



City of Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group

Meeting held on 18 March 2014 at Manver's Street Baptist Church, Bath

Minutes

Attendees					
Peter Metcalfe (Chair)	PM	Cllr Ben Stevens	BS	David Trigwell	DTr
Cllr Malcolm McDowall	MM	Robin Kerr	RK	Wendy Stott	WS
Dr Marion Harney	MH	Rohan Torkildsen	RT	Dr David Thackray	DTh
Caroline Kay	CK	Stephen Bird	SB	Dr Kristin Doern	KD
Nick Brooks-Sykes	NBS	Andrew Cooper	AC	Rhodri Samuel	RS
Tony Crouch	TC				
Apologies					
Cllr. Bryan Chalker		Christopher Young		Ian Bell	
John Wilkinson		Dr Anne Bull	AB		

No	Agenda Item	ACTION
1	Welcome for new members	
1.1	PM welcomed Andrew Cooper, Bath Business Improvement District Manager. AC explained his role, and that of the BID which has 652 business members, contributing 1% extra on their rates to fund city centre up-keep and improvements. It is one of 178 similar UK schemes.	
1.2	In her absence, PM welcomed Dr Anne Bull to the group. AB is Head Teacher at Weston All Saints Primary, and Chair of Bath Primary Teacher's Group.	
1.3	PM also gave thanks to Rhodri Samuel and David Trigwell for their substantial contributions. Both leave the Council shortly and this is their last meeting.	
2	Previous Minutes	
2.1	Minutes of Oct. 2013 were accepted as an accurate record (with a minor spelling correction), proposed by RK, seconded MM. These will be posted to the website www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage	TC
3	Matters arising	
3.1	DTr provided an update on the emerging Transport Strategy. The Local Development Strategy Cross-Party Steering Group is being used as a steering group for the Transport Strategy. It is planned to launch the strategy at the Bath City Conference on 30 April 2014. Formal consultation and cabinet sign-off to follow. Final adoption expected in Autumn 2014.	
3.2	RK emphasised the importance of cross-party support as transport initiatives transcend the life of political administrations.	
4	WHS Management Plan	
4.1	TC reminded members of the previous discussion regarding a response to ICOMOS International comments concerning the 2010 WH Management Plan, and the need to alert UNESCO to forthcoming developments which may	

	impact upon the OUV. Following discussions with English Heritage, it is proposed to roll the two tasks into one, using the ICOMOS response as an opportunity to include briefings on Bath Rugby, Bath Western Riverside, the Enterprise Area and city fringe housing allocations.	
4.2	TC reported that work was due to commence on the draft replacement WHS Management Plan, and tabled a timetable. This showed a desk-top review of the existing plan taking place this year, with a stakeholder event in spring 2015, public consultation in the summer and final adoption at the end of that year. He advocated the formation of a steering sub-group to help guide progress, and would approach members regarding this.	TC
4.3	TC noted that ICOMOS commented that the existing plan was general and insufficiently site specific. TC suggested that short case studies might be used to demonstrate how processes work. RK suggested that bad examples were also considered to demonstrate where systems do not work well.	
4.4	Discussion followed on how the plan could be used. CK stated that the National Planning Policy Framework placed great emphasis on local heritage strategies, and questioned whether this was Bath's local heritage strategy. DTr noted that the management plan, although a 'material consideration', was not formal planning policy. The plan should provide an evidence base for planning policy. The new plan has the opportunity to incorporate the recently adopted WH Site Setting Study planning guidance document. More widespread use of the WH logo was advocated, and RS commented that the plan should inform and influence decision making at the highest levels.	
5	English Heritage International Advice	
5.1	Dr Christopher Young, Head of International Advice, English Heritage, retires at the end of March 2014. He has advised on both Bath WH management plans, on the 2008 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and on various project works. In his absence the Chairman thanked him for his work, and asked RH to comment on how this post would be handled.	
5.2	RH confirmed that the post of Head of International Advice would be re-appointed, and indeed advertisement had already taken place. RH envisaged a seamless transition from CY to his successor.	
6	World Heritage Enhancement Fund	
6.1	PM outlined the governance arrangements of the fund, including the working group which meets every 6-8 weeks. The annual budget was circa £30k per year. PM noted that he had not spent the budget put aside for Chairman's expenses, and would request that this money was added to the Enhancement Fund. No objections to this were raised.	PM/TC
6.2	PM reported on some of the current Enhancement Fund projects. A meeting to progress a heritage layer on the 'Official Bath App' would be held on 25 March. Replacement lighting at Walcot Street Steps was being investigated. AC noted that the BID Rangers regularly cleaned here, as it was busy at night. A reprint of the City Trail map, and a landscape trail were also being looked into.	
6.3	Discussion ensued about how the fund's profile might be raised to encourage further finance. The ability of the fund to lever in further funding was noted, with good examples being the Canal Chimney and Ralph Allen's Tomb. AC mentioned the contribution of the Probation Service's 'Community Payback Scheme', and PM confirmed he was in discussions with this scheme about railing painting at R. Victoria Pk and London Rd. Better use of the web-site to promote the fund was advocated, as was exposure in Bath Chronicle.	
7	Education	
7.1	KD reported on the 'Bath History Curriculum Project'. Bath Spa Uni (BSU) was invited by Bath Primary Head Teacher's Group to create a History Scheme of Work for Bath primary schools in relation to the new National History Curriculum.	

