

 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 22 October 2019 in the Drawing Room, Pump Room, Bath		

Minutes

Attendees					
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Cllr Paul Crossley	PC	Nick Tobin	NT
Tom Boden	TB	Sarah Simmonds	SS	Dr Kristin Doern	KD
Joy Roberts	JR	Ainslie Ensom	AE	Rohan Torkildsen	RT
Joanna Robinson	JoR	Paula Freeland	PF	Paul Simons	PS
Simon Martin	SM	Polly Crocket-Robertson	PCR	Henry Lowe	HL
Wendy Maden	WM	Chris Pound	CP	Kathryn Davis	KaD
Paul Jackson	PJ	Cllr Robert Law	RL	Helen Daniels	HD
Tony Crouch	TC				
Apologies					
Stephen Bird		Henry Owen-John		Caroline Kay	
Lisa Bartlett		Dr Marion Hamey		Andrew Grant	
Polly Andrews		John Wilkinson		Prof David Goode	

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Chairman's Welcome	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. There are two new Board members. Paul Simons is the Secretary General of the Great Spas of Europe project and also Chair of Trustees at Cleveland Pools Trust. Kathryn Davis is the recently appointed interim Chief Exec at Visit Bath.	
1.2	A number of observers were also present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Jackson. Chair of the Bath WHS Ad-hoc Community Group • Henry Lowe. Chair of Bath & Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS) • Chris Pound. Great Spas of Europe expert advisor • Simon Martin. Programme Director, B&NES (in place of John Wilkinson) • Joanna Robinson. Bath Preservation Trust (in place of Caroline Kay) • Paula Freeland. Team Manager, Planning & Conservation, B&NES (in place of Lisa Bartlett) • Helen Daniels. World Heritage Officer, B&NES • Polly Crocket-Robinson. Placements & Professional Development Tutor. Bath Spa Uni. 	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None declared.	
3	Adoptions of previous minutes (18 June 2019)	
3.1	NT highlight two minor 'typos' to TC - TC to correct.	TC
3.2	Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as a true record.	
4	Review of previous minutes and matters arising	
4.1	With regard to the need to ensure that the new Planning Committee receives training on World Heritage matters, TC confirmed that 11 March has been	

	confirmed to undertake this. BG to attend if possible.	TC BG
4.2	JR asked about World Heritage Day 2020. HD confirmed that Bath College (James St. West) was being investigated as a venue with the theme of health and wellbeing.	
4.3	RT asked if there was any update on the issue of the 'tourist tax'. BG responded by saying he was meeting the Leader of the Council on Thursday 24 October and possible "Heritage Levy" will be on their agenda to discuss. The issue will also be covered later on this meeting agenda.	BG
4.4	HD gave an update in relation to the Youth Ambassador Programme, saying that Blaenavon WHS are awaiting a decision from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in December this year that will decide whether or not the scheme can proceed.	HD
4.5	NT raised the issue of a destination management plan and asked if there was any progress. KaD confirmed that Visit Bath had been asked to look at this and planned to do so before the end of March 2020.	KaD
5	GDPR	
5.1	TC said that it had been past practice to compile a list of contact details for Board members and circulate this amongst members. It would not be used for any other purpose. Given the introduction of GDPR data-sharing regulations, TC asked if members were content for this practice to continue. No objections were raised. TC will update and circulate the Contact List.	TC
6	Chairman's Report	
6.1	BG introduced his report, which had been circulated in advance and highlighted key items.	
6.2	The programme of World Heritage awareness talks continues. 48 have been delivered, to an audience of 1,415 people locally (2,200 nationally). 6 further talks are already booked.	
6.3	The 'Ad hoc Discussion Group' comprises around 15 people and has had 3 meetings. It continues to act as informal sounding board on WH issues.	
6.4	BG has had two meetings with Tarquin McDonald, Chief Executive of Bath Rugby and has also met Simon Pugh-Jones their heritage advisor. Bath Rugby have confirmed that heritage matters are high on their agenda. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is not yet completed, but Bath Rugby have said that a copy will be forwarded to the Advisory Board before public release. Tarquin also agreed to attend an Advisory Board meeting 2 or 3 weeks after planning application is submitted to present the proposal. The Board would then have the opportunity to discuss the proposal in private.	BG
6.5	TB said that the opportunity to discuss the Bath Rugby scheme would be useful for organisations to share their respective positions. NT asked about the production of the HIA and it was thought that consultants Turley Associates are carrying out this work.	
6.6	The Nelson Trail initiative, which produced a walking trail around Bath, had subsequently led to 105 people coming to the city for the annual Trafalgar Day celebrations, staying at the Hilton (currently being refurbished). BGG gave the keynote address on Friday evening about World Heritage in Bath. <i>(Cllr Robert Law joined the meeting at this point)</i>	
6.7	BG and AE attended the Georgian Group awards ceremony at the RIBA headquarters in Portland Place, London. The programme of street sign restoration, instigated and carried out by the WH Enhancement Fund (WHEF), won the Streetscapes Initiative Award. It shared the prize with another Bath project, the restoration of metal overthrows in the Pulteney Estate. The WHEF was also involved in the overthrows project, so this was especially pleasing.	
6.8	The Plaque Project continues, with much preparatory work undertaken by Adrian Amber and Betty Suchar. The current consideration is an appropriate	

