

We Are Bristol History Commission – November Meeting Summary

Time and Place: Wednesday 29th November 2023 17:00 City Hall

Attending: Tim Cole (chair), Nigel Costley, Joanna Burch-Brown, Estella Tincknell, Edson Burton, Shawn Sobers, and officer.

Guests: Mayor Marvin Rees (first hour), Deputy Mayor Asher Craig (Teams)

Apologies: Madge Dresser, Steve Poole

Welcome and apologies (TC)

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.
- To acknowledge only the second in-person meeting of the group on the occasion of the final meeting.

Thank you from the mayor of Bristol (MR)

- MR gave his reflections on the achievements and impact of the group's work and thanks to all those who have contributed.

Reflections from the Chair (TC)

- TC recorded thanks to all commissioners past and present and to all officers involved in making the Commission possible especially the Mayor's Office and all Culture teams involved in successful delivery of temporary display and consultation.
- Time allowed for reflections from all commissioners on their experience.
- SS thanking JBB and TC for their specific work related to the survey and reports.

Update on HC recommendations relating to statue and plinth

- Update from officer on current situation to progressing the new Protest display in the Spring and continuing to develop the display over time.
- Update from officer on listed building consent application currently live on BCC's planning portal.
- Instructions have been sent for commission of new plaque for the plinth using the wording from the recommendation. Wording has been shared with Legacy group for awareness.

ACTION: Commissioners invited to comment on the planning application

Update on Bridging Histories (JBB)

- News on a global, chapter style development product being developed.
- JBB recording thanks to Bridging Histories Ambassadors and the teams at both universities for their contributions
- TC recorded thanks for JBB and her leadership on this transformative project

Challenges / reflections / other updates

- Repository of evidence gathered over the years is still missing to prevent reinventing the wheel each time.
- Challenge of getting money and resources into certain areas of the city
- BH has supported groups with small grants of £500 as an expression of confidence.
- Update on Bristol Beacon reopening and plaque in place in Lantern space.

Bristol Legacy Foundation (BLF)

- AC updating on progress and plans for the renamed body to reflect its new status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Various projects developing on a permanent site of memorial, The World Reimagined globes and global element with artworks across the world.
- The notes to reflect that recommendation 6 is formally handed over the BLF for incorporating into their plans.
- Discussions regarding the plinth and challenges that remain with the space.

AOB

- TC asking for thoughts about legacy of the Commission and exploring appetite of e.g. universities to take forward an iteration of this project to look at other questions set out at the start.
- Acknowledging that Colston element has taken longer to reach conclusion than understood at the start.
- Commissioners recorded thanks to TC as chair.