7.2	The project aims to: establish how the history curriculum can be delivered using Bath and environs as a focus; identify resources to do this; create a repository of information for schools; develop learning resources to support delivery and cross reference to other topics. Project partners and a working group team have already been established and met, and these groups include several organisations represented on the steering group.	
7.3	The project included a 'History Fair', held on 28 th Jan. 2014 at the Assembly Rooms. This was an opportunity for museums and attractions to let primary school teachers see the wealth of information available. Over 80 teachers attended from 15 schools, and the event was deemed very successful.	
7.4	Next steps will be to establish a basic resource database as soon as possible, stage pilot projects in a number of schools this spring, and request funding from the Head Teachers Group for a nominal amount of BSU staff time to progress this.	
8	Updates	
8.1	<p>TC updated on current Heritage Lottery Fund bids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath Abbey Footprint Project. Stage 1 bid submitted Nov. 2013. Decn. expected 29 April 2014. • Roman Bath's Archway Project (including provision for a WH Interpretation Centre). Stage 1 submitted Feb. 2014. Decn. expected May 2014. • Sydney Gardens. Stage 1 submitted Feb. 2014. Decn. expected June 2014. • Cleveland Pools. Stage 1 submission planned for April 2014. • Landscape Partnership bid. Lead partner Cotswold's AONB Board Stage 1 planned for May 2014. • Beau Street Hoard. Successful HLF bid announced March 2014. £372,500 granted, which also enabled a platform lift to be installed giving further step-free access to the museum. <p>SB was congratulated on the Beau St. Hoard funding success. SB reported that as part of the Archway project he had mapped out how the various current bids positively impact upon key attributes of the WHS, and this co-ordination had been welcomed by the HLF.</p>	
8.2	Bath Research Group. MH reported that she had identified a PhD student at Bath University who was prepared to undertake the preliminary research framework associated with this project. £3-5k would however be required to pursue this. PM asked for an initial paper to be produced to enable funding to be sought. TC and MH to pursue this. This research is seen as being an important evidence base for the forthcoming WHS Management Plan. DTh reported that he was aware that there was a body of archaeological data which had not been published due to lack of funds. RK suggested that bodies such as the Charter Trustees might be approached for funding.	MH TC
8.3	Great Spas of Europe Project. TC reported that at the last meeting, progression in this project had depended upon securing a letter from the UK Government saying that Bath could be included on the UK Tentative List of WHS. A letter was received from Minister Ed Vaizey dated 24 October 2013 saying that it will be possible to include Bath on the current UK tentative list, but qualifying this by saying this does not mean that the UK would definitely proceed to nomination. Don Foster MP and MEP Sir Graham Watson's support was instrumental in securing Minister Vaizey's positive response. This letter was sufficient comfort to the Czech Govt to allow Bath to stay with the project. An initial application ('Form 2B') was to be submitted to UNESCO in January 2014, but several partners (including Bath) considered this needed more work and the submission is postponed until May 2014. The project has now progressed to a level where instead of individual spa towns leading the	TC

	project it is state parties in dialogue with each other.	
8.4	Chairman's Reception Thursday 10 April 2014. PM reported that Council Chairman Cllr Neil Butters had kindly agreed to host a second reception for the WH Steering Group and Enhancement Fund. All Bath Councillors were invited, giving an opportunity to explore potential projects across the city.	
8.5	World Heritage Day 2014. This will be held in Sydney Gardens on Sunday 13 th April from 12 noon to 4pm. The Holburne Museum will also be holding their 'Easter Eggstravaganza' event at the same time, giving a full afternoon of family entertainment. Holding the event at Sydney Gardens is intended to boost community use of the space in conjunction with the recently submitted HLF bid.	
9	Any other business	
9.1	AC reported that the telephone boxes had been replaced in Upper Borough Walls. He also said that various large businesses were interested in donating staff volunteer time if there were suitable practical projects. The BID Rangers were also on hand to sort out city centre issues, and can be contacted at: 01225 430640 www.bathbid.co.uk	
9.2	MM drew attention to a fund raising concert at Corston Church on Sunday 29 June 2014. Contact Malcolm 01225 872093 for tickets.	
10	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 21 October 2014. Venue to be confirmed.	