

 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>
Meeting held on 14 July 2020. Online meeting using the Zoom platform		

Minutes

Attendees					
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Cllr Paul Crossley	PC	Stephen Bird	SB
Allison Herbert	AH	Caroline Kay	CK	Nick Tobin	NT
Joy Roberts	JR	Ainslie Ensom	AE	Rohan Torkildsen	RT
Andrew Grant	AG	Canon Guy Bridgewater	GB	Paul Simons	PS
Kathryn Davis	KaD	Dr Kristin Doern	KD	Dr Marion Harney	MH
Henry Owen-John	HOJ	Cllr Robert Law	RL	Prof Astrid Swenson	AS
Cllr Sue Craig	SC	Cllr Ruth Malloy	RM	Mark Evans	ME
Polly Robertson	PR	John Richards	JhR	Paul Jackson	PJ
Tony Crouch	TC			TOTAL 25 attendees	
Apologies					
Tom Boden		Polly Andrews		John Wilkinson	
Henry Lowe		Lisa Bartlett		Prof David Goode	
Sarah Simmonds					

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Attendees	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the Board's first online meeting. He explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to invite members from larger organisations to present verbal updates outlining the impact of the Corona virus (CV-19) pandemic and what changes this had caused. Smaller organisations were invited to submit their comments in writing. This approach, combined with these Minutes, would lead to a shared understanding of our respective positions and better inform the on-going management of the WHS.	
1.2	BG welcomed new Board member Mark Evans, Director (Wales & South-West England), Canal and River Trust (CRT). Mark explained that he had been with the CRT for 5 years, although only taken on the role of director in January 2020. He viewed the canal and navigable river running through Bath as a massive asset for the WHS and looked forward to engaging with the work of the Board.	
1.3	BG also welcomed B&NES Councillors Sue Craig and Ruth Malloy. SC is the lead councillor for the Great Spas of Europe project and RM sits on the working group of the WH Enhancement Fund.	
1.4	TC updated the Board on the position of Chairman. BG was appointed to his voluntary role in July 2017 for a 3-year term of office. The term of office is renewable (if appropriate) and TC was delighted to confirm that BG had been offered, and had accepted, a further 3-year term. Over the last 3 years, amongst many other achievements and activity, BG has delivered WHS awareness and promotional talks to around 2,300 people and has	

	consequently significantly raised awareness of the work and importance of the WHS to Bath's economy, and the work of the Advisory Board and the Enhancement Fund. As we look to recover from the impact of the CV-19 pandemic BG's skills, energy and enthusiasm will be in great demand to drive us forward. Board members thanked BG and warmly welcomed this news with a spontaneous round of applause.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None declared.	
3	Adoption of previous minutes (11 Feb 2020)	
3.1	The minutes were accepted as a true record.	
4	Chair's Update	
4.1	The World Heritage Enhancement Fund (WHEF) is financed by annual contributions of £20k from B&NES Council and £5k from the Bath Preservation Trust. Due to the financial impact of lockdown, both organisations have said that they will not be able to make their annual contribution this year. BG said that the Fund did however have around £40k allocated to approved projects, £16k in earmarked funds and £23k unallocated. This was sufficient to keep the Fund active for the next 12 months but it does not expect to commission new projects during this time. Both organisations have said that they very much hope to see their contributions restored next financial year.	
4.2	BG said that he had been in regular contact with Simon Pugh-Jones, the architect acting as consultant heritage advisor for Bath Rugby. There wasn't anything new to share at this time regarding the club's decision to pause the plans for a new stadium, but would ensure any future developments were shared, when permitted, with the Board.	
4.3	Cleveland Bridge has been the subject of a temporary HGV ban which has reduced traffic and pollution levels and which many residents wish to see retained. BG reported that this was not a decision that B&NES Council could take alone and would require sanction from the Department for Transport (DfT). B&NES wished to promote the A350 as a strategic route, but previous attempts to do so had been contested by Wiltshire Council. The DfT has encouraged a strategic study to examine the issue and has included this study in their Road Investment Strategy 2020-2025. The matter is therefore under investigation but conclusive action may be some years away.	
4.4	The WHEF had been approached by a filmmaker in 2019 seeking to make a film about the historic interpretation of slavery and black lives within Bath. It did not appear however that the Lottery Fund would be able to fund that proposal at present, but this remained a subject worth examining. A small working focus group will meet on Friday 24 th July at 2pm to (initially) consider terms of reference for this work. BG invited any other Board members who had not previously responded to join this meeting if they wished. BG felt there was a strong need for the WHS to "address and express, not suppress" the historic links between three (of our six) attributes of Outstanding Universal Value with Transatlantic Slavery and Enslavement.	ALL
5	World Heritage Manager's Report	
5.1	TC confirmed that before lockdown World Heritage training was delivered to Planning Committee members and other councillors on 11 March 2020 and Informal Cabinet were briefed on the Great Spas on 24 February. The WHEF annual newsletter was published electronically and distributed to all Bath Councillors.	
5.2	Since lockdown, most office-based staff (including TC) have worked from home. Heritage Services have largely focussed on caring for collections and buildings, recovery and re-opening. Elsewhere statutory Council services such as planning moved to remote working without interruption in service despite this entirely new way of operating. The planned WH Day event in April was cancelled, but on-line games and activities were provided and were very well	

