

 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	 <p>City of Bath inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987</p>	<h2>City of Bath World Heritage Site Advisory Board</h2>
<p><b>Meeting held on 23 March 2021. Online meeting using the Zoom platform</b></p>		

### Minutes

Attendees					
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Cllr Paul Crossley	PC	Stephen Bird	SB
Joanna Robinson	JR	Caroline Kay	CK	Nick Tobin	NT
Joy Roberts	Joy	Ainslie Ensom	AE	Rohan Torkildsen	RT
Andrew Grant	AG	Polly Andrews	PA	Paul Simons	PS
Kathryn Davis	KaD	Tom Boden	TB	Dr Marion Harney	MH
Sarah Simmonds	SS	Cllr Robert Law	RL	Prof Astrid Swenson	AS
Prof David Goode	DG	Henry Lowe	HL	Polly Robertson	PR
Paul Saynor	PSa	Helen Daniels	HD	Tony Crouch	TC
				TOTAL 24 attendees	
Apologies					
Allison Herbert		Canon Guy Bridgewater		Dr Kristin Doern	
Henry Owen-John		Lisa Bartlett		Paula Freeland	
Mark Evans					

No	Agenda Item	Act.
<b>1</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the Board meeting. Having spent the previous two Board meetings concentrating on climate change, the meeting today was an opportunity to catch up with news from organisations across the WHS as the country prepares to emerge from the third national lockdown.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	None.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Previous Minutes (19 January 2021)</b>	
3.1	The previous minutes were accepted as a true record.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Changes in Board Membership</b>	
4.1	The Chairman welcomed new Board member Paul Saynor and invited him to introduce himself. Paul is the Head of Water Resources and Supply Strategy at Wessex Water, and brings with him 27 years of industry experience. He is a hydrologist and is responsible for planning of water supplies for the Wessex Water area and this planning requires adjustment for seasonal differences, demand fluctuation and provision for events such as drought. He has a close interest in the Hot Springs of Bath and hopes to add value to the Board by engaging in discussions on climate change and water supply issues in general. Paul has kindly agreed to give a short presentation of his work to the May Board meeting.	
4.2	This was the last meeting for Caroline Kay, who is stepping down from her role with Bath Preservation Trust on 30 <sup>th</sup> April. After taking this Summer off she plans to undertake consultancy work. Caroline has been a long-standing	

	member of the Advisory Board (since 2007) and the Chairman thanked her profusely on behalf of all members for her significant contribution.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Chairman's Update</b>	
5.1	Despite the pandemic, much work has been progressed. Tim Cottrill, our Bath Spa University placement is well advanced in his study into the impact of Trans-Atlantic slavery on Georgian Bath. He is demonstrating this impact through accounts of the lives of 21 Bath residents at that time. His work is currently being peer reviewed. A presentation of Tim's emerging work was delivered to the B&NES Equalities Panel in January. It was well received and will be discussed again at the Bath and Colonialism Action Group meeting on Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March (with thanks to Polly Andrews for the invitation).	
5.2	Ainslie Ensom will talk later about individual World Heritage Enhancement Fund projects, but the annual newsletter will be presented to the Fund's Management Committee next week and subsequently emailed to Board members. The on-line format of the newsletter gives us opportunity for widespread distribution.	
5.3	Following previous success in the Georgian Group annual award scheme (recognising the restoration of historic Bath street names) a new nomination based on the work of the Mayors Guides is being considered. Joy Roberts confirmed that there are currently 80 fully trained guides, plus 6 more undertaking training and in 2019 around 50,000 people enjoyed the free walking tours.	
5.4	The current Bath WHS Management Plan expires in 2022 and work to renew this will commence later this year. BG noted that this exercise would require input from Board members and asked them to please be ready to engage with the project.	
<b>6</b>	<b>World Heritage Manager's Report</b>	
6.1	The annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the meeting which will consider the Great Spas of Europe nomination, was postponed in 2020. No dates have yet been confirmed for the 2021 Committee and UNESCO have yet to decide how to stage this meeting in light of the pandemic restrictions. UNESCO are to hold a meeting on Monday 29 March to consider. (Post meeting note: UNESCO have confirmed that the meeting will take place from 16-31 July in China, but behind closed doors with live streaming of sessions). Whatever date is confirmed, UNESCO are expected to stick to protocol and issue papers (including a recommendation on the Great Spas) six weeks ahead of the committee start (This will therefore be around 4 June). Meanwhile, project work continues including investigation into a new legal entity to underpin the project and work to train planning officers in each of the towns about how to build necessary UNESCO procedures into their work.	
6.2	Work progresses on the new Bath WH Centre in York Street. The main contractors (Beard) are about to leave the site and work is progressing well on interpretation materials. In particular, artwork by Illustrator Natsko Seki is both practical and beautiful. A new 'app', by designers JAM creative, is also under construction.	
6.3	TC has involvement in Bath City Centre projects including City Centre Security and the development of a masterplan for the 'Milsom Quarter'. Public consultation responses to the security work had mostly focussed on access concerns. The Milsom Quarter proposals included the site of the former King Edward's School (Broad Street) and this may well have prompted the building owners (Samuel Smith's Brewery) to renew their planning and listed building consent permissions.	
6.4	World Heritage UK have completed an 18-month lottery-funded resilience project, which has included development of a new business plan. A national Climate Change Group has also been set-up and TC will work with Edinburgh to exchange best practice ideas. With regard to the forthcoming UNESCO	

