

We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary

Time and Place: 15:00-16:30, Monday 23rd May, Zoom Meeting

Attending: Tim Cole, Estella Tincknell, Shawn Sobers, Nigel Costley, Joanna Burch-Brown, Charlotte Martin, Jon Severs

Guests: Ray Barnett, Simon Cowley

Apologies: Madge Dresser, other officers.

1. Welcome and apologies

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.
- TC noted thanks to mayor's office support officer for her support to the Commission and wished her all the best in her new role.

2. Previous minutes and action log

- Members agreed minutes from previous meetings.

3. History Commission Approach (next 6-12 months)

- Members discussed the next steps regarding the statue and plinth and will be discussing with GLA and Historic England following update from JS.
- Members considered ways of approaching recommendation 6 and the future of the plinth and noted the process followed for the Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square is one option.
- Officers considered the future governance and decision-making process of this and what are the implications in terms of planning policy both with and without a potential rolling system for temporary installations following discussion.
- Members considered a decision-making approach that is intergenerational not just schools focused, to ensure its in line with report findings.
- Officers noted possibility of taking a follow up paper to Cabinet later in the year to look at pros and cons.

ACTION 1: Officers to consider other processes for future of plinth and the logistics around decision making and feedback to JS.

4. Letters of support for lottery funding – TC

- TC noted approaches to the Commission of letters of support for lottery applications and suggested the need to put a process in place to manage this.
- Officers suggested that as long as they align with the commission's values and are linked to Bristol, we should accept.
- Officers suggested developing a set of criteria for accepting these requests and some questions to ask organisations to ensure their project fits with commissions values.

ACTION 2: TC to prep some questions for organisations approach Commission for support.

5. Data Ownership and Archives

- TC noted that BCC owns the data collected as part of the consultation and asked officers to consider how to make this available to researchers as data requires anonymisation.
- Officers suggested a meeting to discuss this further and noted potential exemptions in the archives – anonymisation likely to be more of a resource issue.
- Members also suggested commentary on the process of the consultation to go alongside the data – to help researchers understand the way the questions were prompted and to be able to interpret results correctly.

ACTION 3: Officer to ask the City Archivist about this

6. AOB

Museum and Heritage Awards

- Officers were congratulated following the Museum and Heritage awards in which Bristol teams were nominated for two categories and were highly commended in the Partnership of the Year category for The Colston Statue: What Next. SS and RB gave a talk at the awards which will be put on the Museum and Heritage website.

Bridging Histories Update

- JBB updated the group about Bridging Histories and noted the ongoing work of ambassadors, particularly across St Pauls and Barton Hill areas.
- Members discussed the need for a terms of reference for ambassadors to follow to ensure that they are upholding the values of the commission as part of their role.
- JBB informed the group of an approach by UnicornFest a Leukaemia charity, will be exploring a partnership with BH.
- Members considered the symbolism of unicorns across the city and how this could be incorporated into the project – TC suggested they represent virtue and industry which could link to sense of making and street histories around schools, although members keen not to refine too much to allow broad scope.
- Members also discussed potential activities for UnicornFest including a changemaking project; looking at tobacco industry; history of campaigning in the city; changemaking in peoples' families across the globe; showing hope through history; the meaning of unicorns changing over time.

Future Engagement with Museum Services

- Members noted new Head of Culture and Creative Industries is undertaking a service review, and considers M Shed to be the flagship.
- TC suggested meeting to discuss how the commission continues to engage with museum services. Officers to arrange direct

Barbados High Commission

- Chair noted that this is as yet undefined, but there is strong enthusiasm for joining up with them.

In person meeting in July

- Officers noted that due to school summer holidays, an in person meeting in June might be preferable – officers will explore possibilities of this.