

Thank you chairman, hello everyone. For those that don't know me, my name is Clive Carter and I'd like to say a few words about my Proposal to seek UN world heritage site status for the south east wing of our Alexandra palace.

I hope you have had a chance to read the Proposal at the end of the Agenda and I'm not going to read it all out to you now, but I would like to say a few words about one or two of the endorsements (on page 6) and in particular, the endorsement of **an existing world heritage site in Sweden** whose relevance I hope will come apparent to you.

The idea of a UN heritage site for our studios has been kicking around for a number of years but it only became a possibility after the policy of holistic sale to a property was dropped 12 months ago.

One of the past objections to a TV museum has been a lack of fire escapes. Now fire escapes are important, especially given the history of this building, but I believe things of that order should not drive the whole process. Fire escapes I'm afraid is an example of the municipal approach which often sees reasons not to do something, rather than a can-do approach.

I have to say that if a place like this existed in most other countries, you would be able to have your choice of companies and organisations lining up to sponsor and be associated with something of this level of prestige.

That we might be sitting in the presence of a future world heritage site might seem far-fetched to you now, but there does exist a hugely helpful precedent.

The world heritage site in Sweden is relevant and I would like to tell you how I came to get their endorsement.

I was discussing this Proposal on the phone with an architect friend of mine and he suddenly interjected “Clive, Clive, Sweden, Radio Station!”. He had been reading a list of world heritage sites from the web and he suddenly came across Varberg. Now, Varberg is a 1924 radio station that became a world heritage site in 2004. The Grimeton Station is a short distance inland from the town of Varberg on the south west coast of Sweden.

There are currently 911 properties on the World Heritage list. We have no direct competition: none of them are television studios or stations and there is only one radio station (Varberg), which is actually a helpful situation.

If you had any doubts about the credibility of a **broadcasting facility** as a UN World Heritage site, friends and colleagues, **Varberg is THE precedent for our Studios!**

Of the 911 UN sites around the world in 151 countries, 794 are Cultural, 180 Natural and 27 are mixed sites. In the UK, there are a total of 28 sites; 23 cultural, 4 natural and 1 mixed. In London, there are just 4 sites:

In the centre, Westminster (3 sub-sites) and the Tower of London; to the west is Kew Gardens and not least, in the south the splendid Maritime Greenwich which joined this global club in 1997. Although it can take a long time, it is not difficult to gain UNESCO recognition, provided a site meets the demanding criteria.

Now it would be marvellous if all we had was the precedent of

Varberg to point to, but it gets better. After an exchange of emails with Varberg, where I sent a copy of the Proposal, the same one you have, I received fulsome endorsement from the Varberg Chief Executive, Dr. Lars Johansson, who wants to help this Proposal in any way he can.

Now, it may interest you to know that when the Paris committee makes these awards, known as ‘a gift of inscription’, they specifically encourage the recipient Member State to form links with other similar properties around the world. So we should not be surprised at this recognition; in a real sense, the international support for the Proposal has started.

I confessed to him that, like I suspect most of us, I had not heard of Varberg and in turn, he confessed to me, surprising at may seem to you, that he had not heard of Alexandra Palace. Thus, the intentions of the

United Nations, in forming international links, have already begun.

Dr Johansson has already helped by putting me in touch with one of the key people involved in their own successful Application: the **Secretary of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage**. This Secretary happens to be an Englishman, Stuart Smith and we now also have the endorsement of that key committee, which is influential with the UNESCO Paris committee.

I quote directly from an email of Mr Smith:

I have now had the opportunity of discussing Alexandra Palace with officials from English Heritage and from other leading organisations. It appears that if as you claim the television studios at Alexandra

Palace are the oldest surviving television studios in the world, that they could one day be considered as a world heritage site.

Mr Smith lectures internationally and he is now going to inform audiences around the world about the forgotten wing of our great building. For too long, we have hid our light under a bushel, that is now changing and the world will come to know more of our building.

Local MP and government minister **Lynne Featherstone** strongly endorses this Proposal and she has already written to the key officer at the DCMS, backing this Proposal.

Naturally all the television groups support this Proposal and I invite this committee now also to endorse the Proposal.

That's all I wanted to say for the moment, but if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them.