	governance procedure. BG has identified a potential fund raiser for the project and if £10k can be raised to launch it then it should not impinge upon Enhancement Fund budgets. It may be of course that individual property owners or those supporting the installation of a particular plaque will contribute.	
7	World Heritage Manager's Report	
7.1	TC talked through his report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.	
7.2	The Great Spas of Europe Evaluation Mission took place on 10,11,12 th of September. Both inspectors (one Hungarian, one Dutch) were present in Bath as it was the first town visit and thus hosted joint preliminary briefing sessions. The advance preparations paid off and all went to plan. TC took the opportunity to thank the many members of the Board who had taken part in the Mission exercise, including those who had attended the evening dinner on 11 September. BG was overseas at the time but had written in advance to both inspectors and his letter had been well received.	
7.3	Feedback from the inspection visits will be known in November. TC stated that although it had previously been envisaged that the Great Spas Local Management Plan would be shared with the Board now, there seemed little point in doing so yet as the project could be dramatically altered post November and the Management Plan could change. Therefore we should hold back from in diving into detail until the route forward is more certain.	TC PS
7.4	TC also introduced the World Heritage Review. This document has been produced by World Heritage UK and it is the first time that an audit of all 32 UK WH Sites has been undertaken. It shows a significant difference in management approaches across sites and some common issues. 75% of UK sites remain dependent upon public funding and 71% have only one person in post. Lack of funding is a problem and despite WHS being the most significant of UK heritage assets, only 5% of Heritage Lottery Funding has been devoted to them in the last decade. Despite the first UK inscription being in 1986 there remains no Government strategic plan for them and no inclusion in primary planning legislation. Lack of awareness is also a major issue. Further copies of the report are available from TC or at https://worldheritageuk.org/about/resources/whuk-downloads/	
8	World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund	
8.1	AE talked through the update report, circulated with agenda papers.	
8.2	The Georgian Group Award, mentioned in 6.7, was particularly pleasing given the calibre of other nominations which included the pagoda at Kew and ceiling restoration of The Painted Hall at Greenwich. AE paid tribute to the contractors who had worked on the street sign restoration.	
8.3	The refurbishment of Walcot Steps is now partially complete, with the top end in particular showing marked improvement. The next phase is underway and the third and final phase will be to install new lanterns. The design of these lanterns has been the subject of much research and it is intended that they will provide a standard model to be used elsewhere in the WHS. BG noted that the steps had attracted drug dealings after dark and the raised light levels would help make this a safer and more welcoming environment.	
8.4	A new project at the High Pavement at Sydney Buildings is also intended to use the same heritage lanterns. This section of raised walkway is listed in its own right and needs attention to railings and lamp standards.	
8.5	Discussion followed. BG confirmed the WHEF income of 20k per year provided by Bath and N.E Somerset Council and £5k from Bath Preservation Trust. In the 10 years that the Fund has been in operation it has received approximately £195k, but has in turn leveraged a return of £600k+. Around 56 projects have now been tackled, plus another 54 street signs. The issue of a tourist levy was again raised and BG said that the previous Council administration had indicated their willingness to ring-fence 100% of any such	

