

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 8th July 2013

PRESENT:

Les Sparks OBE – Chair

Sir Neil Cossons

Anna Brennand – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Katherine Kynaston – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Rachel Taylor – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr. Dave Davies – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Ian Edwards – Environment Agency (EA)

Russell Rowley, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

John Harrison - Shropshire Council (SC)

Cllr. Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council (MTC)

Rev'd. Keith Osmund-Smith - The Gorge Parish Council (GPC)

Michael Barker – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Neal Rushton – Structures & Geotechnics Team Leader Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Peter Boland – English Heritage (EH)

Katie Foster – Shropshire & Telford Tourism Strategy Board (STTSB)

Chris Hogarth – Natural England (NE)

Alan Mackenzie – Telford & Wrekin Council (T&WC)

Cllr Jean Jones – Shropshire Council (SC)

Ann Maltby – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

Heather Gumsley – Telford & Wrekin Council (T&WC)

Sue Cole - (EH)

APOLOGIES: **Bill Klemperer** - English Heritage, **Heather Sebire** – English Heritage, **Mandy Thorn** LEP Board Member, **Cllr Phil Revell** – Broseley Parish Council, **Colin Pitcher** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Mike Vout** – Telford & Wrekin Council

Les Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were read out by Barbara Taylor.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The World Heritage Site Management Plan will be signed on Tuesday 9 July. **Sue Cole from English Heritage** reported that the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust had completed and submitted the Periodic Review of the World Heritage Site within the time frame. All the UK World Heritage Site Reviews have now been submitted to UNESCO.

Stabilisation update: Following the road closure in November 2012 **Neal Rushton** reported that JIGGERS BANK is due to re-open on 15 July. The area now looks vastly different and a press campaign to alert road

users to the scale of work would be launched. Meanwhile the final JACKFIELD STABILISATION plans will be on view at a public drop-in session on 9 July. European procurement procedures are underway. Main construction work is due to start in February 2014 with a completion date of November 2015. The CHURCH HILL project has now been taken over by Telford & Wrekin Council Highways & Structures Department, no further information is available at this time. Cracking in the LLOYDS COPPICE road is undergoing more detailed investigation and remedial work will commence in due course.

Telford & Wrekin Council Disaster Recovery Plan: Heather Gumsley reported that in line with the Civil Contingencies Act of 2004, Telford & Wrekin Council has put in place A Disaster Recovery Plan. The plan defines 'an emergency' and the duties of key responders. A booklet entitled 'Land instability in the Gorge' was distributed in May 2013 to all households and businesses in the Ironbridge Gorge. Primarily, the booklet has updated information on procedures taking into consideration new guidelines on a shortened evacuation timescale, the identification of 'muster points' and the plan to recruit 'community champions'. Public drop-in information sessions were held and these sessions included the opportunity for residents and business to sign up to a 'free alert' system, similar to the Environment Agency Flood Alert service. The booklet produced by Telford & Wrekin Council will be reviewed again in 2016.

World Heritage Festival 2013: Anna Brennand gave an update on the planning of the World Heritage Festival. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust are working closely with Psyche Hudson's team from T&WC on the offer for this year's Festival which will have more emphasis on Heritage following feedback from visitors and residents. This year's Festival will run from 12 noon to 5pm. The same road closures apply as in 2012. Maw's Craft Centre Heritage Day will take place the following Saturday 28 September.

Iron Bridge HLF Bid: A full engineering report on the Iron Bridge will be presented to the Steering Group meeting on 14 October.

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