

We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary

Time and Place: 15:30-17:00, Tuesday 29 March 2022, Zoom meeting

Attending: Tim Cole, Joanna Burch-Brown, Steve Poole Estella Tincknell.

Officers: Jon Finch, other officers

Guests: officer.

Apologies: Shawn Sobers, Nigel Costley, Madge Dresser, Edson Burton.

1. Welcome and Apologies

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.
- TC noted that this will be Jon Finch's final meeting and offered thanks for his work on behalf of all of the attendees.
- TC noted that the Communications officer, who has worked with the History Commission has moved to a different team and offered thanks for his work on behalf of all the attendees. Another communications colleague will support when needed

2. Previous Minutes and Action Log

- Members reviewed previous meeting actions; it was confirmed all actions were completed ahead of today's meeting.

3. Shortlisting for Museum and Heritage Awards

- An officer confirmed Culture & Creative Industries teams have been shortlisted for two awards at the Museum and Heritage Awards; the awards will be taking place on 11th May in London.
- One is the Partnership category for the Colston: What Next display co-created with the Commission
- Representatives from the History Commission, Colston display team and the other team nominated will attend the ceremony
- Representatives from the Colston display team including the HC have been invited to give a session the following day on the development and creation of the project.
- JBB requested that copies of the report be made available at the event. This was agreed and to be arranged.

4. Museum Budget Update

- Members asked for an update on the proposed museum budget cuts.
- An officer fed back that the Council is facing budget cuts, therefore a range of proposals were suggested including a service review of staff.
- The new head of service for Culture & Creative Industries will be in post shortly to concentrate on the service review
- It was noted that a conversation will take place with external stakeholders and a review process will also start to discuss these potential savings, the History Commission will be consulted as part of this as part of an ongoing process of engagement.

- A timely reminder of the need to access grant funding generally and to make use of the talent and expertise of the academic representation to ensure sustainability
- Members suggested this could be an ongoing conversation to look at research funding opportunities as this is currently encouraged and supported in the university sector.

ACTION 1: SP to provide insight to the History Commission on any potential funding opportunities.

ACTION 2: Future potential funding opportunities to be added to the next meeting's agenda.

5. Report Update / Cabinet Paper

- An officer confirmed that the Cabinet paper on the recommendations of the History Commission report will be published next Tuesday heading for May cabinet at the beginning of the month
- The paper acknowledges and thanks the History Commission for their work and discusses what the Council will need to do next.
- It was agreed that a meeting will be organised together with the Legacy Steering Group.
- It was noted that from this paper, if passed at the meeting, there will be lots of workstreams across the council with various different teams involved A project team will be set up.
- TC asked whether there are any areas to prioritise and undertake first. It was highlighted that the work around the listing of the statue and plinth is the next step along with development of the permanent exhibition.
- A member suggested that Growth & Regeneration colleagues should also be including in the working group.

6. Street Naming

- Following the broader considerations contained within the report the question of street naming could be revisited.
- The commission will wait for the next step and welcome being asked to be involved if a request is made to review the process and alternative options for contextualising. Would be important to involve citizens and communities. Citizen juries could be an option.
- Officers will return with an update shortly
- TC concluded by stating they will wait for the next steps and then the HC can consider options more fully.

7. Report Recommendations

- An officer fed back that it was timely to pull together a meeting of the History Commission and a subset of the Legacy Steering Group to discuss who will undertake what work that relate to longer term legacy for the city.
- It was suggested that the date for this meeting will be in May to jointly map out this work.

ACTION 3: Officers to feedback to the Legacy Steering Group about the joint meeting with the History Commission in May.

8. Next Steps

- TC highlighted that we want to continue partnering with others, including M-Shed, and opened a discussion over what our ambitions are for the next 6 to 12 months. As well as history as a way of thinking about social cohesion there was a need to explore more critical histories.
- SP suggested that a place-based approach may be useful in exploring how people have found a voice and related to power.

ACTION 4: TC and SP to look at a potential approach for the next 6 to 12 months for the History Commission.

9. AOB

Bridging Histories Update

- JBB fed back that there is a lot of work going on with Bridging Histories including ambassadors who have been given small pots of money to run workshops and groups.
- It was suggested that the current structure has been very good in getting people involved.
- Another member explained that the UWE project is now underway: named Living Histories.
- Other areas in the country (London and Gloucester) are also running the Bridging History Model so it may be good to trial the ambassador's scheme in those places.
- One officer discussed a potential link with Bristol 24/7 in terms of the recipe element of Bridging Histories.

ACTION 5: JS to provide JBB with the contact for Bristol 24/7 to link up with Bridging Histories.

JPI Cultural Funding

- JD fed back that there was a new JPI call, which will need to be led by a University Institute and it was felt it would be good to be supported by the History Commission.
- JD confirmed it will be 200,000 euros but it will need to be done in partnership.
- JD asked whether this is an opportunity that can be explored further.
- A member noted that a previous bid was not accepted, but now they are in a stronger position.
- JD explained that this application would need to be written by the research institute themselves, in partnership with the Council with the first of two deadlines in May.

ACTION 6: JBB and JD to have an offline conversation to discuss working towards selecting two international partners for the JPI bid.

Barbados High Commissioner

- An officer noted that this is not very developed yet and another officer explained that Barbados is keen to work with the History Commission, but the actual ask has not been defined yet.
- It was suggested this may need to be added to the next agenda.

ACTION 7: Potential work with Barbados to be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Future Meetings in Person

- An officer confirmed that the New Room has offered space for an in-person meeting; it was agreed by all in attendance that this can be organised for a future meeting.