

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

**Time and Place:** 14:00-15:30, Friday 30 July 2021, Zoom meeting

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

**Officers:** Ray Barnett and officers.

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

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

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

### **2. Previous minutes and action log**

- The meeting actions from May and June were completed, paused, or discussed in today's meeting.

### **3. History Commission inbox requests**

- TC outlined the 4 main email categories that come into the History Commission inbox:
  - Volunteering offers
  - Partnership requests
  - Offers of resources or ideas
  - Individual emails e.g., requests for information
- Members discussed:
  - Members discussed the best approach to work with volunteers, providing them with clarity for expectations, boundaries, manageable tasks that fulfil their interests and provide something meaningful for volunteers.
  - JBB confirmed the Bridging Histories project is not ready to take volunteers, but this could be helpful later in the year.
  - Members agreed to direct volunteers to complete the Bridging Histories activities and ask to share the project with their communities.
  - TC agreed to start pulling together volunteer opportunities and establishing a dialogue with volunteers to establish what they are interested in helping with.
  - The culture team agreed to share their volunteer guidance documents.

**ACTION 1:** Members to think about current/upcoming volunteer opportunities.

**ACTION 2:** Officers to share the volunteer guidance documents.

### **4. Colston display & survey end date**

- Officer explained the survey results to date regarding Colston's statue with views divided by the population in Bristol, areas presented included:
  - Response Rate by Location, Ward and Deprivation
  - Responses Rates Ward vs Deprivation
  - Respondents Characteristics Age, Sex, Disability, Ethnicity, Religion
  - Questions About Colston's Statue Being Displayed at M-shed
- The gaps in low ward responses are in line with deprivation. To reduce the gaps 20,000 paper copies of the survey are being posted to target the most deprived 20% of city.
- There are one million words of free text which need to be logged and analysed.
- Officers confirmed data will need to be categorised according to criteria and asked for members to support this process.
- Members thanked officers for their work on the survey.
- TC and JBB agreed to support officers in reviewing the anonymised data.

- TC noted the anonymised data could be placed in the archives and made accessible for future researchers.

**ACTION 3:** Officers to include TC and JBB in their team meeting to explain survey results processing.

**ACTION 4:** TC and JBB to review survey data.

#### **5. October event planning: ideas for expert panellists**

- TC moved this item to November.

#### **6. Bridging Histories Update**

- JBB announced new updates to the website and new poems and essays submitted.
- There are 4 Bridging Histories workshops taking place in London. JBB asked members for support in generating submissions from Bristol.
- Officers agreed to develop the Communications plan.
- NC discussed sharing the project in their workplace and trade union branches.
- EB suggested repurposing existing events rather than making new, targeting key people already doing work e.g., 91 ways.

**ACTION 5:** Officers to share the Communications plan.

**ACTION 6:** Members to send ideas to JBB for partnerships.

#### **7. Street Projects Proposal**

- EB introduced the project creating an experience across different libraries in Bristol, working with people embedded in the city, poets, and artists.
- JBB agreed to work with EB utilising the Bridging Histories budget and suggested working with community groups e.g., the Barton Hill history group, and encouraging independent scholars and local heritage people to support workshops and facilitation.

**ACTION 7:** JBB, TC and EB discuss the Street Projects proposal offline.

#### **8. 2023 Bristol Anniversary**

- NC suggested bringing all strands of city together to promote anniversary of Bristol's founding.
- Officers noted plans being explored at M Shed for the anniversary of Bristol charter.

**ACTION 8:** Officers to organise a meeting with Bristol Ideas, JF, TC and ET.

#### **9. AOB**

- Councillor Craig to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the Legacy Steering Group.
- SS declared a potential conflict of interest as he is on the Bristol Ideas board, so will step out of conversations about the History Commission's link to the 2023 Bristol Anniversary.
- SS met with the Legacy Steering Group, they requested an update on the Colston statue display, how the commission will move forward from the public consultation and develop Bristol's memorialisation of Trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved people.

**ACTION 9:** Officers to invite Councillor Craig to a future meeting.