



City of Bath World Heritage Site Advisory Board

**Meeting held on 26 June 2018 at the Kingston Room, Roman Baths,
Bath**

Minutes

Attendees					
Prof. Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Cllr Cherry Beath	CB	Cllr Robert Law	RL
Cllr Peter Turner	PT	Ian Bell	IB	Prof. David Goode	DG
Dr Marion Harney	MH	John Wilkinson	JW	Stephen Bird	SB
Caroline Kay	CK	Rohan Torkildsen	RT	Tom Boden	TB
Nick Tobin	NT	Ainslie Ensom	AE	Helen Daniels	HD
Tony Crouch	TC				
Apologies					
Cllr Paul Myers		Henry Owen-John		Dr Kristin Doern	
Lisa Bartlett		Polly Andrews		Adrian Amber	
Dr Anne Bull		David James		Allison Herbert	
Andrew Grant					

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Chairman's Welcome	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, particularly new member Professor David Goode.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None.	
3	Adoption and review of previous minutes	
3.1	MH pointed out an error in 7.3 concerning the Heritage Lottery Fund. TC to correct.	TC
4	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda	
4.1	BG explained that revisiting the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Advisory Board was yet to be undertaken, with the Enhancement Fund having being prioritised first. RT asked if ToR would be drawn up for the Executive Group. BG confirmed they would, following completion of the Advisory Board paperwork.	
4.2	BG asked TC if there was any progress on B&NES officer training. TC replied that recent training had been undertaken for seasonal Visitor Service Assistants within Heritage Services, with other staff groups still to be targeted.	TC
5	Presentation by new Board member Professor David Goode	
5.1	DG introduced himself. He has had a distinguished career with the agency Nature Conservancy and its subsequent renamed organisations. He is an expert on bog-land in the north of England, which is a contrast to the surroundings of Bath. He was responsible for drawing up criteria for the UNESCO bio-sphere nature reserves and has worked in London, Shanghai, Santiago and elsewhere. He remains an international writer and blogger and is the current President of the Bath Natural History Society.	
5.2	DG considers that whilst many people are aware of the City of Bath, few are	

	aware of the importance of the setting and this should be addressed. As an example he cited the recent works at Smallcombe Cemetery, where the main focus was on restoration of built heritage and interpretation tasks. Alongside this however, ecological surveys had identified 700 different species, including 55 birds, 144 plants and 100 species of moss and lichen, including nationally important examples. More such studies are needed are to recognise the ecological importance of the setting. DG would like to develop a guidebook or App relating to this.	
5.3	MH asked if DG was aware of the Bathscape Project and DG confirmed he was both aware and supportive of the project.	
6	Chairman's Report	
6.1	BG presented his report to Board. A copy is distributed with these minutes.	
6.2	In summarising his report, BG highlighted the recent achievements of some Board members. Stephen Bird was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to museums, heritage and tourism. Caroline Kay has been appointed as a Trustee of the National Trust. John Wilkinson has been promoted to become Director of Economy and Growth within B&NES Council. Former Advisory Board member and Enhancement Fund member Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones has become the Mayor of Bath, and Tony Crouch has been elected as Chair of the national charity World Heritage UK. On behalf of the Board BG congratulated all, noting how these appointments demonstrate the depth of talent and expertise of Board members and underline the recognition of Bath as a centre of heritage excellence.	
6.3	The series of WH talks instigated by BG has now reached an audience of 537 people. BG re-iterated his offer to talk to other groups.	
6.4	An approach has been received from an individual connected with Bath Architect's Group asking for the Chairman's view on the proposed Bath Rugby Stadium. BG and TC met with Lisa Bartlett to discuss the matter and a response was sent saying that as no details of the scheme have yet been released, it was premature to make any statement. BG also said that he had openly declared that he was a Bath Rugby season ticket holder, but did not believe this impacted upon his impartial view of any development proposal. CK said the Bath Preservation Trust had also been considering this matter, with there being many season ticket holders amongst Trust members.	
6.5	BG has met with Andrew Grant, Chair of the Bathscape Partnership. Andrew sent his apologies for this meeting, but intends to join us at the next Board meeting. Andrew and BG passed on their thanks to MH who has been representing Bath University and Bathscape.	
6.6	Following a meeting between BG and Historic Environment Team leader Paula Freeland, it has been agreed that the WH Advisory Board Chairman will sit on the adjudication panel which considers nominations for the list of locally important buildings. This role will cover nominations within the WHS or its setting. CK asked about the status of the local list and the response was that the methodology had recently been consulted upon in advance of formal Council endorsement.	
6.7	BG drew members attention to a recent announcement of a £20m Cultural Fund. Although it was not yet clear what this might encompass, it was worth watching. https://www.insidermedia.com/insider/national/20m-cultural-fund-launched?utm_source=southwest_newsletter	
6.8	The first meeting of the Executive Group took place on 17 May 2018. Following a call for members, those present were BG, SB, CK, NT and independent 'critical friend' Jeremy Boss. Jeremy is a non-executive director of the RUH and Chairman of Widcombe Resident's Association. The group is a forum for discussion and BG emphasised that the invitation for further members remains open.	
6.9	With regard to Board membership, BG has corresponded with ICOMOS UK,	