	Committee, Liverpool will be considered and may well be struck off the WH list. If so, it will be only the 3 <sup>rd</sup> removal in almost 50 years and it will be a blow to the UK's reputation as a world leader in heritage management.	
6.5	Responding to a question by TB regarding the revision of the Bath WHS Management Plan, TC said he aimed to put a project proposal together and bring it to the Board later this year.	
<b>7</b>	<b>World Heritage Enhancement Fund Update</b>	
7.1	AE delivered an update on Fund activities, beginning by thanking the Council and Bath Preservation Trust for their financial support. Although both parties had been unable to contribute in 2020, budgets will be restored for 2021.	
7.2	Despite the lockdown, project work has continued. Tree planting has been carried out at Granville Road in order to soften the impact of new houses on the skyline. Planting has taken place in co-operation with the farmer (as landowner) and, following discussions, with the residents of the new homes.	
7.3	59 historic street names have now been restored or conserved. These include Green Park West, which is important historically as Green Park East was destroyed in the Bath blitz. Paint samples taken from the house sign at number 40 Green Park West have proven to be Georgian.	
7.4	Covid-19 restrictions have meant that printed leaflets of the WH City Trail and the Nelson Trail could not be distributed. As a result, both trails have been made available as electronic downloads.	
7.5	The Canal and River Trust have completed works at Bathwick Hill, where the canal passes under the road. The Fund paid for a new bespoke iron handrail, to increase accessibility for those walking down the steep slope on historic stone setts. It is also a marked visual enhancement.	
7.6	At Cavendish Road, the Fund paid for a 'blanket' listed building consent allowing householders to restore ornamental metal overthrows without the need for each house to apply for consent individually. This 'turn-key' approach paves the way for residents to restore overthrows at their own expense, which is approximately £7k per overthrow.	
7.7	In Sydney Buildings the Fund helped residents to restore historic street lighting. Early examples of lamp standards for oil lamps, gas lamps and electric lights can now all be seen in the street. Work on the raised pavement area continues.	
7.8	The Lottery funded restorations at Sydney Gardens are well underway and the Fund has contributed £5k toward the restoration of the Edwardian cast-iron public toilets. Panels have been taken to Frome for specialist conservation.	
7.9	Ralph Allen's Townhouse, off York Street and Terrace Walk, has been vacant for 2 years and the Council is exploring future uses. To inform this a conservation statement and paint analysis has been paid for by the Fund.	
7.10	Stone repairs have been carried out to the base of the obelisk in the centre of Queen's Square. The Fund worked with the Council's Parks Department on this project which was swiftly undertaken.	
7.11	In concluding, AE said it had been good to keep working and busy throughout the lockdown(s) and that suggestions for new projects were always welcomed.	
Mid-meeting break		
<b>8</b>	<b>Updates from Board Members</b>	
8.1	<b>Nick Tobin</b> , Federation of Bath Resident's Associations (FoBRA). The recent Clean Air Zone introduction is being watched to see if it results in vehicle rat-running. The forthcoming temporary closure of Cleveland Bridge for repair will also inevitably have traffic implications for residents, but the traffic management plan to support this was welcomed. Similarly, it was too early to tell of any traffic impact from the Liveable Neighbourhoods schemes proposed. NT highlighted a current consultation regarding a trial scheme for buses/cycles only at North Road. Regarding city centre security measures, Abbey Residents	