	received. Some projects, such as the Lottery Funded Youth Ambassador Scheme, have been put on hold. The Archway project (York Street) however carried on, and an illustrator (Natsko Seki) has been appointed to work on interpretation for the WH Centre.	
5.3	In terms of finance, around 120 Heritage Services staff have been furloughed, with some now returning to work at the re-opened Roman Baths. To help with the Council's acute financial pressures, one third of the annual World Heritage revenue budget has been offered up this year and costs will be reduced through less Great Spas activity/travel and by pausing the WHEF contribution for one year.	
5.4	Regarding the Great Spas of Europe project, the annual UNESCO committee (this year in China) was postponed. If a re-convened UNESCO committee in November in China is not possible, it is thought that an on-line meeting may be staged or otherwise a Spring 2021 committee in Paris. The timetable therefore remains ambiguous.	
5.5	Regarding WH:UK and the national picture, the lockdown impact has been dramatic across the sector. Some WHS trusts, especially those set up recently and without strong financial reserves, felt an acute immediate impact. Other sites managed by larger organisations are experiencing a more delayed reaction. WHUK has been holding monthly coordination calls to keep information flowing. There has been widespread use of the furlough scheme across sites (even amongst bodies such as Historic Environment Scotland) and also widespread take up of the various grant schemes. The advocacy side of work has not died down and WHUK continues to call for a national World Heritage strategy, most recently with a letter published in the Times on 8 June. Looking ahead, an announcement on the Stonehenge tunnel issue is due on July 17 th . (Post meeting note: The Government have now delayed this decision until November).	
6	Board member updates	
6.1	<p>Cllr Paul Crossley (Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All will be aware of the financial pressures now faced by the Council. • The Fashion Museum and Victoria Art Gallery will remain closed until Easter 2021 to prevent financial losses. Staff will be re-deployed to the Roman Baths. • The Roman Baths has re-opened on and is quiet but functioning well. • Parks have faced a spike in litter dropping, with 4 tons of litter recorded in a single weekend. Temporary 1,100 litre wheeled bins have been placed in key spots as a response along with a strongly worded campaign. • Fairfield House is the focus of attention not only for the Black Lives Matter movement but also for political unrest in Ethiopia. Memorials to Haille Sellaisee have been attacked in London and questions raised over plaques in Bath and Weston-Super-Mare. • The Council is focussing on the opportunities to build back better and greener. 	ALL
6.2	<p>Stephen Bird (B&NES Heritage Services):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lottery funded Archway project has continued with builders (Beard) on site throughout lockdown. There have been some supply chain delays on obtaining materials. • Heritage Services buildings closed on 19 March, but despite this £9.6m was delivered to the Council last financial year, equating to £105 per council taxpayer. • The Roman Baths re-opened on Monday 6 July, deliberately avoiding Saturday 4th which may have been busier. • SB paid tribute to Commercial Manager Penny Jenkins, who led the work 	

