led programme of public realm improvements for Filwood Broadway



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around the
green space
around the
central library
contains
the main
entrance

Delivery vehicle
space.

covered 'landmark'
library
2
3

cur-de-
sac
vehicle
access

Keep the
main entrance
open

← set-up
bike
community
museum/library

cinema
/ arcade?

WINDERS & THE
HIGH STREET

CHURCH

PARK

DICKENS
LAWNS

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Introduction

In 2019 Bristol Council began to develop housing development proposals on Filwood Broadway. Members of Knowle West Future and Knowle West Alliance who were interested in development across the Knowle West area realised there was a need for the local community to influence these proposals. In 2020 the Filwood Broadway Working Group was set up. The group includes local residents, community groups, councillors, council officers and local businesses. Fortnightly meetings began in January 2021. A stall at the Community Market was manned every month to raise awareness and gather opinions and supporters.

In 2021 the Filwood Broadway Working Group successfully bid for support from the national regeneration charity, the Create Streets Foundation and began a series of workshops and public engagements to consider the best and most prosperous future for Filwood Broadway. This report, prepared by the Create Streets Foundation, summarises the public engagement outcomes and subsequent design proposals.



Members of Filwood Broadway Working Group at the community market



The community's vision

“

Led by the community, this neighbourhood proposal seeks to restore Filwood to its former glory and showcase the creative vibrant community that lives here. A reconfigured public realm will make this neighbourhood centre one in which locals and visitors alike can thrive.

”

The design principles

SPACE FOR ALL



Providing public space for people of all ages and backgrounds

GREENING-UP



Enhancing biodiversity for both people and planet

HIGHLIGHTING HERITAGE



Celebrating local cultural heritage through public spaces

PRIORITISING PEDESTRIANS



Redesigning the streets to put pedestrian movement above cars

FLEXIBLE SPACES



Creating flexible public spaces to host events and pop-ups

REINVIGORATING SHOPFRONTS



Reworking shopfronts to highlight local heritage and improve the street scene

The process

How did we get here?

The following pages detail the consultation activities leading up to the development of masterplan proposals. From mid 2021 to mid 2022 we have worked with the wider community in four ways:

1 *Market-place survey:*

A survey at the monthly market of the wider community's preferences ran during 2021

2 *Neighbourhood knowledge mapping:*

An online survey of people's preferences ran between 22nd January and 19th March 2022.

3 *Place Champions workshop one:*

An online workshop on 22nd January 2022 to examine constraints, explore precedents & agree vision for Filwood Broadway.

4 *Place Champions workshop two:*

An in person workshop on 19th March 2022 to set out design options and the 'brief'



Market-place engagement: *Identifying priorities*

Members of the Filwood Broadway Working Group tried a variety of ways of interacting with shoppers and traders at the Filwood monthly Community Market during 2021. A survey of the wider community's preferences ran throughout 2021.

The purpose of this exercise was to engage the wider community in discussions about the future of Filwood Broadway, and better to understand the community's preferences for activities in the area.

Large laminated posters were set up and passers-by put stickers onto different ideas for public realm improvements using a traffic light system.



Results of visual preference consultation



Results of visual preference consultation



Results of visual preference consultation



Results of visual preference consultation



Results of visual preference consultation

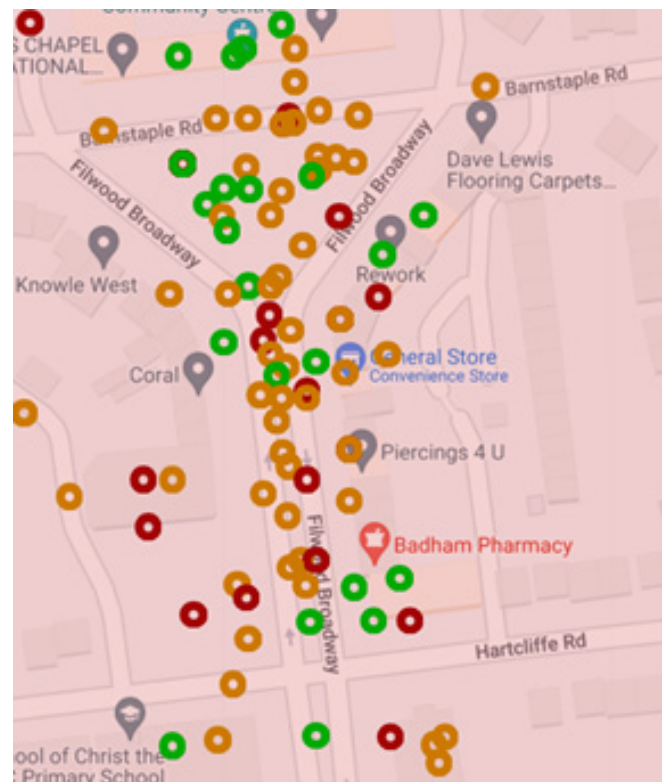
Neighbourhood Knowledge Mapping

Using interactive mapping platform, Create Communities, the community took part in a neighbourhood knowledge mapping exercise. Participants rated existing places around Filwood Broadway as good, OK, or bad and gave reasons why.

111 responses were recorded and used to inform the sketch masterplans in the second Place Champions workshop.

Key themes that emerged include:

- Prioritising pedestrians over cars
- Reinvigorating empty shops
- Improving pedestrian safety
- Enhancing existing green spaces
- Showcasing the local character



The interactive map of Filwood Broadway

Place Champions: *talk and walk*

30 people, attended the first Place Champions workshop which took place on 22nd January 2022 via Zoom.

During this workshop attendees engaged in critical urban design discussions. The group went on a virtual walking tour of various public realm improvement programmes and gave feedback on design elements they liked, did not like, and importantly, those they thought could improve Filwood Broadway.

