



City of Bath World Heritage Site Advisory Board

Meeting held on 27 November 2018 at the Kingston Room, Roman Baths,
Bath

Minutes

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

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Chairman's Welcome	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, particularly new members Andrew Grant and Joy Roberts.	
1.2	Andrew Grant is a Founding Director of Grant Associates, an international landscape architecture practice based in Bath and Singapore. He is the Chair of the Bathscape Partnership. Andrew paid tribute to Board members Marion Harney, Caroline Kay and Tom Boden who had helped progress the project this far and outlined how the £1.65m Heritage Lottery Fund award and WHEF £7.5k would contribute to the £2.2m project over the next 5 years.	
1.3	Joy Roberts is the incoming chair of the Mayor of Bath's Corp of Honorary Guides. She takes over from Adrian Amber, who has completed his term of office. BG thanked AA for his input.	
1.4	Morgan Roberts joined this meeting as an observer. Morgan is a Masters student at the University of Bath and this one-off attendance will be helpful to his course.	
1.5	With regard to attendance, BG said he had asked TC to keep a register of attendees. He reminded members of his ruling that three consecutive absences could lead to exclusion, as the Board could only function effectively if members attended. Everyone to note, please...some members are at risk.	TC
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None.	
3	Adoption and review of previous minutes	
3.1	Approved. BG moved on to review points arising.	
3.2	BG asked TC about training within B&NES. TC replied that the focus would be on training for any new Council members following the elections in May 2019.	TC
3.3	BG asked DG whether there was anything to report on new interpretation	

	relating to the natural environment. DG said that matters were progressing but there was nothing major to report at this stage.	
3.4	BG drew attention to the forthcoming development consultation by Bath Rugby. This runs from Weds 5 Dec until Sat 8 Dec in the Brunswick Room, Guildhall, Bath. He urged all to attend. http://stadiumforbath.com/next-round-of-consultation-launched/	ALL
3.5	BG said there was no news on the local listing assessments.	
3.6	BG reported that following some unease from existing Board members regarding the purpose of the Executive Group, that group would be discontinued. It would instead be better to seek enhanced contributions from the existing Board. Everyone to note, please. Opinions can always be expressed by email to the Chairman between meetings.	
3.7	Despite chasing, ICOMOS UK have not responded to a request for a new Board representative.	
3.8	TB reported that the Prior Park Dams project was progressing, with suitable contractors currently being sought. Fundraising was still live and a 123 mile sponsored walk is planned for 2019.	
3.9	RT asked for news on the Tourism Plan. BG said he met Craig Jenkins recently and he understood that there was no longer a budget available to progress this work and that the focus was on recruitment of a new Chief Exec. Both CK and AH spoke of the need to ensure this plan was completed, with AH saying members of the BID were very keen to find a solution.	BG
3.10	CK reported that the Beckford's Tower HLF bid had been re-programmed for a submission of early March 2019 on the advice of the HLF.	
3.11	TC reported that the Cleveland Pools HLF bid had been submitted, with the HLF assessment visit due on 28 Nov and the decision expected mid-Dec 2018.	
3.12	BG reported that the launch of the Nelson Trail went well. Of 5,500 leaflets printed only 200 remained. A reprint (funded 60% by the Nelson Society, 40% by the WH Enhancement Fund) is planned. The Society plan to hold their Trafalgar event in Bath in October next year, with up to 200 attendees possible.	BG
3.13	PT reported that the Sydney Gardens HLF bid had been submitted, with a result due in December 2018. As is usual HLF practice, any public announcement is likely to be embargoed for a while.	
4	Chairman's Report	
4.1	BG introduced his report, which had been circulated in advance, and asked for any questions.	
4.2	CB asked what the audience reaction and feedback had been to the Chairman's talks (which have now been delivered to around 750 people). BG said that they had been well received, with a vast majority of people being supportive. In identifying themes raised by people, he said the poor condition of the public realm was frequently raised. This is related to the potential tourist levy, which was also widely supported. Voluntary contribution schemes have been introduced by the Lake District and Norfolk Broads, and Edinburgh (under Scottish law) has introduced a mandatory levy. Birmingham is expected to introduce a scheme ahead of the Commonwealth Games. Bath has approximately 760,000 overnight stays (2016) so if only half of people chose to pay it would be £380k per year. The Council have (at full Council in November) resolved to lobby Central Government for a change in legislation to enable a mandatory scheme.	
4.3	AH said that the Business Improvement District have re-painted street furniture in Kingsmead Square and could repeat this elsewhere. CK said the Bath Preservation Trust would like to discuss this concept and TC suggested Conservation Area Appraisals, being written with community support, might highlight future improvement areas. WHEF also interested for the Walcot Steps project.	AE
4.4	BG said that his offer to deliver talks still stands, so any new requests remain	ALL

