
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 City of Bath inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987	<h2>City of Bath World Heritage Site Advisory Board</h2>
<h3>Meeting held on 11 February 2020 in the Kaposvar Room, Guildhall, Bath</h3>		

### Minutes

Attendees			
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair) BG	Cllr Dine Romero DR		Cllr Paul Crossley PC
Tom Boden TB	Sarah Simmonds SS		Nick Tobin NT
Joy Roberts JR	Ainslie Ensom AE		Rohan Torkildsen RT
Stephen Bird SB	Allison Herbert AH		Paul Simons PS
Canon Guy Bridgewater GB	Andrew Grant AG		Henry Lowe HL
Paul Simons PS	Cllr Robert Law RL		Prof Astrid Swenson AS
Prof David Goode DG	John Wilkinson JW		Dr Marion Harney MH
Lisa Bartlett LB	Mark Minkley MM		Helen Daniels HD
Tony Crouch TC			
Apologies			
Caroline Kay	Polly Andrews		Kathryn Davis
Henry Owen-John	Dr Kristin Doern		

No	Agenda Item	Act.
<b>1</b>	<b>Chairman's Welcome</b>	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Dine Romero, who joined the meeting as an observer. Two attendees were present for the first time as Board members. Henry Lowe is the Chair of Bath & Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS). Astrid Swenson is Professor of History at Bath Spa University and will be sharing Board duties with Kristin Doern and Polly Robertson (Placements and Professional Development Tutor - Arts Management MA).	
1.2	In addition to Cllr Romero, two further observers were present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Minkley is the Team Manager for Environment and Design within the Economy and Growth directorate of B&amp;NES Council.</li> <li>Helen Daniels is World Heritage Officer and a frequent attendee at Board meetings.</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	None declared.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Adoption of previous minutes (22 October 2019)</b>	
3.1	The minutes were accepted as a true record.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Review of previous minutes and actions</b>	
4.1	TC confirmed that World Heritage training will be delivered to the Planning Committee on 11 March 2020.	
4.2	BG asked DR if there was any update on the issue of a tourist tax. DR replied that the matter was being discussed by other English local authorities and Bath and North East Somerset Council was monitoring these discussions and the corresponding Government response. AH commented that any scheme	

	should also focus on those who don't stay overnight. DR confirmed that she was happy to have a follow up conversation about tourist tax. BG has arranged for a short report to be sent from The Lake District about their local tourist tax and will share with DR in the first instance.	BG DR
4.3	In the absence of Kathryn Davis, there was no update on the issue of a replacement Destination Management Plan.	
4.4	BG said that Advisory Board membership had been strengthened and made more representative. It now comprised of 25 board members, representing 19 organisations. BG welcomed any suggestions as to whether there were any organisations missing. In particular, he suggested the business community may need better representation.	ALL
4.5	BG asked if there were any proposals to update the Warmer Bath Guidance. LB replied that the B&NES Planning Policy Team are currently looking at reviewing their range of planning guidance and she confirmed that Warmer Bath would be considered as part of this exercise.	
4.6	BG said that The List of locally important buildings project was still awaiting completion (alongside many competing demands on the time of the Conservation Team).	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b>	
5.1	NT raised the issue of the volume of tourists visiting Bath. He quoted figures suggesting that Bath had a higher visitor to resident ratio than York or even Prague and felt these numbers had a detrimental impact on the public realm. He questioned how we make tourism more sustainable. Tourism needs to be managed, ensuring that residents have a good quality of life and balancing this with the tourism experience offered within Bath. DR asked whether the volume of tourism was the issue and what specific problems this led to. NT responded that the volume of day-trippers is problematic due to the impact they have on the public realm. AH said that the BID gathers information on activity numbers and is now starting to break these down indicating those who come into Bath frequently (such as workers) and those who visit infrequently. More statistical information would help inform the debate. DR asked how the negative impact was measured or defined. MH responded that many academic studies from WH sites elsewhere had been undertaken and TB added that Giants Causeway are currently undertaking a capacity study. BG noted that Venice charge Euro 3.60 for visitor for entry to the city but, unlike Bath, they can control this through fixed entry points, of railway station, causeway and water-borne transport.	
5.2	Continuing the tourism discussion, JW commented that is a complex issue, requiring a complex response. The local economy has significant reliance on the tourism industry and the climate emergency will require that industry to change. It is not known what a future tourist industry will look like, but it was likely to change rapidly and technology generally adapts faster than policy. NT said we need a new destination management plan. MM noted that there is a related capacity issue regarding high visitor numbers in confined outdoor spaces. The recent trial closures of Milsom Street had created extra capacity for pedestrians and benefitted the retail industry too.	
5.3	BG noted that the Cleveland Bridge weight restriction and Queen Square road works have noticeably reduced traffic volumes. RL commented that increasing numbers of dark windows gave the impression of less people living in Bath City centre and that it was people that attract tourists. NT said around 10,000 people lived in the City centre, which was a relatively high number by UK standards. BG noted that there was a Council project underway to bring back accommodation over shops, where the Council had control over the property. JW confirmed that where the Council own flats above shops, these would be transferred to Aequus (the Council's Property Company) to bring them into residential use. Post-Meeting note : Closed shutters in Georgian	