	<p>who confirmed that following the resignation of Dr David Thackray, they would like to appoint another representative. They have yet to announce who that person might be and a place will be reserved for them. With regard to representation from Bath Abbey (discussed at the February meeting) BG has discussed with both SB and Charles Curnock. All agree that representation should be broader than just the Footprint Project. Discussions concluded that a new rector will be appointed soon, and the option to sit on the board personally or to delegate it should fall to the rector. The natural history appointee (Prof. David Goode) had joined us and DG remarked that he was delighted to do so.</p>	
6.10	<p>Discussion ensued about greater resident representation. NT said that the matter had been considered last year and at the time a further representative was not considered necessary. The Pulteney Estate Resident's Association (PERA) had questioned this, but no alternative proposal was forthcoming and NT confirmed that PERA are FOBRA members. There seemed little point in providing two FOBRA representatives. PT said he was a member of PERA and would discuss this with the Chairman. There was discussion about CURO being representative of the rented sector and reference to the Foxhill Resident's Association, but this was inconclusive.</p>	
6.11	<p>NT asked what the situation was with regard to the Destination Management Plan. JW replied that he would investigate and report back.</p>	
7	World Heritage Manager's Report	
7.1	<p>TC introduced his report (attached with these minutes) and highlighted the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily duties comprise of handling a high volume of email. • Provision of expert advice covers correspondence with UNESCO, advising on complaints and providing input into cabinet questions. By its nature this work responds to an unpredictable demand. • The Great Spas project is in its busiest year ahead of nomination submission in January 2019. Travel and other work requirements will ease up next year. A brochure for the UNESCO committee in Bahrain has been produced as a first step to promote the bid with potential decision makers and was tabled. • BG and TC attended a workshop at Kew Gardens WHS. Kew are facing issues with tall buildings in the setting and a planning enquiry regarding a tower at Chiswick is currently underway. • World Heritage Day 2018 was a great success, with an estimated 3,500 visitors. BG and TC thanked Helen Daniels, who organised the event. • The number of visiting overseas delegations, especially from China, has decreased considerably this year. It is thought this could be due to new Chinese Government restrictions. • The new WH badges and doormats are small gestures but make a considerable impact in raising the awareness of our UNESCO status. 	
8	Presentation on proposed major works at Prior Park Gardens	
8.1	<p>Tom Boden, General Manager (Dyrham and Bath), the National Trust, gave a presentation on a proposed scheme to rebuild the dams at Prior Park Gardens. Main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 lakes in the gardens and 3 dams holding the water. The middle dam is failing and the lower dam needs upgrading. • The Palladian Bridge is one of only 4 in the world to this design. The others are at Stowe, Wilton and St.Petersburg. • The lower dam is too small to cope with a 1 in 100 year flood. The land below is in private ownership and Church St., Widcombe, can flood. • The middle dam currently leaks and sink holes are present. Damage is exacerbated by the burrowing actions of American Crayfish. Up to 100,000 are thought to be present with eradication almost impossible. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The middle lake is currently drained to reduce water pressure. • Options considered included trenching the dams and re-filling the core with Bentonite Slurry. This would however still be prone to crayfish damage and the filling may wash out. • The preferred option is to record, take down, and re-build with a clay core. • The middle dam will be designed to 'over-top' and will be wider than the original. A cascade will be re-introduced. • The lower dam requires a different approach due to vegetation and a drop shaft with a grill is preferred. • 100 wagons of clay would be required and access within the site is difficult. • Estimated cost is £2.2m, with most coming from central funds and £100k to raise locally. • Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent will be needed. Applications to be submitted Autumn 2018, with work on site commencing early 2019. • Neighbours have been informed and are generally 'on-board'. The college are supportive. 	
8.2	BG confirmed that the WH Enhancement Fund proposed a contribution of £7.5k to the project, specifically for the new cascade. SB commended the plan to address the 1 in 100 year flood risk as we are increasingly finding that historic structures were not designed for extreme weather events. PT noted that there were no statues to John Wood in Bath, with CK suggesting that he should be known through his works instead.	
9	Project Updates	
9.1	SB updated on the Archway project. Final tenders will be received on Friday 29 June, which will give a clearer indication of build costs. Start on site is due to commence in March/April 2019. The World Heritage Centre is due to open in July 2020 with the Learning Centre opening in time for the new academic year in September 2020. There has been some slippage in the programme, due to the need to co-ordinate with other city centre projects.	
9.2	MH updated on the Bathscape project. The bid has now been submitted and MH thanked all for their contributions. A decision should be known in mid-September. The bid is for approximately £2.1m. CK noted that the HLF process is becoming increasingly competitive.	
9.3	CK said that a bid to the HLF for conservation and interpretation works at Beckford's Tower will be submitted shortly. The project value will be approximately £1.3m. It was suggested this might make a good presentation for the November Board meeting.	CK
9.4	TC updated on the Cleveland Pools project. The revised HLF bid is to be submitted in early August. Lease issues are being worked through and JW is going to Exeter to meet the HLF on 2 July. A draft Construction Management Plan has been produced by the Cleveland Pools Trust (CPT) as a planning condition requirement and shows the preferred method for bringing 85% of material onto site is by barge from Batheaston Rugby Club. Concrete (around 80 lorries) would need to come by road but delivery would be phased. Concern remains from a group of immediate neighbours and a liaison group has been established. If the HLF decision is positive, the CPT will oversee the build and subsequently pass the operating contract to Bath Recreation Trust Ltd. This saves around £800k of VAT. Start on site is predicted for late 2019/early 2020, with the pools open in Easter 2021.	
9.5	CK asked if the involvement of Bath Recreation Trust Ltd was public knowledge. TC confirmed that this had been announced by the CPT (with Bath Recreation Trust's approval) at the recent Liaison meeting and was therefore a matter of public record.	

