

 <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 Steering Group</h2>
<p>Meeting held on 24 March 2015 at the BRLSI, Queen Square, Bath</p>		

Minutes

Attendees					
Peter Metcalfe (Chair)	PM	Cllr Ben Stevens	BS	Andrew Cooper	AC
Dr Anne Bull	AB	Rohan Torkildsen	RT	Dr Kristin Doern	KD
Caroline Kay	CK	Nick Tobin	NT	Cllr Gerry Curran	GC
John Wilkinson	JW	Dr David Thackray	DT	Victor da Cunha	VDC
Dr Marion Harney	MH	Tom Boden	TB	David James	DJ
Tony Crouch	TC				
Apologies					
Cllr. Bryan Chalker		Cllr Malcolm McDowall		Stephen Bird	
Henry Owen-John		Lisa Bartlett		Ian Bell	

No	Agenda Item	Act.
1	Welcome for new members	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed new members and invited them to introduce themselves.	
1.2	Tom Boden is the National Trust's General Manager for Bath. The NT own around 500 acres of the skyline, plus Prior Park Gardens and the Assembly Rooms. Tom is very familiar with Bath's heritage having previously worked for the Bath Preservation Trust.	
1.3	David James is the incoming Chief Executive of Bath Tourism Plus. He joins BTP from the Peak District, where he gained a good understanding of World Heritage issues from working with the Derwent Valley Mills WHS.	
2	Previous Minutes	
2.1	Minutes of the October 2014 meeting were accepted as an accurate record and will be posted to the (new) website www.bathworldheritage.org.uk	TC
3	Matters arising	
3.1	AC confirmed that the revised Bath App (includes a heritage trail developed by Bath Tourism Plus and (WH Enhancement Fund) is with Apple for testing pre-launch.	
3.2	AB asked if there were further developments on the Child friendly City initiative. This is apparently still being discussed, with a forthcoming meeting on 27 April.	
4	WH Enhancement Fund	
4.1	The Chairman gave an update on some Fund projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k had been granted to Christ Church for bell restoration. The community raised £137k. • The long stretch of railings at Kensington Place, London Road, have been repainted by the Community Payback Team. • £3k has been granted to the Friends of Smallcombe Cemetery. This was used as match funding as part of a successful grant from the 	

	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k allocated to Cleveland Pools. The funding will be used for stripping-out works (caretaker's cottage) which is unglamorous work and less attractive to public donations. • Funding granted to a project to re-plant trees/restore estate fencing at Kelston Tump, which is a significant landmark within the WHS setting. • £900 had been used to pay for the content material of the history trail on the Bath App (see 3.1) 	
4.2	PM thanked the Council and Bath Preservation Trust for their on-going financial support of the Fund. A 5 year review was proposed for later this year.	
5	WHS Management Plan review project	
5.1	TC updated the meeting with regard to the timetable for the replacement plan. The project is on track and the sub-group has met to review proposals for the vision, description of the management system, actions and priorities. The next milestone is the Management Plan Workshop on 21 April. Beyond this, writing of the first draft commences.	
5.2	TC suggested that Steering Group approval was required before the draft replacement plan was made public. To this end, a further steering group meeting was proposed for Tuesday 7 July 2015 at 2pm.	All to note date.
5.3	<p>Following discussion at the last steering group, a proposal for a revised (strengthened) vision was discussed. Comments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the wording 'an exemplar of sustainable urban management' the wording urban was superfluous and could be dropped. • It was questioned whether interpretation came across strongly enough and that this could be strengthened. • JW noted that the public services board had adopted a vision statement for Bath, and it would be helpful to reflect this and provide some consistency. • There was discussion around planning decisions. GC commented that with a new Council administration and development control committee, it would be a good time to repeat training. • RT commented that the management plan was free of the limitation imposed on statutory planning documents and could say things that they could not. It should be complementary but take advantage of this freedom. • DT questioned who was speaking in the vision. It reads that 'The City of Bath will...' and thereafter 'it will strive...'. Who was the 'City of Bath' and who was 'it'? 	
5.4	<p>The draft priorities for the new plan were discussed. Comments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental resilience should include flood prevention. • GC saw housing as a potential issue. • VDC suggested that these should be checked to ensure that there is correlation between the vision to the priorities. Also that the vision had stated we will be a centre of excellence. What does excellence look like and what do we mean by this? • CK commented on the importance of consistency with the Place-Making Plan. • TB raised the issue of way finding. • DT noted the physical emphasis. Are there other aspects to consider? • VDC suggested that consultation sets parameters so that a blank sheet is not presented and we do not stray into non-heritage issues. 	
6	Education	
6.1	AB said she was pleased to hear of progress with the Archway Centre at the Roman Baths and the potential improvement for school groups. Toilet provision for school groups currently seen as problematic.	
6.2	The history/heritage curriculum has been noted and admired from further	

