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City of Bath
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1987

City of Bath World Heritage Site Advisory Board



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The Great Spa Towns of Europe
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2021

Meeting held on 17 May 2022
Brunswick Room, Guildhall, Bath

Minutes

Attendees					
Prof Barry Gilbertson (Chair)	BG	Wendy Maden	WM	Robert Campbell	RC
Polly Andrews	PA	Paul Simons	PS	Nick Tobin	NT
Prof David Goode	DG	Andy Gilson	AGil	Rohan Torkildsen	RT
Tom Boden	TB	Cllr Robert Law	RL	Dr Kristin Doern	KD
Helen Daniels	HD	Chris Pound	CP	Cllr Ruth Malloy	RM
John Richards	JR	Ainslie Ensom	AE	Paul Saynor	PSa
Allison Herbert	AH	Nas Alvi	NA	Vicky Young (minutes)	
Tony Crouch	TC			TOTAL 22 attendees	
Apologies					
Kathryn Davis		Sarah Simmonds		Dr Marion Harney	
Alex Sherman		Canon Guy Bridgewater		Paula Freeland	
Cllr Dine Romero		Cllr Kevin Guy		Sophie Broadfield	
Andrew Grant		Mark Evans			

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Welcome	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	Apologies for absence	
	As recorded above.	
3	Declarations of Interest	
3.1	None.	
4	Changes in Board Membership and welcome new members	
4.1	John Richards was introduced to the meeting as Chair of BACAS (Bath & Counties Archaeological Society); he replaces Henry Lowe as a member of the Advisory Board. BG gave thanks to Henry Lowe for his contribution to the work of the Advisory Board	
4.2	Cllr Dine Romero has been replaced as Cabinet Member for Heritage by Cllr Kevin Guy who has given his apologies for this meeting but will endeavour to attend moving forward. BG thanked Dine, who remains a cabinet member and who will no doubt continue to engage in WH work in some form.	
5	Adoption of previous Minutes (30 November 2021)	
5.1	The previous minutes were accepted as a true record with no queries noted.	
5.2	It was reported that progress on the Locally Listed Heritage SPD is still in the preparatory stage and Paula Freeland was not yet able to present proposals to the Board.	
5.3	Commemorative plaque scheme. Discussions continue as to how best address the governance of a potential scheme.	
5.4	Cleveland Bridge. The support of the Advisory Board for a permanent ban on	

	HGV's (as recorded in the previous minutes) has been relayed to B&NES Transport Managers.	
6	Chairman's Update	
6.1	Chairman's update has been circulated.	
7	World Heritage Manager's update	
7.1	World Heritage Manager's update has been circulated	
7.2	We have agreed to host a General assembly of the Great Spa Towns in Bath on 1st-3rd March 2023.	
7.3	The official UNESCO inscription certificate for the Great Spas is awaited and a handing over celebration event (most likely in Autumn 2022) is being considered.	TC
7.4	DCMS have launched a call for expressions of interest for the new 10-year Tentative List of potential new UK World Heritage Site nominations. The UK will put forward one site every other year to UNESCO. The deadline for submissions is mid-July and to date 30 responses have been received. Given that only 5 sites can be nominated in the 10-year period demand is high. The City of York is thought to be amongst the applicants.	
7.5	The visit last week from Princess Esther of Ethiopia was a very positive example of the new World Heritage Centre fulfilling its function, especially with regard to the contribution of local volunteers.	
7.6	AH enquired whether the WHC was receiving Visitor Information Centre enquiries and was advised that it is too early to say but that it is being monitored. TC confirmed that we used the Bath BID FAQ's and that the Centre is not intended as a generic city museum or a visitor information centre.	
7.7	HD commented on her report on the Heritage Lottery funded WH Youth Ambassadors programme. It was launched seven years ago in Blaenavon to engage young people in heritage and subsequently rolled out on a trial basis to other sites, including Bath. The trial period is nearing an end and will be evaluated before considering further steps.	
7.8	World Heritage Day was a virtual event and showcased five diverse sites. 130 people attended by Zoom including many for overseas. UNESCO Ukraine for example 'liked' the event on social media. Talks are still available to enjoy and share here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbGhNPYSI5c	
7.9	BG thanked HD for her fantastic contribution to this socially valuable programme and the meeting echoed his words with a warm round of applause. HD generously honoured the contribution members of the Learning & Participation Team had made and BG confirmed he would write to them if HD provided the name of an appropriate colleague for this purpose	HD
8	World Heritage Enhancement Fund update	
8.1	AE talked through her report (circulated with these minutes) which outlined work at Catharine Place, Cavendish Crescent, Swainswick Church and Hedgemoad Park amongst other places. 63 historic street signs have now been restored.	
8.2	BG thanked AE for her knowledge and persistence in keeping these projects being progressed and the meeting echoed his words with a warm applause.	
8.3	BG is at the final proof stage for a report on the Watchman's Box and will circulate to all soon – he would welcome feedback when this has been done. Other topics for research are also welcomed	BG
9	Presentation on proposals for the Milsom Quarter – Wendy Maden, Senior Urban Designer, B&NES Council	
9.1	This presentation can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FtYZGyiBTM	
9.2	Street furniture and seating at Milsom Street and Kingsmead Square: a preference was expressed for benches to have arm rests at both ends and this	

