

## **World Heritage Site Advisory Board (WHSAB)**

**20 November 2025**

### **Informal notes for FoBRA**

Note: these are not formal minutes of the meeting but are intended to give FoBRA members an insight to the main items discussed, including any points of relevance to residents.

Items discussed were:

#### **1. Chair's Update (Marion Harney)**

Main update was around moving forward with now signed off WHS Management Plan and then WHS impacts of the current consultations for the Local Plan Options and the Bath Transport Movement strategy.

#### **2. Update on Transport Projects (Paul Tucker, CRSTS Programme Manager, B&NES)**

Paul gave us an update on the City Regional Sustainable Transport Fund (CRSTS) which is a series of projects to promote modal shift to active travel and public transport funded by WECA. There are 8 schemes which have all been consulted on. Bath Quays link, Bath City centre cross route, RUH to the centre (via Victoria Park), Scholars Way, Bristol to Bath Corridor, Somer Valley links (inc Wellsway into Bath), Milsom Street. Essentially all these projects are going ahead. I asked if any have changed because of the public consultation. The response there have been some changes in detail, but I got the impression that there are no major changes. Some of these schemes are already underway (North Quays and Scholars Way) and the others are in various stages of planning. Milsom Street resurfacing will require closure for of the road for 5-6 months due to complexities with the cellars.

There was a discussion about priorities between walkers, cyclists and cars. Use of Bath Pattern Book for public realm improvements and the need to avoid over engineering in historic streetscapes (too many signs, road markings etc).

Bath Movement Strategy consultation is the next main focus.

#### **3. WHS MP Action Delivery Work and GSTE update (Adrian Neilson and Tony Crouch)**

Focus was on the WHS Management Plan – action plan and updates for these together with a report of activities for the WHS and GSTE (Great Spa Towns of Europe).

There is an investigation to consider an SSSI designation for the Bath Thermal Spas.

It was noted that there will be a lot of special celebrations coming up - 2026 5th anniversary of the second designation, 2027 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first designation. Ideas welcome for celebration activities. It was also noted for all the Spa Towns public recognition of the GTSE designation is not high.

#### **4. Local Plan Options consultation update (Steve George, B&NES)**

As we know B&NES has a government target of 27000 new houses in the next 20 years. Based on population 13,000 of these should be Bath and 14,000 in NES. However, Bath capacity is

assessed as 7,000 leaving the need for extra 6,000 in rest of B&NES. The West of Bath does need to be considered in the mix and it is believed a high-quality scheme could be produced in partnership with the Duchy of Cornwall. However, the impact on the WHS designation is a clear deterrent.

There were some 20,000 unique visitors to the consultation website. Comments are being assessed. The council has six months to produce the resulting draft plan. UNESCO has been notified of the consultation.

WHSAB has a clear role to promote the outstanding universal values through this process.

**5.** World Heritage Enhancement Fund update (Joanna Robinson BPT)

The enhancement fund has received £10,065 from Community Infrastructure Funding which is being spent on Elim Church windows, Westgate Street signs, ghost signs in Bear Flat. Ideas for further grants welcome. So far being looked at are missing iron work, cobble sets under tarmac, updating of the Setting of Bath 2013 study.

**6.** AOB (Jeremy Boss, FoBRA)

Two concerns raised on protecting heritage assets across the city from traffic pollution (including vaults) where support was requested for city-wide 20mph speed limits and weight limits which are enforced. There was no dissent from this suggestion but no action either. The second point was the damage caused by weeds, especially outside the historic core, which year on year are getting more entrenched and causing damage. Specific issues could apply to the enhancement fund but whilst everyone agreed with the problem there were no obvious solutions identified.

**7.** AOB (Andrew Grant, Bathscape)

Funding runs to May 2026 and grant opportunities are being investigated but nothing concrete so far. There is a general keenness for Bathscape to continue in some form.

**8.** AOB (Tom Grant, NT)

Assembly rooms currently still on track for completion in the summer of 2027. Prior Park visitors up and bottom gate proving popular, NT looking at improved waymarking for this. Thousands of trees and hedge plants are being planed in Bathwick Hill Fields.

**9.** AOB (Marion Harney, Bath University)

The planning application for 962 extra student accommodation units on campus has been submitted. Sulis Fields are a site under consideration in the Local Plan Options. There is support for a project on "Somerset Valley rediscovered".

Any questions to Jeremy Boss and Caroline Greenwood.  
November 2026