The aims of this workshop were:

- To look at the context for regeneration of the Broadway and the opportunity now
- To look at the research on how our environment impacts our wellbeing
- To get inspiration from what other people have done in their local areas
- To start thinking about the opportunities, constraints and potential trade offs of the design ahead of the co-design workshop

Attendees shared their hopes and aims for Filwood Broadway:

A thriving neighbourhood centre:

"I want a thriving high street back in a different way that works for now"

"I'd like to see the Broadway a lot busier and flourishing"

"FB as a viable local centre where people want to go and enjoy being in"

"I'd like to see more shops and things to do for families to brighten it up"

"Back to district centre as intended and not decimated by housing"

Change:

"want to see something happen"

"bring the place to life and make something happen"

"I'd really like to see something positive"

Something for the community:

"want FB to be a thriving heart of the community"

"way to get involved and shape the community"

To restore Filwood Broadway's former glory:

"The Broadway is almost 100 years old. this is our chance to remake the Broadway, so it fit for the next 100 years. need to make sure the community leads the vision and the change with a public realm masterplan that builds on all the positive com-munity energy (market, creativity etc)."

"hoping community have an opportunity to revive the Broadway"

"I recognised FB as looking like the place I used to live in. I am curious what the history has been"

A place people want to spend time:

"thriving place which can make a positive difference to lives of people"

"safe place people want to stay in and spend time there"

"want to see the Broadway as a thriving place that meets needs"

"Filwood Broadway as a destination, a must go place for people to come"

"multiple reasons for people to visit and keep coming back"

"a go to place flourishing and thriving"

Somewhere beautiful and vibrant:

"flourishing, fully functional and beautiful"

"vibrant, an enthusiastic place for the whole community"

Somewhere to be proud of:

"nice and friendly place. Place people feel able to come to. Want people to feel proud of their area"

"bustling with shops and creativity in ways that no one feels alienated and kids feel proud of it"



Place Champions: *draw*

23 people attended the second Place Champions workshop which took place on 19th March 2022 in Christ the King Church on Filwood Broadway.

Attendees worked in groups of 6-7 to produce sketch masterplans for a programme of public realm improvements on Filwood Broadway.

- The aims of this workshop were:
- To translate our research to date on the community's aspirations for Filwood Broadway into spatial solutions.
 - To explore different design options to solve some of the challenges Filwood Broadway currently faces.
 - To work with others to explore the practical trade-offs necessary to design a coherent plan for Filwood Broadway.



Photcollage from the day

Table A

Key characteristics of the sketch masterplan:

Prioritising pedestrians:

- Raised crossing at Southern Junction joining Creswicke Road
- Barnstaple Road is permanently pedestrianised
- The street east of the Green is pedestrian only (but access is flexible)
- The street is repaved in brick
- The northern side of Filwood Broadway, above the crossroads, can be temporarily pedestrianised to host events

Movement:

- The street is open to traffic on both sides of the central cross-roads. The northern side is one-way (northbound). The southern side is two-way.
- The street 'wiggles' gently as a traffic calming measure
- The curve of the street conceals on-street parking, which is broken up by frequent street trees.

Events:

- Covered bandstand on the green
- Pop-up market takes place on northern part of the street above the crossroads when temporarily pedestrianised for events
- On street parallel parking with street trees in between

Heritage and culture:

- Retain cinema façade in its place
- Pop-up market on the high-street below the green

Greening:

- Pocket park at the South of the Broadway
- Frequent tree trees lining the street with benches
- Biodiverse planting to improve 'The Chase' green and greenery 'spilling out' onto Barnstaple Road.

Street furniture:

- Seating throughout the street
- Planters with integrated seating throughout

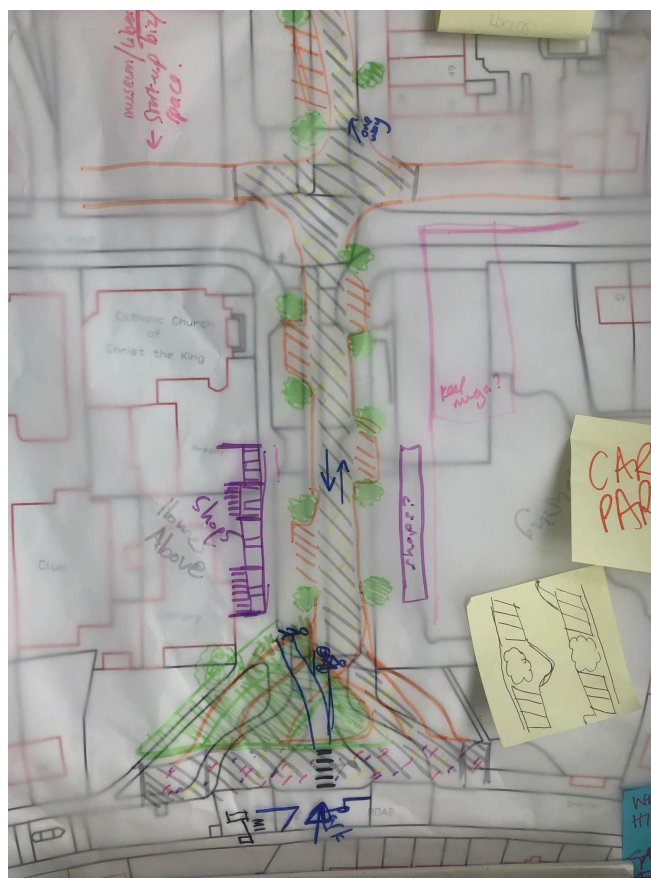
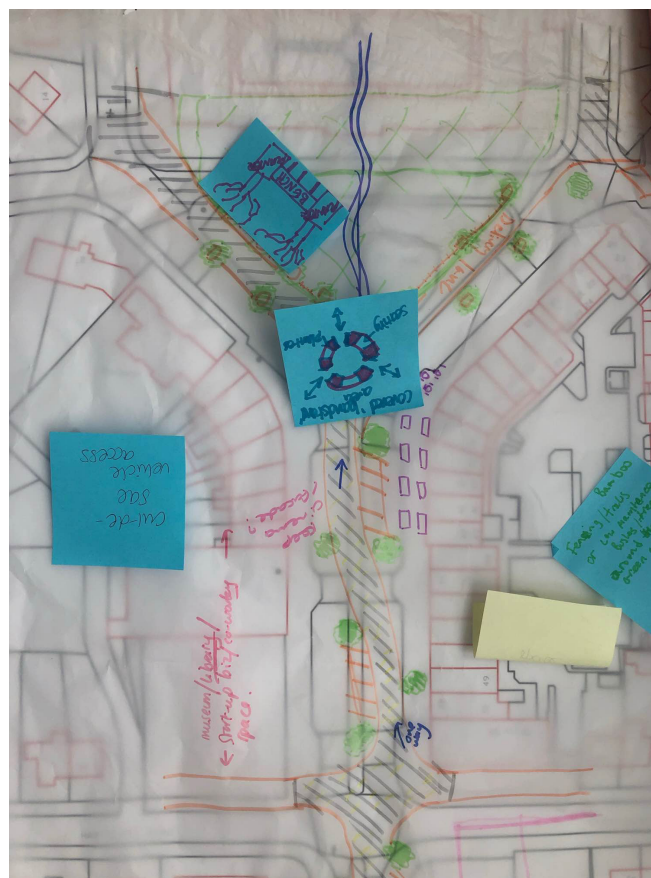


