

We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary

Time and Place: 15:30-17:00, Wednesday 24 November 2021, Zoom meeting

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

Officers: Jon Finch, Ray Barnett and officers.

Guests: officers.

Apologies: Madge Dresser, Edson Burton, Helen Godwin, Nigel Costley.

1. Welcome and Apologies

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Previous Minutes and Action Log

- Members reviewed previous meeting actions, all were completed or addressed in the meeting.

3. Colston Statue Survey Findings

- TC asked for feedback after a brief presentation of the main findings of the survey and draft recommendations.
- TC and JBB were congratulated on their work analysing the data and developing the initial draft recommendations.
- Members suggested in addition to a full detailed report, that there would be value in producing a summary version that would be more accessible.
- TC expressed the challenge to ensure that everyone's voices are represented, while highlighting the majority of Bristol citizen's view that emerged from the data.
- A comms plan will be prepared.

4. Colston Statue Survey Report Recommendations

- Members discussed the detail of the draft recommendations

Future of the Colston statue:

- Members agreed all the recommendations should emerge from the data findings.
- The importance of future display detailing the full history in a balanced and contextual way was something that emerged in the survey and should be referenced.

Future of the Colston statue plinth:

- Discussion over findings, including an update from officers on listing status and possible next steps, including discussion regarding potential for new plaque and possible wording.
- An officer confirmed the statue, plaque and plinth are listed.

Broader implications for dealing with contested heritage and history:

- TC discussed how age demonstrates the clearest difference of opinion when it comes to sentiment about toppling of the statue.

5. AOB

- An officer asked the attendees if anyone could offer their time for the Online Content Portal. A reminder for request for help with the museum's online collections portal.
- Members discussed the practicalities of publication date and presenting the completed report to the mayor.
- An officer confirmed that the museum display is due to close on 3 January.
- All discussed a press call to present the report and agreed photos should be taken with the mayor, elected officials and three representatives from the commission.
- Officers to confirm whether the document could be handed to the mayor and the location.
- TC requested an additional meeting to discuss the draft recommendations in further depth.

ACTION 1: All members to reply to an officer's email if they have availability to support the Online Content Portal.

ACTION 2: Officer to draft the Comms Plan and check it with the mayor.

ACTION 3: Officer to circulate date options to members for an additional meeting to discuss the report further.