

Notes of the World Heritage Site Advisory Board meeting held on 25th April 2025

World Heritage Enhancement Fund

The funding source has changed and will now come from CIL money (£10,000) and matched funding by BPT. This will be less flexible than previously but will still include street name incisions. There will be no small grants for larger projects. From residual funds money has been allocated for studying Georgian paint. Re-instating railings around public areas is excluded as this work will need to come from Public Realm funding.

Review of WHS Management Plan

The combined plan (City and Spas of Europe) has taken two years to produce. This has now been out to consultation with 500 responses After amendment it will be endorsed by Cabinet at the July meeting and thereafter available in the public domain.

Great Spa towns of Europe

A project team involving 11 Spa Town has been formed and is expected to provide climate risk assessment tools and actions. A smaller group will also consider how to foster great engagement with young people The programme is full funded by the National Geographic Foundation and run by ICOMOS.

The Public Realm

A survey of Public Realms Assets is in preparation. JB and CG suggested that RAs complete these, as local knowledge is considered more valuable and accurate than the engagement of external consultants

Bath Preservation Trust has requested that BANES use pennant stone for paving in view of the high carbon footprint and the aesthetics of concrete

A Bath Councillor is pressing for a £2 per night tax to fund public realm expenditure. York has already introduced this and Edinburgh will follow shortly.

Other items discussed

Updates on the Royal Mineral Hospital site requested. The developer is still in contact with BPT and B&NES.

King Edwards School (Broad Street) The Council is demanding that essential repairs are carried out.

Assembly Rooms Building work is due to start shortly with a target date of Spring 2027.

Bath Rugby Planning Application. Progress is held up awaiting BR responses to objections by two statutory bodies.

Caroline Greenwood