Table A sketch masterplan

Table B

Key characteristics of the sketch masterplan:

Prioritising pedestrians:

- The northern side of Filwood Broadway has been entirely pedestrianised
- Raised crossing at Southern Junction joining Creswicke Road
- Barnstaple Road is permanently pedestrianised
- Bright shapes and designs cover newly pedestrianised areas to redefine what is walkable and playable

Movement:

- On-street parking is placed between street trees on the southern side of the Broadway
- Essential parking, for blue-badge holders, is placed at the ends of the newly pedestrianised Barnstaple Road (indicated by red dots on the plan).

Events:

- Pop-up markets can be accommodated on the northern fully pedestrianised part of Filwood Broadway
- Concerts and events can take place anywhere within the pedestrianised side of the Broadway, north of the crossroads

Heritage and culture:

- The cinema facade has been transplanted to the centre of Filwood Broadway. The historic facade faces southwards, a point of interest drawing people up the hill. A blank wall facing northwards, to be used as a screen for an outdoor cinema.

Greening:

- Pocket park at the South of the Broadway
- Frequent tree trees lining the street with benches
- Biodiverse planting to improve 'The Chase' green and greenery 'spilling out' onto Barnstaple Road

Street furniture:

- Planters and seating made out of the ruins of the old cinema
- Central multi-use games area with hoop and court markings for various games



Table B sketch masterplan

Table C

Key characteristics of the sketch masterplan:

Prioritising pedestrians:

- Central pedestrian 'Rambla' with two way vehicular traffic on one side and a designated cycle lane on the other
- Raised crossing at Southern Junction joining Creswicke Road
- Barnstaple Road is permanently pedestrianised
- Raised carriageways at each junction so that 'cars are the guest'

Movement:

- On-street parking is placed between street trees
- 90° junctions with tight splays

Events:

- Beautiful bandstand (or other termination of vista) in middle of 'The Chase' in front of Filwood Community Centre, visible from South of Filwood Broadway

Heritage and culture:

- Murals on white buildings' upper storeys to create an outdoor public gallery
- Save the cinema or at the very least the façade
- Brick pavements (and carriageway) echoing original buildings

Greening:

- Twin avenue of street trees on either side of central 'Rambla'
- Entry from the south with roses, honeysuckle or other climbing plant over an archway
- Generous green planters at each corner
- Formal triangle of trees around 'The Chase'

Street furniture:

- 'Pictures you put your face in'
- Cinema Silhouettes

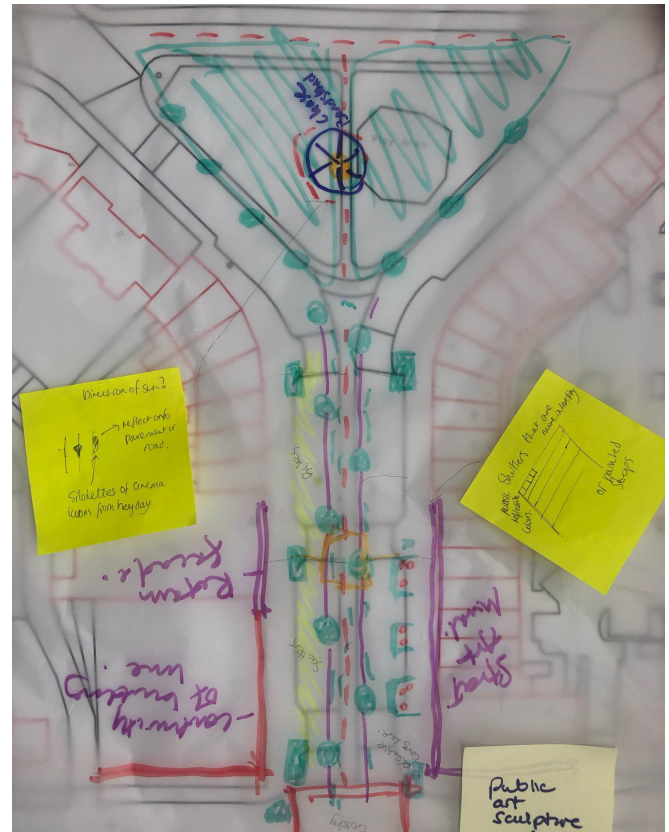


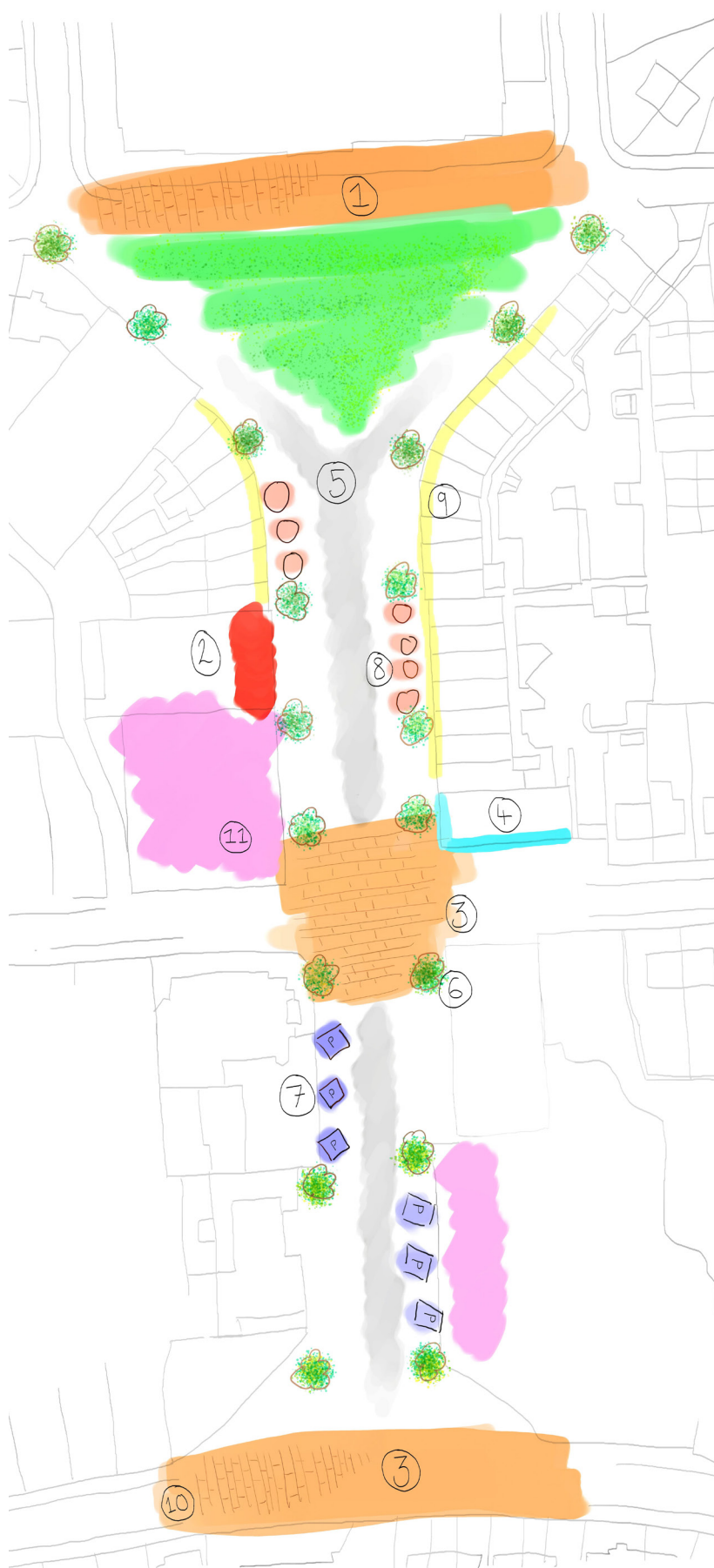
Table C sketch masterplan

Design interventions

The following interventions have the broad support of the wider community and would significantly improve the public realm in Filwood Broadway. They are described in more detail in the following pages.

We should:

- 1) Pedestrianise Barnstaple Road
- 2) Preserve the cinema
- 3) Introduce pedestrian priority zones
- 4) Create an open-air gallery
- 5) Create more space for people
- 6) Plant street trees at regular intervals
- 7) Place parking on the street
- 8) Encourage outdoor dining
- 9) Improve shopfronts
- 10) Use textured paving
- 11) Make temporary use of spaces



Agreed design interventions

1) Pedestrianise Barnstaple Road

At the top of Filwood Broadway, Filwood Community Centre and The Green, formerly known as 'The Chase', are a key focal point for community gatherings and events. Barnstaple Road currently cuts the community centre off from The Chase and is used by cars racing around the green space, making it difficult for pedestrians to use the green space. By pedestrianising Barnstaple Road, The Chase is brought back into community use and events at the community centre can easily 'spill out' into the public realm.

What has the community said?

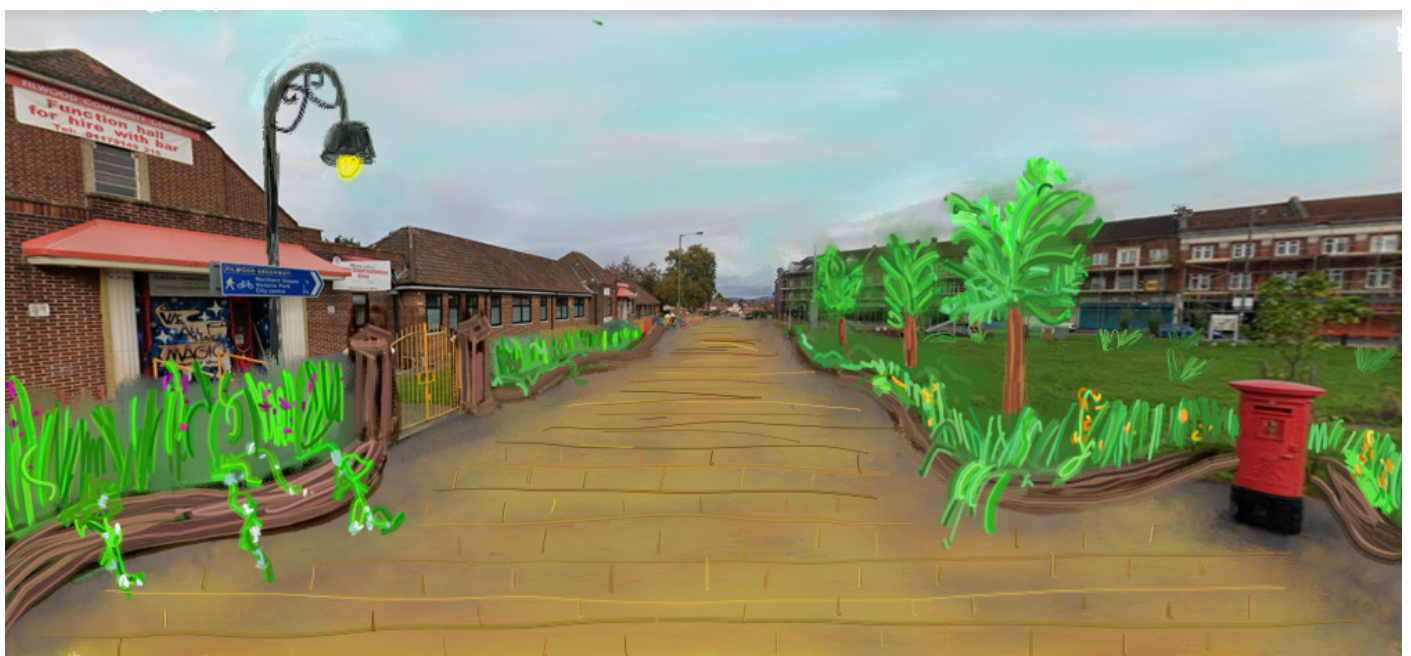
"This road is always a bit dangerous with cars speeding down in both directions. Close the road permanently and use it for events/market space?"

