



## City of Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group

Meeting held on 21 March 2013 in the Drawing Room, Roman Baths, Bath

### Meeting Notes

| Attendees              |    |                     |    |                    |    |
|------------------------|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Peter Metcalfe (Chair) | PM | Cllr. Cherry Beath  | CB | Cllr. Gerry Curran | GC |
| Dr Kristin Doern       | KD | Wendy Stott         | WS | Nigel Websper      | NW |
| Cllr Malcolm McDowall  | MM | Isla MacNeal        | IM | Dr Marion Harney   | MH |
| Rhodri Samuel          | RS | Tony Crouch         | TC |                    |    |
| Apologies              |    |                     |    |                    |    |
| Christopher Young      |    | Ian Bell            |    | David Trigwell     |    |
| Dr David Thackray      |    | Stephen Bird        |    | Caroline Kay       |    |
| Mike Butler            |    | Cllr. Bryan Chalker |    | Nick Brooks-Sykes  |    |
| Robin Kerr             |    |                     |    |                    |    |

| No       | Agenda Item   | ACTION         |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>Previous Meeting Notes</b>   |                |
| 1.1      | Minutes of 23 October 2012 accepted as an accurate record. The Chair advised that matters arising from previous minutes would be added as a standard agenda item in future.   | <b>TC</b>      |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Steering Group member introductions</b>  |                |
| 2.1      | PM formally introduced himself to all present, and expressed his gratitude for being given the responsibility of the position and his enthusiasm for the task ahead.  |                |
| 2.2      | Given that this was the first meeting for the incoming Chair, all members present gave a brief verbal introduction and commented on how their organisations contributed to the WH agenda.   |                |
| 2.3      | In her introduction, IM announced this was likely to be her final attendance following an English Heritage restructure. Caroline Power and Simon Ramsden were named as likely future attendees, to be confirmed. The Chair's thanked Isla for her contribution and gave best wishes for her new role, endorsed by all.  | <b>IM (EH)</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Opening Address by the new Chair, Peter Metcalfe</b>   |                |
| 3.1      | PM gave thanks to his predecessor, David Beeton (DB) and commended him for his significant achievements whilst in post including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful re-establishment of the Steering Group with broad membership</li> <li>• Foundation of the WH Enhancement Fund</li> <li>• Delivery of over 40 Enhancement projects, drawing in funding from other sources</li> <li>• Encouragement of volunteers to actively engage</li> <li>• Initiation of major projects such as Beechen Cliff</li> </ul> |                |

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|          | PM reported CB had instigated a 6 month transition period with regard to the WH Enhancement Fund, asking DB to remain as Chair of the Fund until the end of July. DB had kindly agreed. PM had also discussed the on-going negotiations with the National Trust regarding Beechen Cliff and reported that DB had agreed to continue to lead these on behalf of the SG until completion.   |               |
| 3.2      | PM outlined his involvement in Bath heritage matters, including 15 years as a Councillor, as English Heritage Historic Environment Champion, Chair of Development Control Committee and as Mayor. He saw Bath as a living city, where partnerships were essential if local people, visitors, business and particularly young people were to gain ownership of the City's unique international status.   |               |
| 3.3      | PM advocated the use of UNESCO's five C's to guide SG recommendations: Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication & Communities. He also felt the term 'Historic Environment' implied a more holistic view of Bath than heritage as it recognised the built and natural environmental synergy of the site while giving a voice to the people who led and created the city.   |               |
| 3.4      | PM stated that he saw further priorities for the 2016-22 WHS Management Plan as being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community &amp; public engagement</li> <li>• Outreach to schools, involvement &amp; curriculum</li> <li>• Sustainable tourism, business opportunities, branding, official Bath app, website, social media, etc.</li> </ul>  |               |
| 3.5      | Kristin Doern offered possible student assistance for establishing a WH 'Twitter' account.  | <b>KD, TC</b> |
| 3.6      | PM proposed an audit of current and planned site improvements, to include both private and public sector initiatives.   | <b>PM, TC</b> |
| 3.7      | PM stated that he would like to meet Steering Group members individually before the Summer. There was broad agreement to this.  |               |
| 3.8      | PM proposed a Steering Group review meeting, to look at the workings of the group and priorities for the coming period. TC to explore dates late June/early July.   | <b>TC</b>     |
| <b>4</b> | <b>World Heritage Enhancement Fund</b>  |               |
| 4.1      | TC updated the meeting on recent Fund projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2013 newsletter is being produced, for May distribution</li> <li>• Information boards are in place at the Wansdyke</li> <li>• The rolling programme of incised street names continues, &amp; is making a significant impact. Further suggestions of sites or funding welcomed</li> <li>• Rebecca Fountain is finished. Credit to City of Bath College &amp; Council Major Projects for an excellent job.</li> <li>• George St. railings repaired by the Fund &amp; painted by Community Payback Team. Members urged to inspect the quality of the job.</li> <li>• Bath 'App'. Discussions continue, costs more apparent &amp; wording limit being reviewed. No completion date yet known.</li> <li>• Bath St. lanterns. Replacement partially undertaken.</li> <li>• N.Parade Bridge lights removed for repair &amp; fabrication of new stanchion.</li> <li>• Touch screen WH information point installed in the Roman Baths.</li> </ul> | <b>All</b>    |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Updates:</b>   |               |
| 5.1      | Beechen Cliff: WS updated the meeting. Leading NT delegates had visited the site, and feedback was favourable. The Regional Advisory Board have given their backing to the proposal, but this still needs to be approved regionally by the Projects and Acquisitions Group and nationally by the Central Projects and Acquisitions Team. The timetable for  |               |