9.6	TC reported on the exercise to create a new brand for Bath World Heritage. Designers Steers McGillan Eves (SME) have produced concept designs and TC showed a 'lock-up' of four square motifs representing the principle strands of OUV. There was some discussion around the pictorial depiction of the four elements and CK thought that the column did not sufficiently represent the Georgian element and looked both Roman and ruinous. She advocated instead a depiction of a classical house frontage and would send TC examples. BG asked if the UNESCO logo or wording would be incorporated. TC replied that this would deliberately be omitted in order to avoid restrictions over the commercial use of UNESCO's logo.	CK
9.7	The Abbey Footprint project has started on site. BG referred Board members to a written update which was circulated with the agenda.	
9.8	BG reported on the successful completion of the Nelson Trail project. The project came about due to questions being raised regarding the number of Bath street names referencing Nelson, which led to interest from the Nelson Society and the production of a trail. 54 people attended the launch day event at the BRLSI, including direct descendants of Nelson. All who attended agreed it was an enjoyable and worthwhile event. 5,000 copies of the brochure will be printed initially to test interest.	
9.9	CK suggested social media was used to announce the leaflet, as interest in Nelson in places such as Norfolk was high. Suggestions for other trails were discussed and AE suggested John Wood. IB suggested film sites and raised the question of potential commercial sponsorship and BG asked IB to be mindful of suitable companies who might be interested. CK warned that unless copyrighted others could commercialise our work. TB suggested Bath links with the slave trade and questioned whether an interpretation strategy was needed to ensure this work linked back to the OUV of the site.	
9.10	TC introduced the forthcoming WHS Management Plan progress report. As before a biennial monitoring report of progress against the actions will be compiled. This will be circulated in advance of the next (November) meeting in order that others can add input from their respective organisations. BG emphasised the need for input from Board members. TC said that the Action Plan was designed as a dynamic document within the wider plan and there were likely to be actions which needed updating. BG said that depending on the extent of the task it could either be discussed at the November Board or a bespoke meeting.	ALL
10	World Heritage Enhancement Fund	
10.1	AE introduced her report attached. She highlighted the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bath Iron festival was a great success. 300 children took part in the forge-in event and the lectures were very well attended. It was a great example of promoting heritage craft skills and no accidents were reported. • The restored fingerpost at Brassknocker Hill is now complete and looks great. • The incised street name restorations continue, with signs at Park Place and Park Street being promoted by a new resident's organisation. 	
10.2	Robert Law hoped that shopkeepers would be inspired by the Enhancement Fund works, as some very poor alterations had taken place.	
11	Dates of next meetings: Thursday 15 November 2018 : WHEF Annual Review meeting. 5pm for those on the Enhancement Fund Committee, 6pm for all other Advisory Board members. Museum of Bath Architecture.. Advisory Board meetings: Tuesday 27 November 2018 2pm – 4pm Kingston Rm, Roman Baths Tuesday 12 February 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba	

	Tuesday 18 June 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba Tuesday 22 October 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba	
12	Papers issued with these minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman's Report 2. World Heritage Enhancement Fund Project Update February 2018 3. Updated list of delivered and proposed promotional talks 4. Updated table of Board Members 	