"Pedestrianising this bit of road would be great, increasing the size of the green"

"unsafe to have play with road all way round it, lets make it safer"



View of Barnstaple Road from the west



Example design for Barnstaple Road pedestrianisation

2) Preserve the cinema

The cinema is a much-loved local landmark that contributes to the historic sense of place on Filwood Broadway. The cinema should be preserved and restored to its former glory. If the building is unable to be saved in its entirety, its historic frontage should be saved. The cinema frontage has huge place-making benefits and tells passers-by about the history of Filwood Broadway as a 1930s estate.

The heritage of the cinema should also be preserved in the wider public realm. Street furniture could be repurposed from the cinema interior and some public art that showcases the site's history, would ensure that the legacy of the landmark is not lost on Filwood Broadway.

- **1st preference:** Preserve the building in its entirety
- **2nd preference:** Preserve the building's frontage
- **3rd preference:** repurpose parts of historic interior or architectural points of interest in the wider public realm.

What has the community said?

“those who are fond of it's history could have a photo display of it in its hey day in the community facilities which get established here.”

“locals who knew it as a cinema have fond memories of it in it's hey-day”.



Existing cinema facade

3) Introduce pedestrian priority zones (and make them inclusive!)

Pedestrian priority zones should be introduced at the central crossroads where Filwood Broadway joins Hartcliffe Road, and at the south of Filwood Broadway connecting to Creswicke Road. These zones can be used by private vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. However, pedestrian movement should be given right of way. This is indicated by the continuation of textured paving materials across carriageways. By diminishing the physical divide between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, cars are forced to slow down and negotiate their movement with other space users.

It is important that all surfaces are designed inclusively for safe use by all. This should be achieved by using small-scale changes in kerb detailing and the use of tactile materials at crossing points that allows users with specific disabilities, such as those who are partially sighted or blind to cross safely.

These spaces should:

- Match or complement the pavement surface material and colour.
- Have street trees at the same frequency as those along the pavements.
- Include some tactile markings for users who are blind or partially sighted.
- Be the same height as the pavement, with a ramp to the road. Pedestrian priority zones should be level with the pavement height and should include a ramp from the road up to the adjacent pavement level.

What has the community said?

“Zebra crossings at crossing points would make it safer”

"Roads are too wide and encourage speeding making it feel unsafe to cross"

"Cars drive too fast down the Broadway. Not safe for pedestrians"



Example of tactile paving materials



Example of dropped curb, making the pedestrian priority area inclusive for all users

4) Create an open-air gallery

On blank facades there is an opportunity to showcase local artists' talent and attract people to Filwood Broadway to enjoy the local cultural scene. Murals should be painted on plain, white walls (particularly on the upper storeys to encourage pedestrians to look up!). The historic 1930s buildings should not be painted as their traditional brick patterns and architectural detailing adds to the sense of place on Filwood Broadway.

Public murals could either be designed through artist commissions or public competitions. There is opportunity to involve the wider community in their creation by holding public events and creating connections with local institutions, like schools, to decide the key themes for the artworks.

What has the community said?

“Some small public graffiti walls with signs to say these are to encourage artists to display their work. Bristol is proud of its graffiti association!”

“Street art or graffiti from Bristol artists”



Open-air art gallery in New Brighton, Merseyside



Existing blank walls could be transformed through art that reflects Bristol's character

5) Create more space for people

Filwood Broad is currently very wide with two traffic lanes separated by a central island. Despite the 30 metre width of the street, most of the space is dedicated to cars. In order to make Filwood Broadway a place to stay and enjoy, we must create more space for people to walk, eat, play and rest.

