
 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>
<p>Special Meeting on Climate Change. 17 November 2020 Online meeting using the Zoom platform</p>		

Minutes

Attendees					
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Cllr Paul Crossley	PC	Cllr Sarah Warren	SW
Dr Hannah Fluck	HF	Jane Wildblood	JW	Dr Hana Morel	HM
Stephen Bird	SB	Joanna Robinson	JR	Polly Andrews	PA
Allison Herbert	AH	Caroline Kay	CK	Nick Tobin	NT
Joy Roberts	Joy	John Wilkinson	JW	Rohan Torkildsen	RT
Andrew Grant	AG	Tom Boden	TB	Paul Simons	PS
Kathryn Davis	KaD	Prof Astrid Swenson	AS	Ainslie Ensom	AE
Henry Lowe	HL	Helen Daniels	HD	Canon Guy Bridgewater	GB
Paula Freeland	PF	Tony Crouch	TC	TOTAL 26 attendees	
Apologies					
Sarah Simmonds		Dr Kristin Doern		Lisa Bartlett	
Henry Owen-John		Dr Marion Hamey		Cllr Robert Law	
Prof David Goode		Polly Robertson		Mark Evans	

No	Agenda Item
1	Chairman's Welcome
1.1	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Andrew Grant, whose suggestion had prompted this special meeting on climate change.</p> <p>The Chairman especially welcomed our 5 guest speakers. He introduced each one individually when it was their turn to speak, with brief details of their current (and relevant) role and CV.</p> <p><i>The Chairman identified that in respect of the Climate Emergency, the key questions for today included what can we do to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site and how do we address this issue in the forthcoming Management Plan revision.</i></p> <p>See also the print-out of the Chat Room function, which the Chairman repeatedly invited attendees to use to ask and answer questions, and to make comments.</p>
2	Declarations of Interest
2.1	None declared.
3	Adoption of previous minutes (13 October 2020)
3.1	TC to amend the reference to Nick Tobin being present. The minutes were otherwise accepted as a true record.
4	Cllr Sarah Warren
4.1	Sarah is the B&NES Cabinet member with joint responsibility for the Climate Change Emergency. She said that in autumn 2018, the Intergovernmental Climate Change

	Panel reported the substantial consequential difference between a rise of 1.5 and 2 degrees in global heating. Councils around the country subsequently declared climate emergencies (following Bristol's lead). Scientists have been issuing warnings for over 30 years, but the urgency can elude us whilst normal life continues. Extreme weather and climate records are being repeatedly broken worldwide and on an accelerating basis. People ask if we can afford to continue with environmental remediation during Covid or should we postpone it? Society will pull through the pandemic, but the environmental emergency is a threat to our existence.
4.2	SW said that two questions we should ask are must we change? and can we change? With regard to 'must', 152 million tonnes of man-made carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere daily which potentially accumulates over thousands of years. The safe carbon dioxide level for civilisation to exist has been identified at 350ppm, but this has already been exceeded. For example on Sunday it was 413ppm, well above the safe level. 19 of the 20 hottest years on record have been recorded since 2001, leading to weather disruption. Hurricanes and wildfires have flourished with estimates saying more than a billion animals perished in Australia in January 2020 and extinctions may have directly resulted. October 2020 saw the largest departure from average conditions in any month thus far in the satellite record threatening Artic sea ice. Without ice deflecting solar rays, heating accelerates and we may observe a global tipping point. Indeed, this may already be happening. Finally farming will be impacted with decreasing crop yields and infectious diseases may be more prevalent. All of which makes a compelling case for why we must change.
4.3	With regard to can we change? The solutions are already known. The main source of carbon emissions in B&NES is energy use in buildings, at 66% (38% from homes, 28% from industry, commerce, institutions), and transport 29%. We know how to reduce energy use through efficiency measures and how to generate renewable energy, even in heritage buildings. Our universities have experts interested in further expanding this understanding. We know how to plan to minimise vehicle use, with Bath of course being a liveable community before the introduction of modern vehicles. The green surroundings of the city offer opportunities for rewilding and carbon capture. Areas such as Bathampton Meadows offer a chance (working with the National Trust) to explore if it might be better for the modern farming landscape to return to a less carbon intensive management of wild habitat. There are many further such opportunities.
4.4	SW said the scale of the challenge is clear. It cannot be a case of choosing whether to deal with coronavirus first before tackling carbon. Nor of deciding which buildings to insulate, or which measures we think are compatible with our view of heritage. We need all measures, urgently. We can and must combine the efforts we will make recovering from Covid, with the measures we know to be possible and necessary to counter the environmental crisis.
4.5	The challenge to the WH Advisory Board is, how can we reimagine our World Heritage City? Could we go beyond considering the revised WHS Management Plan and establish a World Heritage City of the Future vision project? Could we learn from Antwerp, whose city plan was recommended to the Council by a peer review last year? Do we need design standards, or a manifesto for sustainable heritage? Could we work together to create a showcase heritage building perhaps from amongst the council's stock, open to the public, to demonstrate energy efficient retrofit? And what support do we need from the Council in achieving all this? What barriers do you currently face? The Council is already completing a review of some of our sustainable building Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) as part of the Local Plan Partial Review over the coming year, which should help.
5	Dr Hannah Fluck
5.1	Hannah is Head of Environmental Strategy for Historic England. She is author of Historic England's Climate Change Adaptation Report (2016): Historic England's Climate Change Adaptation Report . and contributing author to the UK Climate

