

PRESENT:

Marion Blockley – Chair
Rory Hunter – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Russell Rowley – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
Peter Boland – Historic England
Helen Allen – English Heritage)
Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council
Joy Tetsill – Shropshire Council
Simon Harris – Shropshire Council
Penny McKnight – Telford & Wrekin Council
Carolyn Healy – Telford & Wrekin Council
Rae Evans – Telford & Wrekin Council
Ben Williscroft – Telford & Wrekin Council
Andy Gittins – Telford & Wrekin Council
Fran Lancaster – Telford & Wrekin Council
Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council
Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council
Alan Taylor – Broseley Town Council
Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Also present for part of the meeting: Paul Miller from Nash Partnerships and Andrew Marsden from Shropshire Homes

APOLOGIES: **Sir Neil Cossons, Gareth Pegg** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Kathy Mullholland** – Telford & Wrekin Council

Introduction

Marion Blockley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced newly elected Councillor Carolyn Healy who is a Telford & Wrekin Council Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy and the World Heritage Site and represents the Ironbridge Ward. Marion Blockley also introduced Idsall School Year 10 students Morgan Groome and Will Richards who are observing the meeting and have accompanied Ben Williscroft and Penny McKnight from Telford & Wrekin Council Conservation Team.

Vice Chair Appointment

Russell Rowley had been appointed Vice Chair of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group with immediate effect.

Feedback on Action Plan Meeting

The World Heritage Site Management Plan Action Plan Working Group had made a good start and had spent a lot of time looking in detail at a proportion of the actions and progress to date. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to try and identify the resources required to complete the actions.

Development Sites

AGA

Andrew Marsden, Design Manager, Shropshire Homes and Paul Miller, Associate Architect from the Nash Partnership gave an overview of the development project on behalf of Shropshire Homes. Following in depth heritage analysis the proposal is that the site will be developed for residential use to accommodate approximately 100 homes. Significant

changes to the site will include the raising of the ground on the Wellington Road side using material removed from the railway side of the site which will facilitate the 'daylighting' of the watercourse, currently 10 metres below ground, which will subsequently be raised to ground level. Due to the nature of the land and the addition of 1.5 metres of fill, all of the housing will require piling of approximately 8 to 10 metres. The Nash Partnership has vast experience of working within heritage locations and were the architects for the Blists Hill re-development project in 2009.

Power Station

The Chair reported that she had compiled a lengthy response, on behalf of the Steering Group, to the Harworth Masterplan for the development of the Ironbridge Power Station site and emphasised that the response document was related to the IGWHS Management Plan and attributes of OUV and welcomed comments.

Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival

A World Heritage Festival will take place this year. The project is supported by funding from Arts Council England and VisitEngland and will be designed to encourage visitors to travel physically and emotionally through the Gorge and to engage with the widest possible audience. The extended and re-branded event will run over 2 weeks and 3 weekends starting on Friday 13 September. The aim of the World Heritage Festival, titled this year as 'The Festival of Imagination' will celebrate the past, present and future highlights of the Ironbridge Gorge. Businesses, community groups and key organisations in the Gorge are being encouraged to support the event which is key to making the event sustainable for the future. Events include: Walks, talks, open churches, exhibitions, demonstrations, music and a one-day Wharfage closure organised by the Ironbridge Traders.

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