	welcome. Post-Meeting Note : as at the end of the year, 23 talks delivered and seen by 790 local people – who all now know more about World Heritage than before they heard the talk.	
4.5	AA asked about the audit of bronze plaques undertaken by student Jess McKenzie. BG confirmed that compiling a spreadsheet of this information was a useful first step with regard to considering the future of the plaque scheme.	BG
5	World Heritage Manager's Report	
5.1	<p>TC talked through his report, a copy of which will be despatched with these minutes and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft summary of the WHS Management Plan has been completed. This can be published once changes to the Action Plan have been agreed. • The Enhancement Fund progresses well. The recent Sydney Buildings lighting project was a very successful partnership between residents, the Council and the Fund. • The Great Spas of Europe project was the subject of a Council Cabinet report on 31 October 2018. Endorsement of the submission of the nomination document was given by the Council with cross-party support. This was pleasing given current difficult economic circumstances. • Press interest accompanied the Great Spas report, with awareness of the project rising. • Cleveland Pools will host a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) inspection this week as part of their funding bid. A decision is expected before Christmas. • Our letter of support for the Sydney Gardens HLF application was picked up by 'Somerset Live' and the Chairman's quotes were used in a printed story about the bid. • Approximately 80 students have been addressed either through individual visits, groups or guest lectures. • The World Heritage UK annual conference at the Tower of London was a great success, with 120 delegates and Minister Michael Ellis providing the key note speech. Also, a review of all 31 UK WH Sites is underway, due for completion in April 2019. • TC then showed the final drafts of the new Bath WH branding. This was now in place in readiness for detailed design work for the new Bath World Heritage Centre. CK expressed her thanks that her earlier comments on the 'icons' within the design had been taken on board. TC commented that a giveaway leaflet designed in the new branding would be the perfect complement to the outreach talks being delivered by the Chairman. CK said it may offer opportunity to roll out branding (via uniforms etc.) across the Bath museum sector. TC agreed, saying it was not intended to replace the UNESCO logo, but to work alongside it. • HD reported on the 'Digital Strategy Canvas' work undertaken by Bath Spa Uni. placement student Clara Breitenmoser, which provided review of our web and social media activities. BG suggested wider coverage could be achieved if Board members 're-tweet' all World Heritage posts. • HD also announced plans for World Heritage Day 2018. Due to Easter dates, this would (for this year only) be held on a Thursday – the 18th April 2019. The venue will be Green Park Station and the theme will be inspirational architecture and engineering. CB advocated repeating artisan displays such as at the 'Bath Iron' event. TB suggested the engineering of the dams might provide a good example. 	<p>ALL to note</p> <p>ALL to note the date</p>
5.2	CB congratulated TC on his on-going work with the Great Spas. PT mentioned that the Pulteney Estate Resident's Association were still keen to pursue	

