

AGENDA ITEM No 9b

NOTES OF THE MEETING of the HERITAGE ALLIANCE held on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 11am.

In Attendance:

Representing Tavistock Town Council- Wayne Southall, Cllr Bev Moody,
Cllr Jeff Moody

Representing Tavistock Heritage Trust- David Conn.

Representing Tavistock Guildhall- Tabitha Teale.

Representing Tavistock BID- Janna Sanders.

Representing West Devon Borough Council- Cllr Caroline Mott

Representing Tavistock Subscription Library- Ruth Blowey.

Representing Tavistock History Society: Tony Vigars.

Representing Devon County Council- Cllr Debo Sellis.

Representing Devon Association- Sue Andrew.

Representing Tavistock Police Museum- Alison Holmes.

Representing TASS- Simon Thompson.

Apologies were made on behalf of Bob Owens, Lesley Holiday, Simon Dell.

1. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES:

- a) The notes of the Heritage Alliance meeting held on the 25th March 2026 at 11am were confirmed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- a) There were no matters arising.

3. HERITAGE ORGANISATION UPDATES:

- a) Tavistock Guildhall: The representative discussed the upcoming exhibition, 'Ruins and Monuments', that is running alongside the World Heritage Site dome event, marking the 20th Anniversary of the inclusion within the WHS. The immersive dome event, is taking place on the 22nd August, with Heritage Stakeholders participating. The current exhibition held by the Police Museum is due to end on the 30th July, receiving positive engagement from the public.
- b) Subscription Library: An update was provided regarding the positive engagement within the library from the general public. The representative thanked the History Society and the Devon Association for the donated books, for the recent book sales.
- c) Devon Association: The representative provided an update following the recent event, held within Tavistock, which was well received by those who attended. As a result, a booking for June 2027, has been confirmed, with the aim to build on the format. The programme from September 2026, leading to Christmas has been finalized.

- d) Tavistock Police Museum: It was explained that at present the museum is open Friday's and Saturday's up until the end of September, with the possibility of Tuesdays, depending on volunteers. Updates for Spring 2027, will be published near Christmas time.
- e) Tavistock Town Council: An update regarding Abbey Remains was provided with the tender process for the capital works completed. DBR, a London based company, have been awarded the contract, who have extensive experience in completing works on high profile building projects. It was explained that works were due to commence on the 2nd July, completion anticipated for mid-November. An overview of community initiatives linked to this project was provided, including an outline of the planned skills days and the Youth Café project related to supporting exploratory excavations (most likely to be delivered in 2027 for the latter).
- f) Tavistock Heritage Trust: Relating to the Abbey Remains Project, and update was provided relating to next steps, explaining that Scheduled Monument Consent will be applied for in one application for BGT and Abbey Cloisters archeological excavations to demonstrate the wider objectives and aims of the project. The current media coverage has been beneficial, driving the volume of interest, with 150 individuals signing up. Resulting, with a volunteer questionnaire being circulated to match skill sets accordingly, the research aspect is able to accommodate another 30 individuals.

Regarding HOD, the print design is going well and at 1st proof stage, the newsletter is progressing well and will be publicized soon, the calendar shall be ready by the 24th July. Discussions were held with the BID representative regarding the Windows in Time, agreeing that it would boost the public engagement with retailers, BID are going to discuss this with all local businesses.

- g) History Society: The representative discussed that they are continuing with monthly and outdoor meets. Currently the society requires a new chairman with a vice chairman being appointed. They've been granted publication funding, with research being undertaken into areas of interest.
- h) Tavistock Area Support Services: An update regarding the Life Stories meetings was provided, with 25/30 individuals signed up for the walks, it has been agreed that the Life Stories walks will be added to the HOD with extra walks being provided.
- i) West Devon Borough Council: The representative discussed that the consultation for the conservation area plan has been delayed, with a new date of the autumn anticipated.
- j) Tavistock BID: The representative updated the group that BID has been re-elected for another 5 years. Discussions surrounding the HOD were had, with a trail being organized with THT, the representative approached the Fringe

organisation to ascertain if they are able to provide individuals in costumes, to create an interactive family experience for the 20th September.

- k) Devon County Council: A general discussion was had regarding the town centre courtesy crossings with the representative providing an overview of the challenges relating to ongoing maintenance, specific to cost and longevity. There were differing views represented specific to importance and possible next steps and the historical views of the WDBC Conservation Officer were shared.

The DCC representative shared their concerns relating to areas of the town looking untidy regarding streetscape and how this may be addressed/improved with the assistance of partner organisations and community groups. The DCC representative discussed that in the autumn, the community payback scheme will be explored further.

- l) AOB: It was raised that it would be beneficial for all heritage sites to explore the possibility of carrying out access audits, to highlight options that could be put in place to create an inclusive environment to the general public. Currently the Policing Museum is undertaking accreditation for this.

Next meeting is scheduled for the 7th October at 11:00, Tavistock Guildhall.