	<p>on a recovery plan allowing the Baths to re-open despite constraints of a underground archaeological site. Safety measures are detailed in a 100 line risk register and social distancing remains at 2m, not 1m, for safety and customer confidence. Booking is essential and no cash is taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many staff have now been called back from furlough for training and issuing with PPE. • Visitor numbers have slowly built. Yesterday the first £100k was accrued. 	
6.3	<p>Rohan Torkildsen/Henry Owen-John (Historic England (HE)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some initial disruption was experienced in adapting to working from home. Staff were not furloughed and undertook site visits on an exceptional basis. • HE continued to fulfil their statutory role e.g. providing development advice and repair grants; funding streams remained open, with around 50 live grants in the SW at the moment responding flexibly to changing circumstances of recipients • There has been significant focus on considering how best to respond to the threat to heritage and a damaged sector, with daily contact with DCMS • In seeking to understand the impact, HE gathered 800 responses to an online survey and debate entitled “<i>What support would help the heritage sector survive and recover from the Covid-19 restrictions?</i>” • This was used to inform and launch 3 streams of emergency funding: 1st strand of HE funding allocated £1.8m to 70 projects - 11 in the South West, 2nd HE strand, £25K grants for assets at risk worth £3 million – expressions of interest currently being assessed, 3rd strand is the NLHF Emergency Heritage Fund of £50 million for grants of between £3K and £50K available to organisations across the full breadth of heritage, including historic sites, industrial/maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature. • HE are working with DCMS and arms-length bodies on the recently announced £1.57 billion investment package for cultural, arts and heritage institutions. • Keep an eye on the HE website / twitter and gov.uk for details as the scheme opens for applications in the coming weeks • WH:UK have been working with HE to inform the national picture. • The autumn Government Spending Review is expected to consider proposals for support of UK World Heritage. 	
6.4	<p>Caroline Kay (Bath Preservation Trust (BPT)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPT have been severely impacted by lockdown. Museums have been closed since 17 March. • 90% of their income stream was immediately lost with these closures. The remainder of income comes from rents, which are also under pressure. • Planning and advocacy work continued with staff working from home. CK noted that student numbers, and the pressure for student housing, could go either way. • The Lottery funded Beckford’s Tower project continues. The project will help BPT to tell the difficult story of slavery, which is a subject they have never been reticent to address. • On-line educational work has been uploaded. • Several grant support funding applications have been made, including successfully obtaining £177k from the Lottery Fund. An Historic England application was unfortunately not successful. • Looking to the future, CK asked whether we will ever see a return to previous levels of income. BPT will need to secure their assets and look to reduce their cost base to match the winding down of furlough. They will aim to open No.1 Royal Crescent in August. • A new Architecture intern will join BPT in the summer and will work on 	