	houses are not necessarily an indication that no-one is living there or even not at home. Like the Georgians, many people use their shutters to control heat, given the thinness of the glass and the ill-fitting nature of old sashes. Controlling draughts in winter and sun penetration in summer is a very common trait in Bath.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>	
6.1	BG introduced his report (circulated in advance and appended) and highlighted key items.	
6.2	The programme of awareness talks continues. 49 have been delivered reaching 2,235 people. A further 6 are in the diary for 2020. The 'Ad Hoc Group', chaired by Paul Jackson, continues to meet and offer a lay person's view of World Heritage issues, for example producing a 3 page report on tourism. TB asked about the membership of the group and BG explained it was comprised of people who had expressed an interest to become involved at his talks. TB asked if there is a room for widening the membership (BG : yes). JW suggested that we need to continue to make our WH status more relevant to a wider audience in both the City and district and these talks have been crucial to that aim. DR asked about the demographic of our audience with, for example, younger people and BG relied he had spoken at Bath Spa University twice and that they regularly participate in World Heritage Day.	
6.3	The Nelson Society annual conference was held in Bath in October, drawn here by the recent collaborative work on the Nelson Trail. Almost 100 delegates spent the weekend in Bath.	
6.4	The programme of historic street sign repair, instigated and funded by the WH Enhancement Fund, has been shortlisted for an award at the Bath Life Awards on 27 February. This follows success in the Georgian Group Awards last year.	
<b>7</b>	<b>World Heritage Manager's Report</b>	
7.1	TC talked through his report, circulated in advance of the meeting (and appended) and picked out key items.	TC
7.2	The commissioning, by the Council's Planning Policy Team of a series of accurate photos (or 'verified views') of Bath is very welcome. Unlike historic sites with a few obvious monuments, it has been problematic agreeing key views amongst the many available in Bath. Verified photographs, from recorded points and updated at regular intervals, will help to assess the impact of new developments and should be a valuable decision-making tool.	
7.3	UNESCO has launched an official commemorative collector's medal project. Medals, individual to each site world-wide, can be available to buy at WH Sites (through dispenser machines) as mementos of a visit and collectors may seek to fill an official album. 30% of sales revenue would be kept by the site. TC noted that it is the first time that UNESCO have ventured into such a commercial venture and it is something we will investigate. A source of income (albeit small) to the WH Enhancement Fund directly from UNESCO would also be a useful message.	
7.4	A delegation from Hangzhou, China, was received on 24 October 2019 as one of a number of international professional parties received annually. TC mentioned this only in relation to the fact that since the outbreak of Corona virus in mid-January Chinese group visits to the Roman Baths have almost all been cancelled. SB confirmed that the financial impact was currently minor although the situation was being closely monitored.	
7.5	BG included in his report the networking meeting of all UK Steering Group/Advisory Board chairs held in Birmingham on 4 November 2019. TC emphasised the potential importance of this group that could, in time, be developed into a powerful lobbying group to advocate for national issues impacting on WH sites such as Air BnB and a visitor tax. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks have powerful national voices	