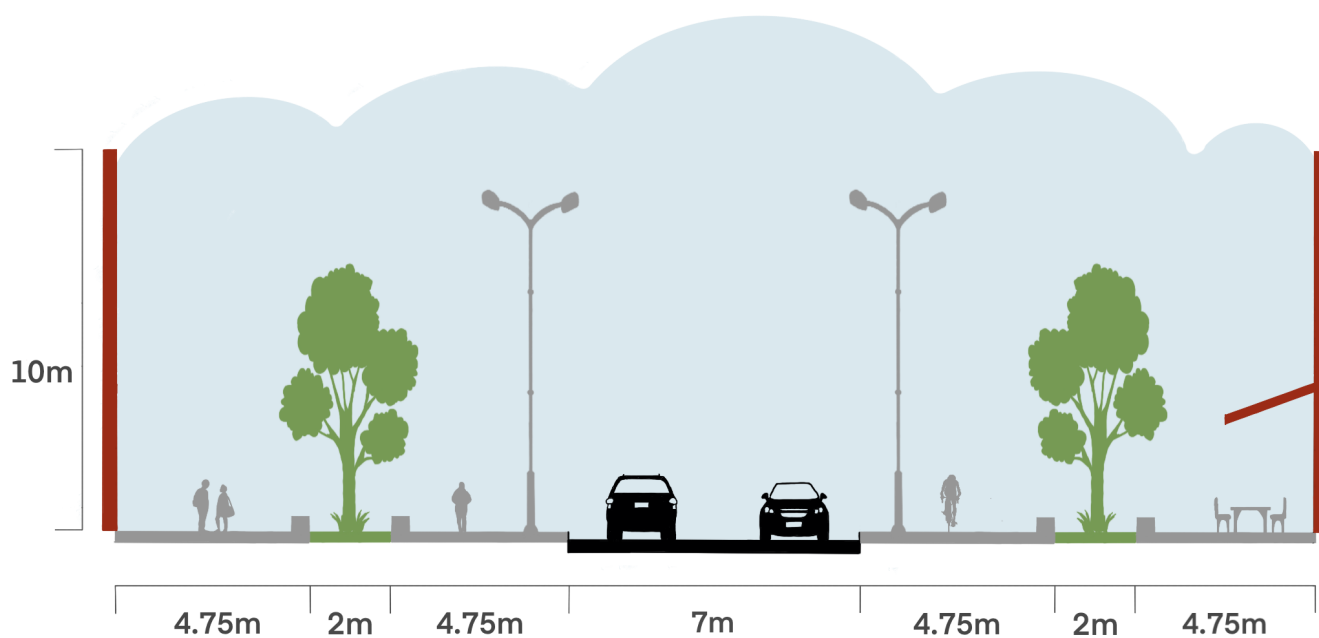


Filwood Broadway is currently very wide, with too much space dedicated to cars

What has the community said?

“Would be better to have a broader pedestrian area on Filwood Broadway, removing the central separation of the road lanes”

If the road was replanned the outdoor market could go down the middle of this road and that would mean that shops feel part of it and the market could be more regular/semi permanent”.



The carriageway can be reduced to 6.5-7 meters for two-way traffic, leaving much more space for people

6) Plant street trees at regular intervals

Due to the disease ash dieback, the existing trees down the centre of Filwood Broadway will be lost. There is very wide support for the planting of new street trees along both sides or the middle of the street. Street trees should be of a native species and planted 8-15 metres apart to allow for growth. Proper tree pits should be used for roots to ensure that they do not push through the paving.

The community have a strong preference for street trees to be well integrated into green borders full of beautiful, biodiverse planting.

Frequently planted trees will:

- Reduce the impact of wind along Filwood Broadway
- Provide shade and cooler temperatures in hot weather
- Conceal and beautify on-street parking
- Create a beautiful, walkable street that encourages active use by locals and visitors.

What has the community said?

“Could the high street be lined with trees at least on one side?”

“It’s a windy street - is there a way to have wind breaks of some sort?”



Planting at the base of a street tree

7) Place parking on the street

- Parking should be provided on the street, not in a purpose-built car-park.
- Parking should be provided on the street at a 45-degree angle to the road to minimise effect on the street's sense of enclosure, whilst still providing many spaces.
- Parking spaces should be broken up by street trees at least every four spaces. This disrupts the visual impact of parked cars.
- Parking spaces should use a different surface material to the road or walkways to distinguish the spaces.

What has the community said?

“The parking looks a bit messy, could be redesigned. Parking meters would give income to the area but should give 1 hour free, which would be enough to use these shops”

8) Encourage outdoor dining

Outdoor dining makes a huge impact on the feel of a place. By placing seating outside, anti-social behaviour is less likely to occur. People prefer spending time (and money) in places that feel welcoming and social. By creating spaces for outdoor dining, the space stops being a cut-through for cars, and starts being a space for people to choose to spend their time.

What has the community said?

“love the wide space available. We could use it to have tables and chairs on the pavements”



Example of cafe seating outside on the street

9) Improve shopfronts

The impressive historic architecture of the 1930s estate is let down by many shopfronts which appear closed and run-down. Shopfronts which celebrate the Filwood Broadway's heritage through their design should be actively encouraged! For empty shops with shutters down, painting can transform the sense of place on the street. Painting the interior of a shop onto a shop's shutters is a surprisingly effective way of improving a shopfront's appearance. Open shops should be encouraged to 'spill out' onto the walkways (carefully not to block pedestrian movement) to create a market-like atmosphere on the high street.

What has the community said?

“There are lots of shutters on the highstreet which makes it look closed”



Example of shop goods 'spilling out' onto the street

10) Use textured paving

Non-tarmac surfaces, such as paving stones, should be used to mark key pedestrian areas. Not only does textured paving improve the feel of the place, it also acts as a traffic calming measure when used to indicate pedestrian areas. Material changes tell drivers that they are entering a new space and that their behaviour and speed should change accordingly. The Filwood Broadway community support the use of coloured paving bricks that highlight the area's creative character.

What has the community said?

“We need to get rid of the prison-look”

“Make Filwood Broadway Bristol's yellow brick road”



The paving slabs along Filwood Broadway are dull in colour, not providing enough of a contrast to the carriageway.



The asphalt walkways around 'The Chase' Green are damaged, unattractive, and potentially dangerous

11) Make temporary use of spaces

Making temporary use of spaces will improve Filwood Broadway by delivering tangible change in the short term and by allowing the community to 'test' urban design solutions out before committing to them long term. This saves money and gives the community ownership of the public realm, making them more likely to take care of these spaces in the future.

Temporary use should be facilitated in two ways:

1) Vacant plots earmarked for development should be utilised by the community for public events and artworks. This prevents the community becoming disillusioned with the development process that can take many years to deliver benefits to the community.

2) Pedestrianisation should be tested out by temporary road closures. This allows the community to find a pedestrianisation solution that works for them. It is not enough to close a street to cars, it is also necessary to think about how that street will be activated with increased pedestrian movement and activity. Play streets are a good way to trial pedestrianisation in the short term, before committing to a more long-term solution.