	<p>retrofitting work and examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG said that the online resources had been warmly welcomed and CK said that their new learning officer had joined a week after lockdown. 	
6.5	<p>Paul Simons (Cleveland Pools Trust):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cleveland Pools Lottery funded project had been able to continue and PS said they were fortunate that work was at this stage and agreed before lockdown started. Beard are the appointed main contractor. • Significant delays have been caused by building contractors having staff on furlough. The Trust have consequently applied to the Lottery for more funding to meet increased costs. • In tendering for a sub-contractor, it was thought that the complicated nature of the build, for example the necessity to deliver supplies and to remove waste material by river barge, was putting contractors off. Under Lottery rules only one sub-contractor is permitted. • Trustees are concerned that if the contract cannot get underway this autumn then costs will rise again the whole future of the project will be in doubt. • Current timetable shows the building complete by end of 2021 and the site opening for swimming in Summer 2022. • Bath Recreation Trust are the proposed operating agent. Cleveland Pools cannot be the operating agent because of VAT considerations. • An episode of the TV show Bargain Hunt was recently filmed at the pools. • Trustee Linda Watts has looked at the issue of slavery and researched the original subscribers. No direct links have been found, but the landlord of the ground, the Duke of Cleveland, did have known slavery connections. • PS has been working with WH expert Barry Gambol on a tentative WHS application site in St.Kitts and Nevis – and the site has close links with slavery and Bristol. 	
	Mid-meeting 10 minute break	
6.6	<p>Kathryn Davis (Visit Bath):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much time has been spent lobbying and engaging with government. Cities (as tourist destinations) have been badly hit and there needs to be government recognition of the difference between big and small cities. • A significant amount of visitor content has been switched to on-line resources. There will be a need to subsequently switch some of this back. • Visit Bath is a membership organisation deriving income from subscriptions. All subscription calls are currently on hold and will re-start at 75%. • Work has been undertaken with transport providers. The rail network is still not permitted to promote travel for leisure purposes. • There was a small surge around the re-opening date of 4th July, which is expected to be followed by a steady stream until September. • Tourism promotion is focussed on the M4/M5 corridors. • 300 businesses have participated in the “Good to Go” accreditation. • The outlook for the potential return of international visitors is gloomy. The European market is expected to take 4 years to recover with long haul even longer. Much will depend on when people feel safe. 	
6.7	<p>Allison Herbert (Bath Business Improvement District (BID)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BID measures footfall and at the start of the pandemic this decreased and subsequently dived when lockdown started. • Initially the BID used the opportunity of the empty city to focus upon cleaning (pavements, benches, monoliths, etc.) • They have been working with the Council to instigate road closures and footpath widening to ensure social distancing. • O2 mobile phone data is used to monitor visitor movement. A gradual return has been seen recently, with fine weather being very influential. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Rediscover Bath' promotional campaign has been launched, including pennant banners. Also a 'Bounce back' art competition. • BG noted how hard the BID Rangers have been working, to the benefit of the city's streetscape and public realm. 	
6.8	<p>Joy Roberts (Mayor of Bath's Corp of Honorary Guides):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides established in the 1930's. • 85 volunteer guides in the Corp. • Walks are conducted twice daily, every day. Last year approximately 50,000 people went on the walks. • All walks are free and no tips are taken. All guides are extensively trained. • Exeter and York are the only places known to have a similar tradition. • During lockdown, weekly newsletters have been issued to guides and online quizzes held whilst the situation was monitored. • The Guides insurance (through the Mayor's Office) requires a revised risk assessment every time government policy changes. It is thought that the situation is now however stable enough for an assessment to last for a while. • A 'socially distanced' city walk that avoids pinch points has been devised. The use of masks and visors is currently being considered. • An on-line booking system has been devised to limit numbers to around 6 (traditionally the guides take all-comers). • The Guides are retaining a flexible approach and are very keen to return. 	
6.9	<p>Canon Guy Bridgewater (Bath Abbey):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Abbey has been closed to visitors during lockdown but re-opened on Monday with a new internal circulation route. It can currently accommodate 100 people standing, 60 seated. • The above means visitor numbers are currently 2,423, which is 17% of those welcomed in 2019. Feedback is good with people enjoying the uncluttered feel. • 85% of staff were furloughed, although that is now reduced to one third. • The volunteers and choir have been temporarily stood down. • Grant applications have been made to the Lottery Fund and to the diocese. • Services have been held on-line, with 200 households listening/watching 'Thought for the Day'. The on-line congregation is building and includes a 'Zoom Coffee' session. • The Lottery funded Footprint project closed for 1 month due to supply and space issues. Work will start on Kingston Buildings next month with the fit-out in Summer 2021. • Slavery issues – The Abbey has more memorials than almost anywhere in the country. 71 have been found (to date) to have some connection with slavery. Staff have been returned from furlough to research this. • Polly Andrews will be returned from furlough to progress educational materials and slavery issues uncovered by the archivist. 	
6.10	<p>Dr Marion Harney (University of Bath):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 23 March most of the 18k students left en-masse. Some international students were unable to return home and around 500 stayed on campus, with the Uni taking care of them with free meals provided. • Teaching materials and information was put online within a two-week period. This included coursework and exams. 97% of students completed their exams. • The uni adopted a 'no detriment policy' so that no student was disadvantaged. Student satisfaction levels have remained very high. • All academic staff have been working from home. Technical services staff have been furloughed (on 100% pay). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because hospitality, events and student accommodation income has suddenly ceased, it has left a black hole in uni finances. Money saving measures have been introduced including a voluntary exit scheme for staff (no compulsory redundancies). • Looking forward, it is envisaged that all students will return for the 2020/21 academic year. However, only around 20% will be on campus at any time, with the campus arranged accordingly and staggered days/rolling programme for different year groups. • Planning is underway for the new academic year which will include provision for a possible second lockdown. 	
6.11	<p>Dr Kristin Doern (Bath Spa University (BSU)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSU have been working closely with B&NES Council and City of Bath College. • As with the University of Bath, teaching has gone on-line. All learning and exams were able to continue (not all Unis were able to do so). • BSU has physically remained open despite the absence of most students. • Only some Estates Team staff have been furloughed. • Planning for all eventualities next year is underway. • Public transport is a particular issue. At 2m social distancing the capacity of a double-decker bus is reduced from 75 passengers to 20, and only increases to 22 at 1m distance. Moving large numbers of students at close to a quarter of normal operating capacity is a major challenge. • Not all students will physically be able to be on campus at once, so this is being addressed with health and safety considerations paramount. • Heritage students' placements have been affected so new opportunities are being sought. 	
6.12	<p>Nick Tobin (Federation of Bath Resident's Association (FoBRA))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FoBRA is still keen to contribute to the actions of the WHS Management Plan. • In terms of risks, new development may require even closer scrutiny. Lower profit margins may consequently lead to lower standards of design, build and materials, which needs to be guarded against. • The experience of a traffic-free city should be seen as an inspiration and example of what can be achieved, particularly in terms of the public realm and air quality. Braver council decisions are needed. 	
6.13	<p>Paula Freeland (B&NES Planning & Conservation Team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business continuity has been achieved. • Planning Application (and Listed Building Consent Application) numbers initially dropped off, but have now picked up again. The normal level of scrutiny is undertaken. • Planning Committee was successfully moved on-line, including on-line site visits. 	
6.14	<p>Andrew Grant (Bathscape Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lottery funded project is progressing. The main thrust of the current work is liaising with landowners. 	
6.15	<p>Cllr Robert Law (Avon Local Council's Association)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are missing ideas and opinions from young people. It would be good to encourage that input. 	
7	Written update submitted by Board member unable to attend the meeting	
7.1	<p>Tom Boden (National Trust (NT)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All NT pay for enter sites that have re-opened are all doing so on a pre-booked basis, with tickets allocated to half hour slots. • Dyrham Park (parkland only) re-opened on 8th June, with an initial limit of 300 visitors per day (25% of our design day). Numbers have steadily grown week on week and it has been found that the outdoor sites can 	