	but World Heritage (as yet) does not. It may take some time to achieve but is worth pursuing.	
7.6	Also on national matters, the future of Liverpool WHS is in question following the 2019 UNESCO WH Committee resolution to consider deletion from the WH List in 2020, if certain conditions (relating to development) are not met. This situation was not helped by the submission of a planning application for a new Everton stadium within the WHS on 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019. World Heritage UK have taken the unusual step of writing to UNESCO, asking them to carefully consider wider implications of de-listing and to do all they can to avoid it.	
<b>8</b>	<b>World Heritage Day 2020</b>	
8.1	HD introduced plans for WH Day. It will be held on Sunday 19th April from 11am - 3pm at Bath College, James Street West, Bath. As usual, the event will be held on the closest Sunday to the official UNESCO WH Day (18 April). The theme this year is Healing, Health and Wellbeing. This is obviously a topic in which Bath has excelled in the past, but less well-known is the continuing role that facilities such as Bath College play in training modern day practitioners. The venue will allow significant interaction with young people, plus the usual wide range of partners. The day will include themed talks, guided walks, therapy demonstrations, craft activities and various displays. HD thanked all the partners for their continued support and looked forward to an exciting event.	
8.2	As previously reported to the Board, Bath is to be a pilot site for the Youth Ambassadors programme, developed by Youth Services, Blaenavon WHS, South Wales. In December 2019, this project successfully obtained National Lottery Heritage Funding. The project objective is to use heritage as a hook to engage and informally educate 'hard to reach' young adults, with heritage chosen as it reinforces local identity and sense of place. This accredited education programme will run over two years. Bath will work with the Bath Young Carers Centre in providing a range of learning opportunities and experiences. If proven successful, it is hoped that the programme can be rolled out across all UK WH sites. HD said she hoped that some of the youth participants may attend and report to the Board in person next year.	
<b>9</b>	<b>World Heritage Enhancement Fund</b>	
9.1	AE introduced selected items from her report, which had been circulated with the agenda.	
9.2	The printed trail leaflets continue to be popular. Both the WHS Trail and the Nelson Trail will have another reprint, the Nelson Society meeting 60% of all costs for the Nelson leaflet. Unfortunately, the John Wood trail proposed by Swainswick Church is not proceeding as their Lottery funding bid was unsuccessful. The idea however remains sound and may be revisited if alternative funding can be found.	
9.3	Cavendish Road residents have shown interest in replacing metal overthrows to the property entrances and three proposals may come forward. An initial listed building consent application has been submitted.	
9.4	The recently formed Friends of Hedgemoor Park have been undertaking good work, including removing vegetation from the Bastion Tower. Once cleaned, the tower will be inspected to assess the need for any stone repairs.	
9.5	Work at Walcot Steps continues. The upper entrance way is finished, with stone and railing repairs looking good. The next job is to replace plastic lights with historic metal lanterns with energy-saving LED bulbs. The steps themselves are also in need of repair. It is possible local CIL funding may be sought for this cost.	
9.6	AE also mentioned that, given that the Fund had been operating for 10 years, a review of some previous schemes was proposed to assess how they had fared and what benefit they had achieved.	

