

**MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT IGMT Headquarters, Coalbrookdale on 10 February 2020**

PRESENT:

Marion Blockley – Chair

Nick Ralls – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Rory Hunter – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Russell Rowley – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

Peter Boland – Historic England

Helen Allen – English Heritage

Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council

Simon Harris – Shropshire Council

Carolyn Healy – Telford & Wrekin Council

Val Hulme – Telford & Wrekin Council

Andy Gittins – Telford & Wrekin Council

Penny McKnight – Telford & Wrekin Council

Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

APOLOGIES: **Sir Neil Cossons, Chris Turley** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Joy Tetsill** – Shropshire Council, **Debra Harris** – Ironbridge Business Consortium (IBC)

Intro: Marion Blockley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Nick Ralls, newly appointed CEO Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Round table introductions were made for the benefit of Nick Ralls.

Development Sites

Power Station

Val Hulme reported on the two planning applications from the Harworth Group plc. Shropshire Council are the leading authority and have appointed Grahame French as planning case officer for the Power Station site. Telford & Wrekin Council's main interest is site access which is on Telford & Wrekin Council owned land.

- 1) Outline application which includes plans for 1000 homes, leisure facilities, retail and health areas, a primary school, nature corridors, public open spaces and the re-use of existing buildings
- 2) Sand and Gravel Extraction to extract 1.9 million tonnes of sand and gravel

Public consultation sessions have been held at Coalbrookdale Community Centre and at Buildwas and residents have been urged to log their comments. In order to provide comment online, those who wish to, need to register and login to the planning portal on either the Telford & Wrekin Council or Shropshire Council websites. The portal is open for 56 days from 13 January 2020. Comments on the mineral extraction need to be received by 18 February and the outline planning application for the main site by 6 March.

AGA

Andy Gittins reported that discussions are on-going with Shropshire Homes and any further developments will be circulated to the Steering Group.

Community Engagement and Stakeholder Communication

Marion Blockley stated that the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site is not pro-active in engaging with the wider community compared to most other UK World Heritage Sites.

Potential existing newsletters that could have regular World Heritage Site news pages include the Gorge Gazette, Madeley Matters and Telford Voice to reach those residents who do not have internet access.

Comments from Steering Group members:

- Val Hulme recommended a dedicated website with links to all the Steering Group stakeholders
- Carolyn Healy reported that the World Heritage Festival website now exists and this could be utilised and expanded and include Facebook and Twitter. Quarterly bi-monthly e-newsletters and printed copies could be developed to be distributed via a sign-up system
- Russell Rowley reported that the leaflet dispenser on the Station Car Park in Ironbridge has proved successful but agreed that we as a group need to get better at explaining what we do

AOB

Carolyn Healy reported that the River Severn is being closely monitored following storm Ciara. The drain bungs have already been installed but it is thought that the flood barriers will not be required.

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