	Change Risk Assessment. She chairs the UK Historic Environment (Climate Change) Adaptation Working Group, which supports Defra (UK Govt) in their preparation of the National Adaptation Programme.
5.2	Hannah reinforced SW's message in that <i>the requirement to change is not an option and we must not shy away from the challenge. There are three strands to tackling climate change, which are 1) mitigation (carbon reduction), 2) Risk, adaptation and resilience, and 3) Communication, engagement and action.</i>
5.3	<i>It is important to understand your risks.</i> The rise in temperature is likely to have marked consequences. The hottest days may become much hotter, prompting building adaptation. More intense rainfall events may occur, requiring changes in the built environment both to buildings and to cope with increased ground water. Could this impact on the Hot Springs? The theme here is that keeping things the same may not be possible and the South West may experience some of the biggest climate changes.
5.4	<i>It is also important to properly understand our assets and how they can help.</i> Green spaces for example can reduce heat and give people refuge. Also, historic buildings often stay cooler than modern constructions and do not require mechanical cooling. It is important to understand our opportunities, which will vary from area to area. Our local knowledge will help us adapt to survive and we should share our practice with others. <i>Finally, it is important to understand your opportunities.</i> Good practice will not always be best practice as local solutions and approaches will vary, but Bath has a global profile and an ability to become an exemplar. Hannah supplied a variety of links to further reading and projects which can be found in the 'chat' in Appendix 1.
6	Jane Wildblood
6.1	Jane is B&NES Council's Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, which includes the lead policy officer role for the climate and ecological emergencies and the new Renewal Vision Workstream. Jane has over 30 years' of experience on the full range of environmental sustainability issues from both the international and national voluntary sector and local government perspectives, including some of the earliest work on the climate issue 25 years ago, when no-one wanted to listen!
6.2	Jane reminded the meeting of the Youth Protests last year and the subsequent Climate Emergency declaration by the Council in March 2019. This declaration included a commitment to reach a net zero carbon emission target by 2030. To reach this target will require retrofitting 65,000 homes and other buildings. A common misconception is that transport is the biggest polluter, but in reality the major focus must be on buildings. Accurate carbon emission figures are hard to calculate, as factors such as the amount of goods imported are not included, so the true figures are likely to be higher. Importing food and goods accounts for a significant part of our carbon footprint. Calculations were subsequently used to set targets and actions. Reduction in car use is just part of building a greener and more diverse local economy, which starts with a renewal programme and vision. Essential works such as retrofitting buildings for increased energy efficiency will provide new jobs and form part of the economic recovery.
6.3	Locally grown food and food security was highlighted. The hinterland of Bath used to provide fruit and vegetables for the city and can be highly productive as well as a beautiful landscape.
6.4	Jane saw the leadership <i>challenges for the WHS of the future as being 1) How to enable both carbon emission reduction from historic buildings and resilience to climatic change? 2) How to enable low environmental impact tourism? and 3) How to incorporate renewable energy within the city and the setting?</i>
6.5	With regard to the level of change that may need to be accepted, Jane raised several points. Charney Down and Lansdown provide suitable sites for wind turbines and any such structures in the setting may be visible from the site itself. Digital innovation could potentially reduce tourist travel, as long flights in particular are heavy polluters and we may need to accept lower visitor numbers. And with regard to solar tiles or