	change might be made to the existing benches. (Compare with the new bench in Hedgemoad Park)	
9.3	RL observed that the designs were not particularly locally distinct. The Pattern Book was discussed, a link to which can be found here: https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/major-projects/public-realm-and-movement/preparatory-projects	
9.4	Street furniture should be situated with a purpose in mind eg taking advantage of a patch of afternoon sunshine and there are also safety considerations ie the 's' shaped benches are felt to give a greater sense of personal security as you can sit back to back with 'strangers'.	
9.5	AE observed that the Milsom Street benches with stone plinths and wooden slats are being removed (the slats are not in a good state of repair) – they have no back rests and have accessibility issues.	
9.6	Delivery of the Milsom Quarter proposals will be phased over the next 20 years. The proposals and consultation opportunities can be seen here: www.bathnes.gov.uk/milsomquarter	
9.7	History of the Milsom Quarter – it was questioned why each property was marked on the street elevation montages. Wendy explained that it was necessary to ascertain whether each property had separate access to higher floors, thus indicating whether upper levels could be used as accommodation separate to the ground floor retail units.	
9.8	Resident's associations have been involved and it was observed that converting upper floors into new residential spaces was a positive suggestion. There was a call to retain open spaces and resist the temptation to over-fill with new builds.	
9.9	Master Plan – the owners of King Edward's School have the necessary permissions to redevelop it (as an hotel) and it is hoped they will do so. Wendy Maden will speak to CP offline about this	WM /CP
9.10	Hilton Hotel – there are no known plans to re-fenestrate the hotel but WM will check	WM
9.11	First part of consultation – RL is in favour of what the Council is trying to do and, whilst this is a work in progress, he wonders if things are moving in the right direction	
9.12	RT commended Wendy and team on this approach. He said that his work takes him to many areas and that this comprehensive work stands out and should be applauded.	
9.13	DG noted that this kind of development needs to incorporate solutions to the gull issue. It should not be an after-thought.	
9.14	WM was thanked warmly by BG for her presentation	
10	Great Spas Towns of Europe	
10.1	PS advised that following inscription in 2021 the Great Spas was changing its governance structure. The Mayors Steering Group of the 11 spa towns would now become a General Assembly (meeting twice a year) supported by an Executive Board. Elections for the Board have recently been held and four Mayors (from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany and Belgium) were selected, assisted by the Secretary General. A not-for-profit European Association was being formed, which B&NES will be asked to formally sign up to, most likely through a forthcoming Cabinet decision.	
10.2	PS will retire from his Secretary General post in Summer 2023 and recruitment for a new appointee will commence. The post-holder will be supported by an admin. officer based in Baden Baden, Germany.	
10.3	It was noted that we are the only one of the Great Spa Towns that does not have a Visitor Information Centre	
11	WHS Management Plan renewal	

11.1	Work is underway to review the existing 2016 plan and incorporate both plans into one – it will include issues and objectives that Bath faces over the next 6 years.	
11.2	A stakeholder event has been held in the past in order to gather draft issues and it is hoped that another can be organised for Autumn 2022. Admin support will be required for this.	
11.3	It was suggested that in order to gain the steer and input of the Board, key items such as a renewed vision and executive summary should be considered at a dedicated Board meeting in July 2022. This would serve as preparation for the Autumn event.	
12	Key updates	
12.1	PA – Reported on the work of the Bath and Colonialism Group, which is includes partners Bath Records Office, Bath Abbey and Bath Preservation Trust. A new website is currently being tested and draft guidance produced concerning vocabulary advice for museums (see attached paper ‘Finding the Words’). PA is happy to present the project to the October Board meeting.	
12.2	PS – Cleveland Pools will have soft opening in August, with cold water– additional funding is required to meet new challenges imposed by changing flood risk requirements introduced by the Environment Agency. Two prestigious national awards for volunteering have been won.	
12.3	AG – The Mayors Guides summer walks programme is free of charge with a portfolio of 80 walks on 17 topics underway. At present 86% of bookings have a Bath postcode.	
12.4	RC- The new York Street World Heritage Centre opened on 9 May. The Fashion Museum will be closing soon with a temporary location being sought.	
12.5	AH made a request to shift the narrative so that city centre businesses see our WHS status as an opportunity for them as a commercial interest rather than a planning constraint. She seeks to engage with the tourism group so that she can share her thoughts on how they can choose words that describe the WHS when they are promoting or describing their business. Shop activity should be linked with a Chamber of Commerce ethos. BG suggests that there may be merit in running a seminar on Bath’s heritage for BID’s businesses.	AH
12.6	AH is planning a wellbeing festival for early in 2023 that could provide mental health training for business leaders and celebrate Bath’s history as a place of wellbeing and healing – may run from end Jan to beginning of Mar.	AH
13	Any other business	
	BG closed the meeting and thanked all attendees and participants.	
	Date of 2022 meetings: PLEASE DIARISE NOW	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 19 July 2pm-4pm (Management Plan). • Tuesday 25 October 2pm-4pm 	
	Papers attached with these minutes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Enhancement Fund update • Chairman’s Report • World Heritage Manager’s Report • Finding the Words booklet 	