

Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Development Control B Committee

21 February 2024 at 6 pm



DRAFT

Members Present:

Councillor: Ani Stafford-Townsend (Chair), Lesley Alexander, Sarah Classick, Lorraine Francis, Guy Poultney, Chris Windows.

Officers in Attendance:

Simone Wilding – Chief Planner, Jonathan Dymond – Deputy Head of Planning, Pip Howson – Transport Development Manager, Allison Taylor – Democratic Services Officer.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Safety Information

The Chair welcomed all parties to the meeting and drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure in the event of an emergency.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fabian Breckels, Amal Ali & Katja Hornchen.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair and Councillor Classick declared that they had responded to the BCC/History Commission public consultation regarding the Edward Colston statue.

4. Minutes of previous meetings.

The Chair agreed to defer approval of these minutes until the next meeting.

5. Action Sheet

There were no issues arising from the Action Sheet.



6. Appeals

There were no questions regarding appeals.

7. Enforcement

There were no questions regarding Enforcement.

8. Public Forum.

The Public forum bundle was noted. There were no speakers.

9. Planning and Development

The Committee considered the following Planning Application:

9a. 23/04315/LA - Statue Of Edward Colston, Colston Avenue Bristol BS1 4UA

The report was summarized for the benefit of the Committee and the following points arose from questions:-

1. Both the plinth and the statue were currently listed but this application would regularize the situation as if granted the statue would no longer be listed and would then become part of the museum's collection. The statue would then be cared for under the regulations of the museum. Conditions 3 & 4 ensured the public benefits were secured in their totality;
2. Officers were confident that the right balance had been struck in relation to the benefits secured without being overly prescriptive. Future administrations could come back and seek a variation to those conditions.

Councillor Windows arrived part way through the presentation and the Chair informed him that he would not be able to vote on the application in line with the Code of Conduct on planning matters.

The following points arose from debate:-

1. The application was welcomed as coming before the Committee for transparency purposes. It was noted that history was a moveable concept and this application was the appropriate response to recent events. It was hoped that one day there would be a museum in Bristol to those harmed by the slave trade;
2. It was a shame that the statue had been pulled from the plinth and the museum was the best place for it and kept most people happy;
3. It was good that the statue was down and it should never go back up. There was some reservation regarding whether the plaque struck the right balance in adequately explaining the context. The Officer recommendation was supported, though a change of wording and the ability for the statute to go elsewhere in the future should this be chosen was additionally supported;



4. There was some concern regarding who had the final decision regarding the plinth;
5. The wording for the plaque was suggested by the History Commission but it was felt that it did not reflect African heritage;
6. The Chief Planner reported that the Committee could review the wording and a revised wording would come back to the next DC B Committee for approval. The application could then be granted subject to conditions and the review of the wording and this was supported by members;
7. There being no further comments the officer recommendation, as amended, was moved and seconded and on being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED – (Unanimous) - that the application be granted subject to conditions and that the wording for the plinth be reviewed by the Committee and the matter come back to 10 April DC B Committee for decision.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 10 April 2024.

The meeting ended at 6.50pm.

CHAIR _____