	<p>were concerned about restricted access as well as visual impact. There were several recent planning cases of note, including renewal of permissions at the former King Edward's School, Broad Street, and the Hartwell's Garage Site application which had been granted on appeal. The Local Plan partial update had been commented upon and the High Common/Entry Hill Golf Course proposals had attracted considerable interest. Finally, Barry and/or Tony may be invited to speak at a forthcoming FoBRA meeting.</p>	
8.2	<p><b>Polly Andrews</b> Bath Abbey. The underfloor heating is now installed and has attracted significant (positive) press interest. The Kingston Buildings offices are now close to completion, with staff waiting to move back in when the whole site is signed off. The Discovery Centre was intended to open in Summer but will be a little delayed, however PA is confident that the Learning Room will be open from September and the Song School should be open in Summer with events launched from October. Christmas Carol events are being prepared for 2021. Within the Abbey, staging is being prepared and a temporary art installation featuring an inflatable moon will also be housed at the end of the year. Easter Services (partially on-line) will proceed, although physical numbers were not yet certain. The Monuments and Slavery exhibition will run from 24 May to 4 September.</p>	
8.3	<p><b>Polly Crocket</b> Bath Spa University. Students who need to be on campus (such as performing arts) are gradually returning. Many heritage students are currently out on placement and PC invited any further suggestions from organisations who could accommodate future placements. Slavery and climate change were current popular themes amongst many organisations and possible subjects for placement projects. Astrid Swenson elaborated on Tim Cottrill's placement, which was now well progressed. His written work was currently being reviewed with consideration being given as to how to use the energy of the moment and progress this further, aiding other organisations keen to do similar work. AS added a link in the chat box to Bath's Uncomfortable Past on-line seminar, to be staged on Thursday 25 March <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-with-baths-uncomfortable-past-through-walking-and-creativity-tickets-144784663827">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-with-baths-uncomfortable-past-through-walking-and-creativity-tickets-144784663827</a></p>	
8.4	<p><b>Tom Boden</b> National Trust (NT). Bathampton Meadows have now been transferred to the NT. The restoration of the dams at Prior Park Gardens has been delayed by Covid-19 plus high winter rainfall levels, but work is now progressing. Work continues on plans to transfer the Assembly Rooms back to the NT in 2023, with a conservation statement (by Donald Insall Associates) under preparation to inform future changes. In the chat box TB added a link to the NT's new campaign #blossomwatch <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/blossom-watch">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/blossom-watch</a></p>	
8.5	<p><b>David Goode</b> Bath Natural History Society (NATS). There has been a welcome surge in public appreciation of the natural world during lockdown which we should seek to build upon. Bath NATS are currently developing their website. Fields at Widcombe have recently been leased from the Council to be managed for nature conservation with open public access and it is hoped this will lead to other such projects.</p>	
8.6	<p><b>Andrew Grant</b> Bathscape Project. Lockdown has proved difficult in relation to public engagement activities and consequently the NLHF have provisionally agreed to grant a one-year project extension extending until October 2024. However, volunteer and student projects were continuing, including podcasts with walking routes. Work on the Bathscape Circular walk should start this year, with staff and volunteers appointed including a trainee under the Govt. Kick-Start programme. Paul Walshe, who produces the ICOMOS UK journal, invited AG to produce an article on the Bath landscape, which AG was happy to circulate to Board members. ACTION AG to send TC article for circulation with</p>	<p><b>AG, TC</b></p>

