

STATEMENT A9 – Roger Gimson

Bristol Walking Alliance objected to the original planning application on the grounds of the effect of the development due to its impact on pedestrians passing through and on people enjoying the amenities of Millennium Square.

After our objection, the developers revised their application to include further visualisations and noise assessments. Unfortunately, the visualisation video they made available at <https://vimeo.com/504000759/774281975d> omits a critical part of the movement where the counterweight descends over the heads of those near the water wall feature in the corner of the Square. In addition, the revised noise assessment appears to be based on spot measurements in the Square that have been carried out when the background noise was considerably higher than the initial assessment, though this is not made explicit in the Environmental Noise Assessment Rev 6 report.

In order to reduce the potential impact of the development on the amenity of Millennium Square, contrary to policies BCS21 and BCS23, we would urge that further consideration is given to whether (as quoted from the planning officer's report) "its noise, dominance and movement would inhibit existing use of the pools / water features; its mass and kinetic nature would overshadow and interrupt people's experience and enjoyment of Millennium Square".

If the Committee were minded to accept the application, we would advocate taking up the pollution officer's suggestion that "a condition regarding noise levels in Millennium Square could be added to the decision notice". Such a condition might take the following form:

"The maximum noise emitted by the Arc mechanism (LA_{max}) measured at a height of 2m and a distance of 5m from the base of the Arc, will not exceed the background noise (LA₉₀) measured at the same spot at times when no events are taking place."

We also believe, despite the opinion of Transport Development Management, that the shared use of the space beneath the base of the Arc will lead to unacceptable conflict between pedestrians and faster-moving cyclists, especially given the distraction of the overhead movement of the Arc.