	restoration of overthrows in Great Pulteney Street. AA noted the possibilities offered by business cards containing an electronic chip. TB reported that the National Trust had now held 2 meetings of their properties which contained WH Sites, the latest meeting held in Bath. The NT meeting was supportive of WH:UK and of increasing WH signage in the properties. Giant's Causeway (N.Ireland) was working on an innovative capacity study exercise which is likely to be of widespread interest.	
6	World Heritage Site Management Plan mid-term review	
6.1	BG introduced this item and encouraged all organisations who had undertaken works which contributed to any of the plan actions to please let TC know.	ALL
6.2	TC said that there were items in the Action Plan which needed updating. The amended action table, once agreed by the Board, would be taken through a Single Member Decision process at the Council offering the opportunity for issues to be aired.	
6.3	TC said that the overall position was good. Approaching midway through the plan period most actions were either underway or completed, so we are 'on-track'. There were significant achievements, such as the amount of external funding levered in and the delivery of major conservation projects. There were also some difficulties, such as the overdue replacement 'tourism plan', the sale of the Mineral Water Hospital and the loss of some local authority expertise.	
6.4	Action 1: Design review panel. The Board agreed that the wording change should be changed to encourage the use of the design panel, where appropriate, plus other guidance. The Bath Preservation Trust's 'Making Changes' document was cited as an example of such guidance.	
6.5	Action 2: The Board accepted that the Building Heights Strategy would benefit from updating before potentially being adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. LB agreed that inclusion of this as an action would help ensure this work was programmed.	
6.6	Action 4: Major Projects. The Board agreed that a caveat along the lines of 'any other projects that impact upon the OUV' should be added, but did not think it was worth removing the references to the Radial Gate and rail electrification. Bath Rugby proposals may impact upon the Radial Gate.	
6.7	Action 7: Cycling. The Board considered that it was worth retaining this action, reworded to include walking as well as cycling. This was considered important as the Clean Air Zone proposal may introduce more opportunity for cycling/walking improvements.	
6.8	Action 20: Bath Cultural Offer. TC thought this action was too broad and not linked closely enough to the OUV of the Site. The Board would rather see it retained and re-worded than removed. AB said that she supported the co-ordination of Bath museums and that this should be encouraged. KD said issues such as the social setting and the natural interest could be covered here. TC to circulate suggested re-wording.	TC
6.9	Action 22: Education. It was agreed that this action needed to be more generic and the reference to 'curriculum' removed.	
6.10	Action 27: Buildings at Risk. TC advocated encouraging regular periodic review of the local register. The Board supported this and CK commented that in other areas outside bodies supported the Council in delivering this.	
6.11	Action 29: The Board agreed that Conservation Area appraisals and Locally Important Buildings were separate projects and should be split.	
6.12	Action 32: Housing numbers. It was considered by the Board that more progress had been made here than is currently recorded. LB said that the West of England Joint Spatial Plan, which is currently at Examination, proposes that much of the housing growth up until 2036 within B&NES will be	

	accommodated in the Strategic Development Locations at Whitchurch and North Keynsham with around 300 dwellings being proposed in Bath. The Plan is subject to a public Hearing currently scheduled for late May 2019 where both the housing provision and the spatial approach across the West of England will be tested. TC to work with LB on a re-worded action and commentary.	TC/ LB
6.13	Action 38: Research. Following the inability to attract funding to support a research index, TC advocated that the action be widened to support on-going research. This was approved by the Board.	
6.14	Action 42: Coach parking. TC advocated widening this action beyond just parking. The Board agreed. BG said that access in historic areas such as The Circus remained an issue. Residents had been counting coaches and had recorded 392 different companies in an 18 month period. Moves were underway to ban coaches from The Circus, with a Traffic Order ready and Dept. Of Transport approval of signage awaited. AH said that the Destination Management Plan (Plan Action 41) should cross-reference with this action.	
6.15	Action 47: Training. TC advocated that this action be widened to capture the range of promotional talks being undertaken by the Chairman. AA noted that the Mayor's Guides significant contribution might also be recognised here. The Board agreed.	
6.16	TC will draft proposed new actions and circulate these by email. He was unable to give a definite timescale for this but noted that it needed to be completed soon to ensure a Council decision would be made this side of the election 'purdah' date (6 weeks before 3 May election).	TC
7	Any other business	
7.1	CK said she was happy to report a \$150,699 legacy from an American BPT supporter. The money would be used to fund internships in conservation, craft skills, etc.	
7.2	At the invitation of BG, LB commented on the Council Archaeological provision. LB said that as of yesterday, South West Archaeology was now working to support the Council planning teams. This would include monitoring and supporting the Historic Environment Record. This move followed the departure of Archaeological Officer Richard Sermon and was designed to maintain frontline services despite funding pressures.	
7.3	SB is to undertake a sponsored walk to raise funds for the Archway Project. He will cover 105 miles in 5 days walking from Bath to Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage Sites (the 'Wessex WH Tri-angle'). He will depart at 9am on the 10 th December from the WH symbol in Stall Street. The address of the 'just giving page is: http://mydonate.bt.com/events/worldheritagetriangle/478333 On behalf of the Board, BG wished him good luck.	
8	<p>Dates of next meetings: BG said that Council Leader Tim Warren wishes to attend the next AB meeting and the date had been moved to Wednesday 13 February.</p> <p>Next meetings: Wednesday 13 February 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba Tuesday 18 June 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba Tuesday 22 October 2019 2pm – 4pm Tba</p> <p>All members are reminded about the importance of attendance and participation. Please diarise now. Thanks.</p> <p>World Heritage Day: Thursday 18 April 2019 Green Park Station</p>	