

**Bath Preservation Trust – General Statement to B&NES Planning Committee,
6th May 2020**

Good afternoon, *my name is/this is a statement from* Caroline Kay, Chief Executive of the Bath Preservation Trust.

Bath Preservation Trust has been part of Bath's civic planning conversation since before the second world war. Little did we all realise at the turn of 2020 that we would be living and working under current conditions; but here we are at the first ever virtual meeting of B&NES' Planning Committee.

I wanted to make a general statement at the beginning of the meeting partly to mark that historic moment; and partly to say to the Committee that however difficult it is to interact directly with your community, your constituents and your consultees, we are still here.

Bath Preservation Trust has lost 90% of its income through the current closure of our 4 museums and with staff either furloughed or working from home. But we will continue to participate, digitally, virtually, online, however works best, to make sure that the public benefit we provide continues and that the challenges we all face are not used as excuse for poor planning, hasty decision making or inadequate placemaking. We will continue to work with householders, planners, developers and neighbours, with the benefit of our independent expertise, to bring out the best for new developments, to respond positively to the current challenges, and call to account when necessary.

We look forward to these committee meetings developing so that preferably, public involvement can become more participatory.

We hope most of all to work with all to ensure that when we look back at this moment of history, it will be seen as the time at which we worked together as a community for a better, less polluted, more sustainable and even more beautiful city, for the benefit of all.