	<p>accommodate up to 100% (and sometimes beyond) of our design day because visitors are spread evenly through the day. Currently up to 960 tickets a day at Dyrham, 81% of our design day, and whilst selling out at weekends there are now slots available most weekday afternoons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The garden at Dyrham opened on 26th June and the Tea Garden F&B kiosk on 29th June selling sandwiches, pasties, cakes, hot drinks and cream teas. F&B is going well and retail due to open on 15th July following retail pilots elsewhere in the organisation. • Last week the 10,000th visitor was welcomed following re-opening of Dyrham. • Prior Park reopened on 29th June and has a ticket allocation of 300 a day. These can sell out at weekends, but weekdays are quieter with most tickets sold in the morning. • Across the organisation we still have c. 70% of staff on furlough leave. • The financial impact of coronavirus on the NT is estimated at £200m (operating turnover is £500m). 									
7.2	In closing the meeting, BG thanked all attendees and participants, and also invited any feedback on how the meeting had worked on the on-line platform.	All								
	<p>Date of next meetings: PLEASE DIARISE NOW</p> <table> <tr> <td>Fri 24 July 2020</td> <td>Bath WHS & Slavery Initiative</td> <td>2–4pm</td> <td>Online Zoom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 13 October 2020</td> <td></td> <td>2-4pm</td> <td>Online Zoom</td> </tr> </table>		Fri 24 July 2020	Bath WHS & Slavery Initiative	2–4pm	Online Zoom	Tue 13 October 2020		2-4pm	Online Zoom
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	<p>Papers issued with these minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint slides from Allison Herbert, Bath BID • PowerPoint slides from Rohan/Henry of Historic England • WHEF Annual Review • B&NES Heritage Review 									