What has the community said?

“lots of potential for the space next to the cinema - could be a place for play / market stalls, etc....”

“We have to wait years to see anything positive”.



Example of a temporary play street being turned into permanent pedestrianisation in Barcelona



Temporary street closure of Barnstaple Road,

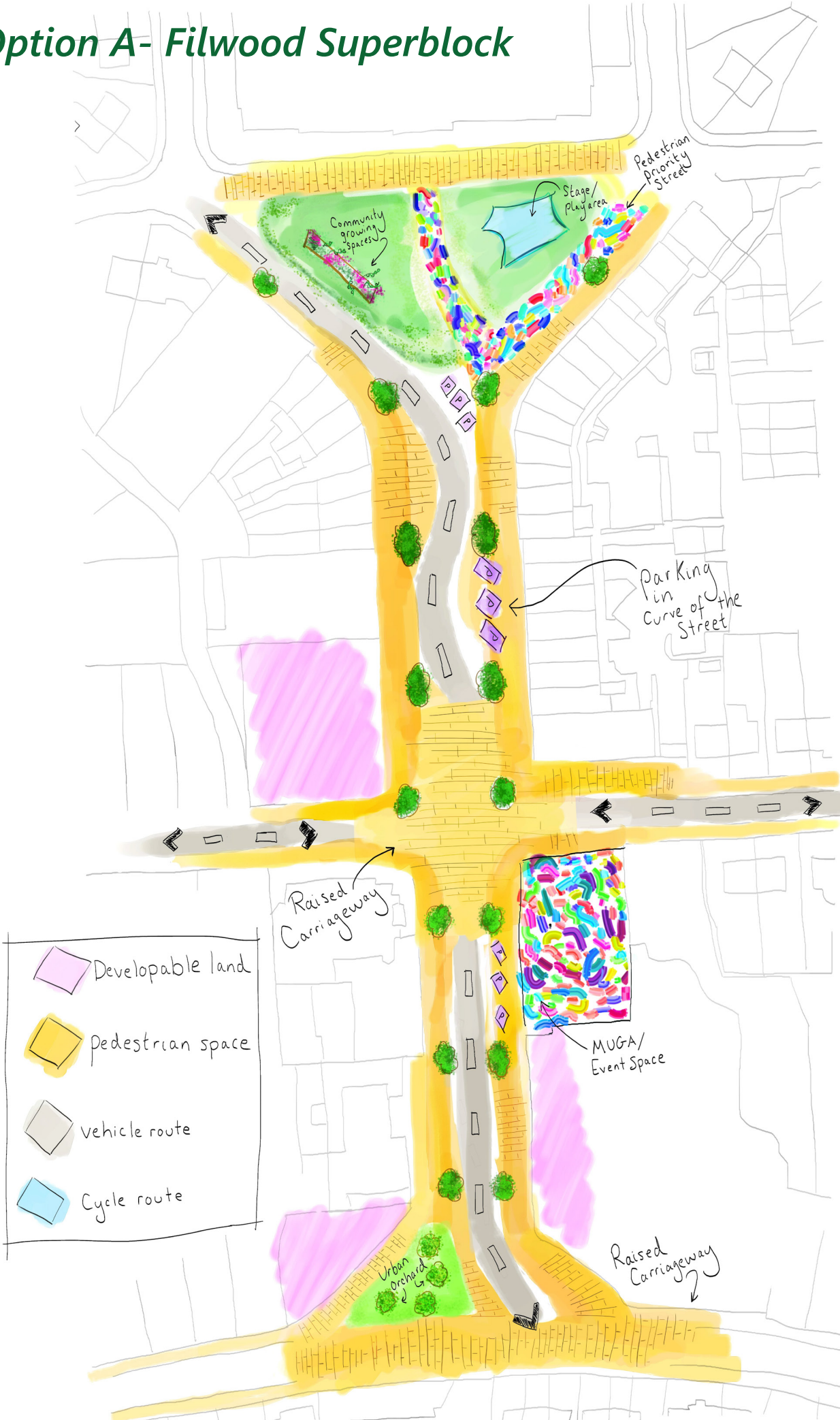


Masterplan options

From the three sketch masterplans produced during the co-design workshop Create Streets have produced two high-level masterplan options to improve the public realm on Filwood Broadway. These options have been developed through careful consideration of both the sketch masterplans produced by the community and feedback from the wider community received via Create Communities and the first virtual workshop.