9.7	Discussion followed, with the subject of trees raised. PC said that 150,000 local ash trees were at risk from disease with 95% are expected to die. MM confirmed that areas with no public access were being preserved to monitor the ash dieback. TB said that the National Trust had recently spent £25k on tree safety works around the Bath skyline walk and BG confirmed that seven London Plane trees in the Circus suffered in recent high winds.	
<b>10</b>	<b>The Recreation Ground</b>	
10.1	BG reminded all that conversations with the rugby club are confidential, but agreement had been reached to discuss them with the Board, trusting members not to repeat the content outside the Board. Tarquin McDonald, Chief Executive of Bath Rugby, has said he is willing to talk to the Board when the application for the Recreation Ground is submitted. Yesterday (10 February 2020) BG met with Simon Pugh-Jones, Conservation Architect working for the Rugby Club. Simon confirmed that the Club was not yet ready to submit an application and that submission could be a month, or possibly longer, away. The Club were continuing to examine issues including archaeology, provision for electric cars and views. The stand design is still under consideration, as was any treatment of the radial gate on the river. The Environment Agency has indicated to the Rugby Club that the gate still serves a useful purpose and they may therefore be a reluctant to remove it. Simon confirmed that the Great Spas nomination has been considered, although PS clarified that the Great Spas tentative listing should have minimal bearing on any planning application here. BG said he has a further meeting with the club programmed for March 2020.	
10.2	SS said that she has also spoken to Tarquin. ICOMOS UK would favour sharing the HIA widely and certainly to this Board for a consultative process.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Project Updates</b>	
11.1	TC reported on the <b>Great Spas of Europe</b> project. An interim report, following the 'evaluation mission' last September, was received on 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019. The issues raised are largely matters of clarification (for example, what is the difference between a spa quarter and a spa town) and on issues such as disparity over boundary approaches in the 11 towns. TC said work to address these issues was nearly complete, and it was encouraging that the overall rationale of the bid had not been questioned. The next stage is to await a formal assessment report in mid-May, which will contain a recommendation to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It was likely that this recommendation will be to defer, meaning some further work will be required which will in turn potentially mean that a final decision will be taken by UNESCO in 2021 rather than 2020. The UNESCO committee venue this year (last week of June/first week of July) is Fuzhou, China, but due to the virus concerns PS said it was likely to be re-located. Paris is the likely alternate choice.	
11.2	SB reported on the <b>World Heritage Centre and Clore Learning Centre</b> . The main contractors continue to progress works, including erection of temporary roof structures. Piling works were delayed by the discovery of previously unknown Victorian vaults. A competitive procurement process is currently underway to appoint an illustrator to work alongside the exhibition designers and graphic designer on developing the World Heritage Centre. The Centre should open in early 2021, with the Learning Centre to follow later in the year.	
11.3	In the absence of Caroline Kay, there was a brief update on <b>Beckfords Tower</b> . The National Lottery Heritage Fund has made a round 1 grant of £422,600. £60k needs to be raised as part of this first round. £2.5m will be sought in round 2 next year, with £1m to raise. The project covers the tower itself plus the cemetery setting.	
11.4	GB reported on the <b>Bath Abbey Footprint</b> project, which is now 2/3rds completed and which represents the biggest physical intervention in the	