	panels on buildings, Bath has the opportunity to be an exemplar of best practice.
6.6	In thanking Jane, BG drew attention to the Warmer Bath publication, downloadable from this weblink https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/energy-advice/insulation-and-heating/warmer_bath_june2011.pdf
7	Caroline Kay and Joanna Robinson
7.1	Bath Preservation Trust Chief Executive Officer Caroline and Senior Planning and Conservation Officer Joanna are long-standing member attendees at the Advisory Board and needed little further introduction. Caroline started the presentation, showing a protest banner at the Roman Baths reading 'we cannot protect our past if we do not protect our future'. Following the challenges set by previous speakers, the question raised is 'who is going to do it?' . Bath is full of challenges, not least due to the prevalence of pre-1930 housing stock. The Warmer Bath publication (see 6.6 above) was designed to fill a policy vacuum and a misconception that heritage buildings were thought to be too difficult to address. The Open Homes initiative which invited the public in to see energy efficient works stopped because of a lack of exemplars. Also, the financial barriers to making changes should not be underestimated. Caroline then showed examples of environmental improvements at the Trust's four Bath properties.
7.2	Joanna then showed a range of local case studies. The inner valley slopes of Georgian house mansard roofs offered opportunity for solar panels hidden from public view. However, despite some early good examples, not many householders have installed these panels, thought to be mainly due to a belief that they are not acceptable in terms of Listed Building Consent. An example of solar tiles was shown in Freshford, where a planning proposal was modified to incorporate these in a sensitive manner. St.John's Hospital in the City centre provided an example of slim line double-glazing successfully installed in a Grade 1 listed building and another (Grade II) example was shown in Oak Street. The Trust supported these and had a policy stance to support future similar applications where there was no loss of original fabric and the profile of the original glazing bars could be maintained. A small wind turbine was also shown at Kelston Round Hill, where a survey on public acceptance had been undertaken. To finish, some possible projects were shown including a surface car park, not dissimilar to Charlotte Street, with a roof shelters of solar panels above the cars. The question was again asked whether it was possible to develop a Georgian House of the future, perhaps with a B&NES or CURO owned building.
	(Short Break)
8	Group Discussion
8.1	<i>BG set the scene for the group discussion, asking how do we take responsibility and (setting aside money for now) what are the barriers to change?</i>
8.2	BG noted that Bath World Heritage Site contained some 5,000 listed buildings, the majority of which were privately owned houses. Solutions were needed which ordinary homeowners could act upon.
8.3	TB said that each organisation could put its own house in order first and that the National Trust had sought to do that. Their measures included tree planting and re-evaluating land management. More information was however still needed plus ways of joining initiatives together.
8.4	Joy said that the Mayor's Guides interact with a high number of visitors and that Covid concerns were leading to an increase in private car use. Public transport use may need to be encouraged again. BG acknowledged this point and said there had been a noticeable increase in street parking, perhaps due to most tourists arriving in Bath by car, rather than by train or coach party.
8.5	KD said that Visit Bath were working with the Green Tourism Scheme and that effective communication which enabled people to make informed travel choices was paramount. Modern coaches are now much cleaner and often Euro 6 compliant, which they need to be to enter London. International travel will take time to recover

	and technology should ensure that carbon emissions from flights reduces. Virtual tours have their place but do not bring the ancillary spend and benefit of physical visit.
8.6	Cllr Paul Crossley acknowledged that Council achievements in reducing private car use had been set-back by Covid-19 and it may take time for behavioural change to re-adjust. Measures however continued and included a recently launched (and controversial) trial of electric scooters. Reducing food miles was a key challenge and it should be questioned why we need to import so much. The idea of solar panels above a car park was interesting but was it deliverable? New technologies on this scale may well need initial Central Government support, as was the case with North Sea wind turbines.
8.7	SB said that addressing this scale of change would require a new approach, beyond tweaking existing arrangements.
8.8	AG said that the Bathscape vision of Bath as a Landscape City was consistent with the approach required. Trees need to be sustained and replaced, but the calcareous grasslands were also ecologically important. The local food ideas were interesting, although much of the land once used for market gardens will no doubt have since been developed.
8.9	NT commented that a rise in demand for electric vehicles would need to be matched by the ability to generate sufficient electricity and charging points. CK commented that the cost of electric cars remained too high and beyond the financial reach of most people.
8.10	PS said that the Great Spas project was looking at best practice and how to incorporate the UNESCO sustainability goals, as shown on the ICOMOS UK website. He also said that BG had encouraged attendees to look beyond financial barriers, Cleveland Pools provided some real-life examples. Provision of a heat pump using river water cost four times more than a standard gas heater and the running costs were five times higher. These costs were enough to kill the business plan without grant assistance.
8.11	BG asked PF for her view with regard to planning and listed building consent, often incorrectly seen as a barrier to change. PF said policy needed to be looked at from a macro and micro scale and form a viewpoint of opportunity rather than constraint. A starting point was the many things that are already permissible without consent and these needed promoting. Landscape character needed evaluating to assess what (or where) it is we most value and want to look after, and what should change. Solar panels may indeed look better than cars in car parks.
8.12	Dr Hana Morel is currently working with Hannah Fluck at Historic England to gather case studies. Said she would like to stay in touch to learn of any further good practice examples.
8.13	HL said that springs and groundwater should be considered in terms of more extreme weather events. The River Avon for example may not been dredged for some time and land-slumping on the steep slopes was possible. We should look at historic and other solutions to these issues.
9	Next Steps
9.1	BG thanked all the speakers for their excellent contributions and appreciated if the Chat Room is anything to go by, and to Board members (all of whom had contributed) for a meaningful discussion. A follow-up meeting is proposed for Tuesday 19 th January - all are welcome. Further details will be issued.
10	Date of 2021 meetings (Please assume Zoom on-line meetings)
	Tuesday 19 January 2pm – 4pm (follow-up to climate change meeting) Tuesday 16 February 2pm - 4pm Tuesday 11 May 2pm - 4pm Tuesday 19 October 2pm – 4pm