	funding for World Heritage enhancement. KaD noted that this tax would require new national legislation and so this was a long term aspiration. BG noted that whilst there is no mandatory scheme in England and Wales legislation, it has just been introduced in Edinburgh (under Scottish Law) and there are two extant voluntary schemes in the Lake District and the Norfolk Broads. Birmingham is introducing a voluntary scheme to raise money for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. He also noted that Venice have introduced a 3 Euro per day entrance charge whether by train or boat or plane or car.	
9	Presentation on Public Realm projects	
9.1	Wendy Maden, Environment and Design Project Officer, B&NES Council, gave an update on public realm projects in Bath. A copy of her presentation will be circulated with these minutes.	
9.2	An 18 month trial closure to traffic passing through Kingsmead Square will begin in Spring 2020. It will be closed between 11:00am and 24:00. This is not a through route and residents and businesses have been consulted.	
9.3	New street furniture has been installed in Union Street. Footfall drops off in the Northern part of the central shopping route as people are not tempted to venture this far. The new furniture is intended to address this along with standard street trading stalls and canopies. Again this is for a trial period.	
9.4	Funding for these initiatives has been gained through the West of England 'Love our High Streets' programme. Other projects discussed included the temporary closure of Milsom Street, an audit of street furniture and a review of the Pattern Book.	
9.5	Discussion ensued. Regarding Milsom St. trial closures, NT asked that residents are consulted as well as businesses. RL raised the example of Paris, where trials have taken place restricting traffic based on odd and even numbered vehicle registration plates. He asked if impacts upon traders were being monitored. WM said they were and that multiple initiatives including Clean Air Zone, security bollards, etc would have cumulative impacts and needed to be monitored. SM added that these multiple initiatives also meant opportunities emerged and whilst resource was available these should be realised.	
9.6	RT asked about the Public Realm and Movement Strategy and the accompanying Pattern book, which he upheld as exemplary work. Would any review of these involve consultation? WM responded that it was a process of adjustment based on experience from usage, with some street furniture favoured by the Pattern Book proving unfit for purpose. PC supported this, saying that street furniture must be repairable and easily replaceable.	
9.7	AE said that the character of Bath is defined by homogenous design and colour palette, yet we have a wide variety of design and colour in existing street furniture, now embellished by new red seating in Union Street. Should there not be an objective for uniformity? PC agreed.	
9.8	PS asked if this included altering kerbs etc and the involvement of highways. The response was "not during these trial periods".	
9.9	BG asked about the potential for making the pedestrianisation of Milsom Street permanent. Had the trial been considered a success? WM said that retailers had reported increased turnover and footfall was higher. Further trials would be needed at different times of the year to test this solution.	
	<i>(Sarah Simmonds left the meeting at this point)</i>	
10	The Recreation Ground	
10.1	BG reported that design revisions have been announced on the Stadium for Bath website www.stadiumforbath.com/news/ . Key revisions announced are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall height reduction of 5.1m • 550 space car park with increased electric charging facilities • Mature trees retained along riverside with revised public realm design • Changes to West, East and North stand design intended to maintain 	