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|          | completion of all these approvals is expected to be by May 2013.  |    |
| 5.2      | UNESCO Periodic Review and Attributes: TC thanked members for input into the review and attributes work. The review had been less onerous than expected, predominantly because the electronic format allowed little text to be inserted. NW raised the issue that potential Bath Rugby Club plans should be flagged up with UNESCO, as should rail electrification. Because of word restrictions, the full version of the attributes could not be included with the review which meant submission need not be imminent. This time would be used to refine the attributes in a more concise and meaningful manner. | TC |
| 5.3      | Great Spas of Europe project: The project is reaching a critical phase. The govt. of the Czech Republic has asked other governments involved whether they officially wish to be included in a trans-national bid. We have asked DCMS to allow us to stay involved in the project, but procedural difficulties associated with the tentative list may cause them concern. We have the support of our MP and MEP, and will need to call on them to lobby on our behalf.   |    |
| 5.4      | 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner: TC thanked all involved for their support in staging this event in December 2012. Despite being unable to secure the attendance of the govt. cabinet minister, Don Foster MP stepped in to host and those present were reminded of what a special place this is and the importance of cherishing it.   |    |
| 5.5      | As advised at October 2012 steering group, the Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) have a new secretariat (Regensburg, S.Germany). Regensburg have produced a refreshed website <a href="http://www.ovpm.org/en/regional_secretariats/northwest_europe">http://www.ovpm.org/en/regional_secretariats/northwest_europe</a> and an exhibition, which was in Bath Central Library week beginning 18 March 2013. Bath is a long standing member of the OWHC, and the fees are paid jointly by the Council and the Charter Trustees.  |    |
| 5.6      | World Heritage Day 2013: Will be celebrated on Sunday 21 April, at Royal Victoria Park, by Royal Crescent, 11am to 3pm. Pulteney's 13 <sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot will stage military demonstrations, the Mayor's Honorary Guides will lead walks, Bath City Jubilee Waits will provide music, No.1 and 1a R.Crescent will be open & will stage activities & the Circus Georgian Garden will also be open.   |    |
| 5.7      | Kristin Doern briefed the meeting on a joint Bath Spa Uni/Bath Preservation Trust educational project with St.Andrew's School. This focussed on children being set tasks around WH Day.   |    |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Proposed Review Meeting</b>  |    |
| 6.1      | As stated in 3.8 above, a review meeting was proposed.  |    |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Any Other Business</b>   |    |
| 7.1      | MM repeated previous suggestions that WH interpretation boards be located at park and ride sites. TC to investigate.  | TC |
| 7.2      | MH announced that Bath Uni. are working with the Garden History Society on a 2016 conference in Bath to celebrate an anniversary of Capability Brown.   |    |
| 7.3      | KD reported that Bath Spa Uni, Bath preservation Trust & Bath at Work Museum were working with Weston, Bath, to produce an A-Z pictorial parish history. This could be repeated elsewhere.  |    |
| 7.4      | PM reported that the Ralph Allen Footsteps leaflet was about to go to print. This was a product of 5 small Bath museums working together.   |    |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Dates of next meetings:</b><br>Review Meeting: <b>18 June 2013.</b><br>Regular Steering Group Meeting: <b>Tuesday 22 October 2013. 2pm</b>   |    |