

World Heritage Advisory Board

Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2023

The Chair gave an update on the Great Spas of Europe presentation of the inscription certificate to the City of Bath. Eleven European towns were represented at the ceremony held in Bath. Bath is one of only 22 doubly inscribed sites amongst the 1157 WHS around the globe.

Sophie Broadfield, BANES Director of Sustainable Communities (which covers regeneration and housing, sustainability, heritage, sustainable transport and planning), also gave a presentation about the work of her directorate and all the strategies and plans underway. She also commented on the difficulty of meaningful community engagement mentioning that only three people attended the last Bath City Forum (one of whom was the FoBRA Chair). This should be an area which FoBRA can explore on how this could be improved.

The terms of reference and the role specification for the Advisory Board are to be reviewed as the last full review was carried out in 2009. A review of the role specification was conducted in 2016. The objective is to update these to reflect any changes in the intervening period.

A series of 6 lectures were held at BRLSI on the universal values which qualified the city to be inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1987. These lectures were delivered by leading authorities on particular aspects and were well attended. These are available on YouTube

Several people raised the state of the public realm, including the Chair and the Rector of the Abbey (focusing on the visitor experience including gull damage and state of the pavements due to the night time economy). We commented saying this had been raised at a recent FoBRA meeting as an issue of concern for residents. This conversation was prompted by a question from Will Godfrey, BANES Chief Executive. I thought he was taken aback by the force of the feedback. He should have got the message that occasional deep cleans of certain streets was not a substitute for a regular cleaning regime.

Stadium for Bath

WHAB are awaiting receipt of a Heritage Impact Assessment from Bath Rugby which has to be submitted alongside of any Planning Application

World Heritage Enhancement Fund

A small budget for heritage improvements, minor repairs to 63 incised street signs, restoration of a water supply to the Walcot Chapel, restoration of the telephone box in the Royal Crescent and 4 stained glass windows in the Elim Church."