Option A- Filwood Superblock

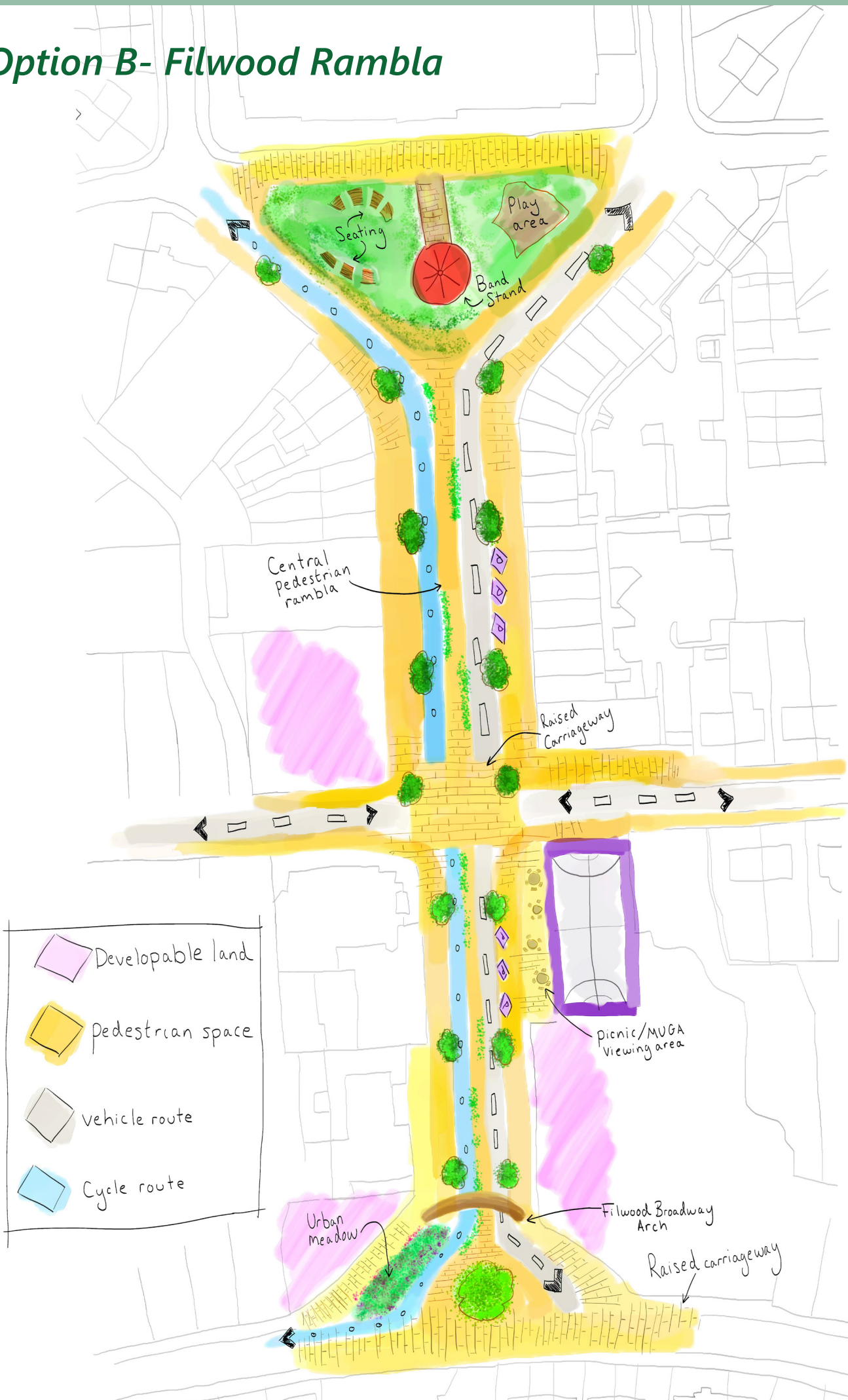


Filwood Superblock

Filwood Superblock is focused on flexible spaces that adapt to the community's needs. Bright geometric designs that reflect the local creative community redefine what is pedestrian space, creating places for pop-up markets, play streets, outdoor cinemas and more. The carriageway curves, allowing pedestrian movement and activities, such as outdoor dining, to spill into the centre of Filwood Broadway, encouraging people to relax and enjoy.

Events		The side road to the East of The ('Chase') Green is pedestrian only. It can function flexibly as a space for markets, events, or play.
Greening		The ('Chase') Green features an urban meadow with wild-flower planting and opportunities for shared allotments, as well as a flexible play and stage space that can change use depending on demand.
Movement		Bicycles and vehicles use the same carriageway, negotiating with pedestrians in the large pedestrian priority zones.
Pedestrian Space		The paving is textured with yellow bricks that extend into a large central pedestrian priority zone. At the central crossroads, this pedestrian priority zone becomes a central-square. Ideally, significant buildings, like the Christ the King Church, should be positioned on the corners of this crossroads, to enclose the square.
Traffic calming		The carriageway on the northern side of the crossroads zigzags to encourage cars to drive carefully and slowly. Inside the curve of the carriageway, on-street parking is concealed by street trees. This disrupts the visual impact of parked cars. As a traffic-calming measure, the carriageway does not cross straight over into the new entrance to Filwood Park.
Development		At the south of Filwood Broadway, there is opportunity to develop a new structure that would 'enclose' the pocket park and contribute to the sense of arrival into Filwood Broadway from the south.

Option B- Filwood Rambla



Filwood Rambla

Filwood Rambla clearly separates movement into cycle, vehicle and pedestrian space, with designated event spaces on Barnstaple Road and The 'Chase' Green. The symmetry of the central pedestrian 'rambla' provides views from the bandstand southward to the Filwood Broadway Arch and vice-versa, encouraging pedestrians to stroll along the street.

Events



Pop-up markets can be accommodated on the newly pedestrianised Barnstaple Road in front of the community centre. The (Chase) Green's bandstand hosts local events and pop-ups, while the play area offers something for children.

Greening



The rambla is lined with biodiverse greenery. Low-level planting along the central rambla acts as a barrier between the cycle, pedestrian and vehicle lanes.

Movement



Bicycles and vehicles are separated by the central 'rambla'. At the north of Filwood Broadway the cycle lane turns to the west and the vehicle lane turns to the east.

Pedestrian Space



The central 'rambla' that encourages pedestrians to stroll along Filwood Broadway on their way between the community market to the north and Filwood Park to the south.

Traffic calming



The narrow carriageway, enclosed by greenery, acts as a traffic-calming measure for the two-way traffic must carefully negotiate the pedestrian priority zones. As a traffic-calming measure, the carriageway does not cross straight over into the new entrance to Filwood Park. The vehicle lane is pointed eastward, while the cycle lane points westward, passing between the urban orchard and small public square.

Development



At the south of Filwood Broadway, there is opportunity to develop a new structure that would 'enclose' the small urban orchard or green space and small public square. The small public square at the south of Filwood Broadway features an arch which both encloses the space and provides a sense of arrival.

Recommended next steps

Create Streets Foundation make the following recommendations for the next steps in this project:

1. Filwood Broadway Working Group should discuss the emerging vision and preferred option
2. Filwood Broadway community group should discuss their preferred option with the council, facilitated by Create Streets*
3. Technical plans are co-produced with community and street designers
4. Community engagement should be broadened to consult residents and businesses not involved in the initial engagement process
5. The community should explore making quick, temporary interventions, planting or parklets, that align with the overall vision to test out design solutions such as pedestrianisation

*(Discussions would be by zoom/teams)



