

## **We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary**

**Time and Place:** 14:00-15:30, Monday 28 June 2021, Zoom meeting

**Attending:** Tim Cole, Estella Tincknell, Shawn Sobers, Nigel Costley, Edson Burton, Joanna Burch-Brown, Helen Godwin.

**Officers:** Jon Finch and other officers.

**Guests:** Posi, Kiara Corales.

**Apologies:** Madge Dresser, David Olusoga.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

### **2. Colston display feedback**

#### **a. survey feedback**

- Officer reported on the initial survey feedback to date:
  - The survey is still at an early stage and the team still need to go through 3000 words of free text.
  - To date Bristol residents are more supportive of the statue being taken down and displayed in a museum, compared to those who live outside of Bristol.
  - There is strong support for having an updated plaque on the plinth, regardless of what goes on the plinth.
  - The majority support temporary artworks on the plinth and the least amount of support is for leaving it empty.
  - The officer noted there is a need for additional support to collate the survey feedback, possibly from universities.
  - In addition to the survey there are a number of responses that have been sent directly to the culture team and History Commission inbox. The culture team will be collating the non-survey responses.
- Member feedback:
  - Members confirmed the need to prioritise Bristol voices and ensure all demographics are enabled to participate through a communications plan, including the support of community connectors and using the right materials for each demographic i.e. social media, posting hard copied of the survey, language translation, providing assistance in understanding the questions.
  - Officers confirmed the equalities questions are optional, they are standard questions, they help inform the data on demographics responding to the survey and identify areas that need targeting.

#### **b. display close date**

- This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **c. consultation presentation**

- When the survey closes officers will need to quantify the proportion of respondents who support overarching themes and go through one level of sub themes.
- The survey output will be a half page headline summary with charts, with further charts and illustrative quotes available for those who would like further information.

### 3. Colston display engagement

- Officers confirmed there will be a community roadshow on 10<sup>th</sup> July, community members will be supported to complete the survey to capture their voices. There will also be a pop-up design of the Colston display for those who are unable to visit M-shed.
- Members discussed how to engage more young people, utilising *We Are Bristol Kids*, and schools that have changed their names e.g. the previously named Colston Girls school, noting 25% of Bristol's children come from mixed heritage backgrounds.
- Officers confirmed although M-shed is not currently open to school visits, this could be built into the virtual school tours.

### 4. Jen Reid Appeal update

- Officer provided members with a brief update on the appeal:
  - The survey will form part of the appeal, sharing what has been done since the toppling of the Colston statue and how we will use the information.
  - There are two appeals against non-determination as a local authority. The hearing date is set for 8<sup>th</sup> July. This is still an informal hearing; however, the inspector can turn this into a public enquiry, we have not been notified of a change.
  - During the appeal we will summarise our case, noting any consideration regarding the Jen Reid statue would be premature before the work from the History Commission has been developed and any recommendations that come out of this.
  - The submitted appeal came from an agent on behalf of the artist Marc Quinn. There has been no real engagement from the artist directly.
- TC confirmed the History Commission will produce a summary report detailing the survey results, this will be a mixture of raw data and nuanced written comments. The summary report, including the Commission's recommendations will be delivered to the Mayor and elected officials. The History Commission can make suggestions from the data, but cannot make decisions, this will need to go through the council's due process.
- Members discussed creating a sub-group of the commission to work on the summary report.
- Officers suggested including broader recommendations, not just what will happen to the Colston statue, but how can we use the survey for further contextualisation, to tell the story beyond Bristol as well. The planning application process does not allow for broader questions, the inspector will focus in the Jen Reid statue, but it would be helpful to note we are looking at these wider questions.
- SS agreed to work with TC to develop a roadmap for processing the data and recommendations for the Mayor.

**ACTION 1:** Officer to update on Jen Reid appeal at the next meeting.

**ACTION 2:** SS to work with TC to develop a roadmap for processing the data and recommendations for the Mayor.

### 5. Bridging Histories

- JBB confirmed the text has been finalised for the 6 activities and there have already been poems and recipes submitted.
- JBB asked members to share the Bridging Histories project with their networks.
- Officers confirmed this could be shared as part of the community roadshow in July and suggested sharing with Voscur to include in their community bulletin.
- All agreed there was a need for a communications strategy and LM agreed to set up a meeting with the Communities and Neighbourhoods, Mayors office and BCC Comms officers.

**ACTION 3:** EB to discuss street history project proposal at the next meeting.

**ACTION 4:** Officer to set up a meeting with the Communities and Neighbourhoods, Mayors Office, and BCC Comms officers.

**6. Partnership Board / History Network development**

- This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**7. ASC Agency**

- This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**8. AOB**

- All agreed for NC to discuss the History Commissions contribution to the 2023 Bristol anniversary at the next meeting.