	<p>views to local landmarks including St Mary's Church, Bathwick and hills beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'State of the art' hybrid playing surface available for use all year round 	
10.2	The Rugby Club's intention is to submit a planning application in January 2020. The seating capacity remains at 18,000. It does not appear that the Club is proposing to consult on these latest changes, with the web-site stating that 'members of the public will be able to comment directly to the Council on the application'.	
11	Project Updates	
11.1	PS reported on the Great Spas of Europe project. The evaluation mission was complex and had taken around one month. A three page request for follow-up information had been received, which is currently being addressed. Issues emerging include extent of current developments, the state of the public realm in some towns, potential over-tourism, involvement of young people/ambassadors. There will be a panel hearing at ICOMOS International headquarters in Paris in November 2019, after which ICOMOS will decide upon a recommendation to UNESCO. This recommendation will be published in May ahead of the WH Committee in late June. The recommendation could either be 1. Do not inscribe 2. A referral (pending more work) or 3. Immediate Inscription. In other news the Great Spas brand has now been registered.	
11.2	TC reported on the World Heritage Centre and Learning Centre . The Main contractors (Beard Construction) are on site and hoardings with pictorial graphics are in place. Demolition and strip-out works of modern elements within the buildings has just finished, with no major issues arising. Part of the roof is currently removed and scaffolding is being erected. In the basement there are no further archaeological finds of note, but there is a watching brief and archaeologists will no doubt be interested as work begins in the former warehouse. Contractors are due to complete works on 7 October 2020. They then hand the building back for fit-out (around one month) which takes us into the Christmas Market period. The WH Centre should open around Christmas 2020, with the Learning Centre to follow in 2021.	
11.3	JR reported on Beckfords Tower . The Tower has been included on the national Heritage at Risk register, due to water ingress and the works required exceeding funding available. A revised bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund will be made in November. There is still a need to raise £500k.	
11.4	PS reported on Cleveland Pools . The second of two recent appointments is Community Liaison and Volunteer Officer Sam Grief who started on 7 October. She will be based in Northgate House, Bath. Beard Construction have been appointed as preferred contractor and should be on-site (for a 12 month period) in mid-Spring 2020. The target opening date is May 2021. The preferred operator is Bath Recreation Trust. £500k still needs to be raised. PS agreed to a potential presentation to the Board in Spring 2020. Cleveland Pools are being invited to give the 20 minute presentation at the February Meeting.	PS
11.5	With regard to a Tourism Provision KaD confirmed that Visit Bath were nearing the end of their 5-year contract and an independent review would be conducted to assess future provision.	
11.6	TB reported on the Assembly Rooms . The National Trust have appointed Alex Instrell as project manager and their developing plans could be the subject of a future presentation to the Board. With regards to Prior Park Dams , contractors Griffiths are due to start at the end of November and finish Spring 2021. £150k was raised - the remainder being covered by a legacy.	
12	Climate Change Emergency	
12.1	TC reminded Board members that at the last meeting Andrew Grant had suggested that climate change was added to the agenda. TC asked if	

	members thought this a good idea and if they had any comments.	
12.2	NT said that given we have 5,000 listed buildings within the WHS there was work to do on improving the existing building stock and retro-fitting energy efficiency measures. Should we therefore update the Warmer Bath guidance, look at best practice and explore grants?	TC NT CK
12.3	JR said that discussions were underway with the Centre for Sustainable Energy with regard to a conference and updating guidance. Bath Preservation Trust were also talking to B&NES with regard to the policy and regulatory framework.	
12.4	PF reminded the Board that B&NES Council had adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance on sustainable construction and climate change https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents-spds/sustain as did Historic England https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/find/most-popular/	
12.5	NT questioned why solar panels were not more evident on new schemes and PF said they had been accommodated on some listed buildings, usually in the central roof valley. RK said that there was pressure in the parishes to fit new solar panels, but these should be looked at as part of a whole building approach.	
12.6	TB said he supported climate change being a standard agenda item. Heritage need to be relevant to young people and he cautioned against pitting building conservation against climate change as there would only be one winner.	
13	Any Other Business	
13.1	BG asked PF about an application for an electric car charging point at a house in Great Pulteney Street and whether there was a policy approach to this. PF responded that many charging points, if set back from the highway, would benefit from Permitted Development rights and not require permission. Those that did require consent would be addressed by existing measures in much the same way as minor items such as new gas flues. If there was a marked increase in applications then the potential need for a new policy approach or guidance would be reviewed.	
14	Date of next meetings: PLEASE DIARISE NOW Tuesday 11 February 2020 2pm – 4pm Kapsovar Room, Guildhall Tuesday 16 June 2020 2pm – 4pm Drawing Room, Roman Baths Tuesday 13 October 2020 2pm – 4pm Drawing Room, Roman Baths	