	Abbey since the Victorian era. The project will deliver more flexible space plus new facilities for a song school, toilets, archive and learning centre. This will enable concerts, exhibitions, worship and possibly displays. Phase 2 of the works is now finished with the East End underfloor heating working. Phase 3 is the south aisle, with excavations starting there and beneath Kingston Buildings. Meanwhile the Abbey continues to welcome half a million annual visitors despite the works. NT asked if fundraising was still underway. GB responded that it was but works can still proceed thanks to a loan.	
11.5	TB reported on the <b>Assembly Rooms</b> . The National Trust will take occupancy in March 2023. A project manager has been appointed. Due to the need to discuss the Climate Change issues, a presentation on this matter was postponed to a following meeting. With regard to <b>Prior Park</b> , the middle lake is now fully drained. Archaeology is being undertaken as the year-long works progress and the garden remains open, albeit with restricted routes.	<b>TB</b>
11.6	BG reported on the <b>Plaque Project</b> . Two meetings have taken place concentrating on governance of a scheme. The BRLSI have joined the working group and it is hoped that Historic England may too. The next meeting is on 6th March and a proposal will then be made to the Advisory Board (AB) outlining 1. How a scheme will be governed 2. How it will be funded. 3. How nominations will be assessed. 4. The design of future plaques. The AB will then be asked to endorse proposals so that the scheme can be launched.	<b>BG</b>
11.7	PS was due to deliver a short presentation on <b>Cleveland Pools</b> , but due to the need to discuss the climate change item it was agreed this would be postponed to a subsequent meeting.	<b>PS</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Climate Change Emergency</b>	
12.1	BG reminded AB members that, following a suggestion by AG, climate change had been added as a standard agenda item. BG introduced a short briefing note (to be circulated with the minutes) outlining the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and a commitment to aim for carbon neutrality by 2030.	
12.2	TC said that it is worth emphasising that the WHS Management Plan and other systems in place are not designed to block change, but to ensure that this change is properly managed. When our Georgian properties were built, most had no internal toilets, let alone central heating, electricity and Wi-Fi, yet they continue to be successfully adapted to modern living whilst maintaining their character. It is evident that a phase of further adaptation is required, but past achievements indicate that challenge can be met.	
12.3	BG invited comment. AG said the UN sustainable development goals were gaining attention and link climate change and bio-diversity as interdependent goals. Green interventions in the heritage city need to be considered, as does how far we go in greening Bath. The scope needs to be broadened and we need to get on with it! MM commented that a wide-scale review of the management of Council assets was underway, both in terms of machinery and practices. LB added that a partial review of Local Plan was also planned, enabling a quicker response than a full review.	
12.4	MH asked about the Historic England (HE) response, as they are a key regulatory body and need to echo the view that we can adapt. RT responded that HE will continue to offer expertise and advice on how to do so. They do not necessarily have all the answers but will continue to approach the challenge positively. Climate change mitigation and adaptation is a priority for HE as an agency of government and HE have published a statement on the matter: <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/climate-change/">https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/climate-change/</a>	
12.5	JR focussed on tourism. The Mayors Guides currently guide around 50k tourists per year including many day visitors. People come from all over the world - will this change? The Christmas Market, which is currently reliant on	

	high volumes of visitors and leads to over-crowding, remains a bone of contention and can be quite frightening due to the density of people numbers. SB noted that popular assumptions about tourism were not always correct; for instance only around 20% of tourists visit the Roman Baths.	
12.6	DG added his support to inclusion of the role of the natural environment in terms of incorporating green infrastructure. He noted that the recent Council and Bath University event on future collaboration had been very well attended. AS said that climate change was already a priority of universities. The estate management of the universities is one issue, but transport was obviously a major consideration, too. In terms of teaching and research, the environment is used to raise consciousness and awareness. We are all looking for a solution. BG added that the recent first Bath Tram Conference had advocated an initial route linking both universities, via the RUH, which would potentially serve 28k students, plus staff and support businesses, together with medical and admin staff, patients and visitors. If implemented the route could make a significant difference in the reduction of car traffic and associated pollution levels.	
12.7	NT asked if we are being helped or hindered by WECA with respect to climate change. DR responded that WECA too had declared a climate emergency, with subsequent action a work in progress. DR had been speaking regularly to partner authorities within WECA and would also look to talk to Wiltshire. Mitigating climate change was challenging but it was encouraging that we all want to do our bit.	
12.8	HL noted that, in terms of archaeology, Geo-physical surveys were proposed in advance of tree planting through the Bathscape initiative. Trees can be viewed by archaeologists as potentially destructive features, but this thinking may need to change. TB noted that the National Trust had also committed to seeking carbon neutrality by 2030.	
12.9	BG asked Board members if they considered there was value in holding a special Board meeting on Climate Change and there was agreement that there was. <b>The date was subsequently arranged for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. DR suggested that Cllr Sarah Warren, the Council Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services, should be invited.</b>	<b>BG TC AG</b>
12.10	BG closed the meeting thanking all for their contributions and especially to TB and PS in agreeing to postpone their presentations.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Date of next meetings:</b>  Special Climate Change meeting: Tuesday 5 May 2020 2pm – 4:30pm Kaposvar Room, Guildhall  Tuesday 14 July 2020 2pm – 4pm. Drawing Room Tuesday 13 October 2020 2pm – 4pm. Drawing Room	
<b>14</b>	<b>Papers issued with these minutes</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing Note on Climate Change</li> <li>• Chairman's Report</li> <li>• WHS Manager's Report (WHEF Report circulated with Agenda)</li> </ul>	