	<p>afield. There was no funding currently identified to make this a web-based resource at the moment, and some concern that if it was it could be freely copied. There are unanswered questions over who owns this as a resource and a closed network distribution would be desirable.</p>	
6.3	<p>AC asked if there was a practical guide to Bath for visiting school groups, to which the answer was no. AB said that the curriculum did direct schools to different providers for different subjects. It did however need ownership of the 'product' and it was suggested that this be discussed with the council's Heritage Services. PM offered to progress talks on this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB commented on the need to sign-post education providers to the right places. • KD said that as an example, the Museum of East Asian Art had mapped out their offer and that the information was there but it needs bringing forward to be accessible. 	PM
6	Research Group	
6.1	<p>MH reported that the University of Bath had agreed in principle to host a post of research assistant to pursue the project of as general index of the available research on Bath. MH was to draw up a paper on the next steps, which she would endeavour to do over Easter.</p>	MH
7	General Update Items	
7.1	<p>Heritage Forum. KD reported on this event which was held on the 6th March. There were 70+ delegates and some distinguished speakers. Feedback has been very good and the mix of London and local speakers had worked well. PM congratulated KD and said he thought that it would be useful if the National Trust speaker could deliver that talk to the steering group.</p>	
7.2	<p>World Heritage Day 2015. The event is to be held on Sunday 19 April in partnership with the National Trust at Prior Park landscape gardens. Entry is free for Discovery Card holders/NT members. The theme will be 'landscape' - activities to include landscape drawing, photography, bug-hunting, dressing-up as Georgians and learning country dances. Garden tours will be led by the Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guides, and experts will be on hand to help visitors discover more about natural history, garden features, archaeology and Bath stone. Traditional music to be played by Bath City Jubilee Waits, with further entertainment provided by Natural Theatre Company actors portraying Ralph Allen, Mrs Allen, architect John Wood and Capability Brown. Local organisations and Heritage Lottery Fund projects will have stalls.</p>	
7.3	<p>Web site. A new Bath World Heritage website has been launched at www.bathworldheritage.org.uk. It is one of a new suite of web-sites produced by Heritage Services, and is outside of the Council's main site. It has a much clearer, cleaner modern look. There is still some refinement work to be carried out. This fulfils Action 15c of the management plan.</p>	
7.4	<p>Great Spas of Europe. The Mayor's Steering Group of the Great Spas met in Bath on the 4 & 5th of March. All but one of the 16 candidate spa towns was represented. All candidates are now on the tentative lists of their respective countries and the initial 'application form' has been submitted to and acknowledged by UNESCO. Work is now underway on 30 page summaries for each site to feed into a nomination dossier, and each site will need a management plan. How we approach this and how we consult/publicise is to be explored. In other sites without WH status this project is now becoming highly visible, whereas for us it is still progressing in a fairly background manner. In summary though, we now have our foot firmly in the door of UNESCO with regard to a nomination. We will ensure that any new proposals add to what we have already and do not in any way compromise our existing nomination. We will need confirmation of the new Council administration that they are prepared to see this project home toward a nomination in early 2017.</p>	
7.5	<p>Cafes of Europe. On the 5th March a 'Cafes of Europe' event was staged. Bath is a founder member of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association</p>	