	these Minutes.	
8.7	<p><b>Sarah Simmonds</b> ICOMOS UK. Icomos is updating its newsletters and bulletins and it would be great to see more Bath content. SS has been contributing to a UNESCO study on serial WHS nominations, of which the Great Spas of Europe is an example, and had talked to TC, PS and Chris Pound regarding their experiences in developing that bid. UNESCO may encourage more such international collaborations. Rebecca Jones of Historic Environment Scotland is pulling together the UK responses on this matter and SS is meeting with her soon. ICOMOS UK is also working on a new strategy which will include developing a new database containing contact details of international experts. SS posted the following links in the Chat Box:</p> <p>Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors” — the new policy document produced by the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group</p> <p><a href="https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals/91455-icomos-releases-sustainable-development-goals-policy-guidance-for-heritage-and-development-actors">https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals/91455-icomos-releases-sustainable-development-goals-policy-guidance-for-heritage-and-development-actors</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals/87-english-categories/resources/75992-icomos-webinars-2">https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals/87-english-categories/resources/75992-icomos-webinars-2</a></p>	
8.8	<p><b>Henry Lowe</b>, Bath &amp; Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS). There has been an increase in interest and membership, but social distancing requirements have resulted in almost all geo-physical archaeological works being paused. These include works in association with the Bathscape project and at Keynsham and Lansdown. Lectures have been paused too, although a link with Bristol Museum and Bristol &amp; Avon Archaeological Society is now progressing. The Society’s excursion programme re-starts in July. HL said he would be very interested to see the report on Ralph Allen’s Townhouse referred to in 7.9 and AE said she would be glad to share this once completed.</p>	<b>AE</b>
8.9	<p><b>Stephen Bird</b>, B&amp;NES Heritage Services. The Roman Baths, Assembly Rooms, Victoria Art Gallery and Bath Records Office are all currently closed. Re-opening dates are currently expected to be 17 May for the Roman Baths, 18 May for the Victoria Art Gallery and 4 May for the Records Office.. Roman Baths tickets for the 17<sup>th</sup> went on sale last weekend. There is frustration in the industry that libraries and other venues can open in April, but museums, where there is no record any transmission of the virus, must wait. Meanwhile, activities such as on-line learning have continued, with recent sessions reaching audiences in Backwell and as far afield as Oregon, USA. The Archway project is nearing completion and as such will shed the generic ‘Archway’ name and be known as the World Heritage Centre and Clore Learning Centre respectively. Fit-out works are about to commence. Surfaces in the below ground areas have deliberately not been over-restored, with black soot-coloured walls contributing to the atmosphere. The Learning Centre and WH Centre will have separate opening events, with the WH Centre opening in late Summer and the Clore Learning Centre opening before the Autumn term.</p>	
8.10	<p><b>Kathryn Davis</b> Visit Bath. Despite the downturn in visitor numbers, work progresses in areas such as keeping members updated and web-site improvement. The website now has a <i>Bridgerton</i> section as this Netflix programme largely set in Bath is causing much interest</p> <p><a href="https://visitbath.co.uk/inspire-me/bridgerton-in-bath/15:48:09">https://visitbath.co.uk/inspire-me/bridgerton-in-bath/15:48:09</a> . KD represented Bath at the Explore GB event, attending 124 meetings over 4 days. The CV-19 situation continues to change, with for example the US tourist market looking to open up again quicker than expected. Govt department DDCMS is to undertake a review of Destination Management Organisations, which KD welcomed. Reports from the Global Travel Taskforce and National Tourism Recovery Strategy are expected in Mid-May. KD attended the virtual ITB event, but the initial attempt at staging this huge conference on-line was not as slick</p>	