	<p>(EHTTA). (The 'Great Spas' project grew out of our EHTTA membership, so it is useful to view EHTTA as a wide network of European spas, open to all, and the Great Spas as the elite group). In 2011 EHTTA made a successful funding bid to the Council of Europe for a series of debates to be held in 8 spa towns across Europe. These focus on various elements of spa culture and have some consistent elements running through them such as an inter-active novel and live web casting. Bath is the eighth and final café event. We claim 50% of costs (11k Euro) back from the project funding. We partnered with Bath Festivals to stage this event as part of the Literature Festival programme, and it was open to both the public and an invited audience. Some of the delegates from the Mayor's Steering Group stayed for the Café event, hence running the two together plus the EHTTA General Assembly on the Friday.</p>	
7.6	<p>Sydney Gardens. The HLF bid last year was withdrawn following disquiet from some parties (predominantly the 'Friends of Sydney Gardens') about proposed physical changes and new management proposals. Given that there was funding in the 2014/15 year to support the HLF Bid, a limited package of 'quick-win' improvement works will take place now. The budget is around £250k. The schedule for this is being finalised and will be made public at the end of this month. The Friends and Holburne have been involved in this through a steering group. The quick wins are mostly enhanced management works, but there may be more substantial works including some listed building repair, requiring fuller consultation.</p>	
7.7	<p>Bathscapes. CK reported that the date for re-submission had been revised and would now be 2016. It was considered better to spend time working on a fully prepared bid than to rush re-submission. Some of the HLF feedback referred to the need for greater consultation and this was an element which took time. CK was of the opinion that a revised bid would be more focussed and a better product.</p>	
7.8	<p>World Heritage UK. Bath City Council was a founder member of the Local Authority World Heritage Forum (LAWHF), which started life (1996) as a special interest group of the Local Govt. Association. Peter Metcalfe was LAWHF Chairman 2005 - 2007. This was an effective organisation, enabling local authorities to understand their responsibilities with regard to WH and raising the profile of WH Sites generally. It lobbied at the highest level, including making a significant contribution to the All Party Parliamentary Group on WH. A weakness with LAWHF was that it was focussed toward English local authorities, and many WHS are run by other stewards such as the National Trust, Historic Scotland or in the case of Blenheim Palace a private owner. To provide an effective organisation seeking to speak for all sites, LAWHF has therefore morphed into the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation of WH:UK. This mirrors similar site led national bodies in France and the Netherlands. WH:UK await registration by the Charity Commission imminently. They propose to run a national conference on October 14/15 in tourism. The subject will be WH tourism.</p>	
8	Any Other Business	
8.1	<p>GC asked about Bath's membership of the Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). TC replied that for 3 years he had been pushing (with other members) for a financial overhaul as currently only 15% of the \$5,000 USD annual membership fee is returned from head office (Quebec) to the regional secretariat (Germany). The remainder is used to fund a biennial world conference in places such as South America and to meet central overheads. TC said that although the OWHC had listened and were looking at increasing the return to 20%, he could not state that membership of this organisation currently provided value for money. GC acknowledged this and said that the Charter Trustees (who have met half the annual fee for several years) would keep the budget in place but act on TC's advice to withhold our 2015 membership fee.</p>	

8.2	CK commented on email comments made by Malcolm McDowall concerning incremental erosion of the WHS by new development, she advocated active involvement in the preparation of the Placemaking Plan to address this. PM asked that Malcolm McDowall's observations should be circulated with these minutes.	TC
9	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 7 July 2015. 2pm. Bath venue TBA	
	Tuesday 6 October 2015. 2pm. Bath venue TBA	