	as intended. Work continues on creating the new regional tourism organisation, include a promotional film. Visit Bath have been successful in a Visit England bid, with news of that currently delayed by the pre-election purdah restrictions. BG hoped that World Heritage would feature in the new film and KD replied she hoped so too and noted that the Roman Baths had previously featured prominently in US marketing material.	
8.11	<b>Robert Law</b> Association of Local Councils (Avon). Proposals for new housing and the Local Plan consultation are currently the main issues of interest to parishes surrounding Bath. This includes impact on the Green Belt and boundaries and setting of the WH Site. RL questioned whether the opportunity of greater housing density in the city was being looked at, as a European model of greater urban density may relieve pressure on the Green Belt beyond.	
8.12	<b>Paul Simons</b> Great Spas of Europe and Cleveland Pools. Following postponement of the 2020 UNESCO Committee, the Great Spas have asked for the opportunity to submit an update report as much time has passed since the nomination submission in January 2019. Work progressed since then includes investigation into a new legal entity to underpin the project which will work across the 7 countries. KPMG's Austrian office have delivered a report on this topic, with one potential option now longer viable since Brexit. German and Czech partners are now current front-runners to host a secretariat. Regarding Cleveland Pools, contractors started on site yesterday on the £16.2m construction project. Ecological reports have confirmed the absence of otters, newts or other environmental factors which might have caused delay. Extra funding from the Kickstart Fund, National Lottery and Historic England Emergency Funds have been essential and were all contingent on contracts being in place by the end of March 2021. B&NES Council, as landowners, continue to be very supportive. Some concerns about the up-stream builder's compound for the barge transport have been raised by new residents of Hicks Field, near Avon Rugby Club, which was an unforeseen complication. Finally, £550k has been raised to build a heat source pump in the River Avon, potentially saving 140 tonnes of Carbon every year. Opening of the pools is planned for late Summer 2022.	
8.13	<b>Rohan Torkildsen</b> Historic England (HE). Business as usual continues, with Stonehenge taking up much time. HE is involved in the administration of the £4.8m Levelling-Up Fund, which has possible interest for B&NES. Statutory functions such as strategic involvement in planning continues, with recent involvement in Bath Quays North and the Local Plan revision, with this latter item not deemed to be too contentious.	
8.14	<b>Caroline Kay</b> Bath Preservation Trust (BPT). As with Heritage Services, BPT's museums cannot re-open until 17 May. Emergency grants from the National Lottery and Cultural Recovery Fund have been received, funding not only running costs but also the possibility of upgrading No.1 Royal Crescent. A second Cultural Recovery Fund bid decision is expected by 31 March. (Post meeting note: This bid was successful). CK noted that alongside these grants there was an exercise last year to reduce the cost base. On-going social distancing requirements and restrictions on numbers mean there will be no immediate return to pre-pandemic income levels, and alternative functions such as weddings and filming are being explored.	
8.15	<b>Joy Roberts</b> Mayor of Bath's Corp of Honorary Guides. The guides resumed walks again after the end of the Lockdown 2 but a month later were faced with closure again. 17 May is the target date for resumption of activities. In the meantime, on-line educational training sessions with guides have continued and they are very keen to resume the walks.	
8.16	<b>Marion Harney</b> University of Bath. Despite courses being on-line since Lockdown 1, the halls of residence have 80% occupancy. The University is currently awaiting a Govt. decision to confirm whether or not students can	

	return to campus for the last three weeks of the summer term.	
8.17	<p><b>Cllr Paul Crossley</b> Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council (B&amp;NES). Essential repairs to Cleveland Bridge are imminent which will involve road restrictions and it is known that these will cause traffic disruption. Guidance for drivers has been issued and measures to co-ordinate or postpone large events during the repair period have also been taken. National regulations concerning permissions to put tables and chairs in the public realm have been updated, although fees for this are capped at £100 and do not cover administrative costs. 48 applications have been received so far with only 5 refused. With regard to the City Centre Security Project (see 6.3 and 8.1 above) the Council is working with the Police advice on this and it should be noted that whilst terror attacks thankfully do not currently feature in the news, nationally police have circa 800 live investigations ongoing featuring some 3,000 individuals. The Council's aspiration remains that as Covid-19 recedes the goal will be to develop a more sustainable tourism model, with longer stays and less travel by 'drive-through' coaches. The Love Your High Streets scheme now includes Twerton and these measures are intended to address the mass migration of customers to online shopping, from which many customers are unlikely to revert to physical stores. A site is still being sought for the Fashion Museum, with a likely solution being a split location between storage and display of the collection. It is hoped that the collaboration with Bath Spa Uni. fashion courses will continue and an options report for a city centre museum site is currently being compiled. Changes to the golf courses attracted public interest and PC said Entry Hill was losing money and a new operator was needed. The proposed use involves a family cycle centre, not an extreme downhill course. Allotments are also included in plans and the new management regime will give a bio-diversity gain. Discussions regarding the Approach course continue. It was a shame that the Forest of the Imagination bid did not succeed but PC understands other sites for this are being sought.</p>	
8.18	BG closed the meeting and thanked all attendees and participants.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Date of next meetings: PLEASE DIARISE NOW</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 11 May            2pm - 4pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 19 October      2pm – 4pm</li> </ul>	