

REPORT OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS, Coalbrookdale on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**PRESENT:**

**Les Sparks OBE** - Chair

**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)

**Mandy Thorn** - LEP Board Member and Chair Shropshire Business Board

**Cllr. Alan Mackenzie** – Madeley Town Council (formally Madeley Parish Council)

**Rev'd. Keith Osmund-Smith** - The Gorge Parish Council

**Michael Barker** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

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

**Barbara Taylor** – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

**Steve Miller** – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

**Anna Brennan** – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

**Katie Foster** – Shropshire & Telford Tourism Strategy Board

**Psyche Hudson** – Telford & Wrekin Council

**APOLOGIES:** **Sir Neil Cossons**, **Chris Hogarth** – Natural England, **Bill Klemperer** – English Heritage, **Sue Cole** – English Heritage, **Louisa Moore** – English Heritage

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

**The minutes of the last meeting** were approved and a number of actions were agreed upon by the Steering Group. It was agreed that **Barbara Taylor** would prepare a **2 page report of the full minutes** to be added to the **World Heritage Site page of the Telford & Wrekin Council website**. **Steve Miller** reported that access improvement works from the Station car park were delayed slightly due to delays in the permissions required but should proceed as planned later in the year. **Steve Miller** also reported that the **Heritage Lottery Fund Bid** to complete essential work on and around the Iron Bridge was moving forward as expected.

**Stabilisation update: Neal Rushton gave a PowerPoint update to the steering Group.** The JACKFIELD PROJECT is on target to be completed summer 2016. The landslide will be corrected first then the road and Severn Trent Pipeline re-instated. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Drop-in session will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April at Jackfield Village Hall. Meanwhile, with regards to the landslip at JIGGERS BANK ROCKFACE, Telford & Wrekin Council remain committed to meeting the June 2013 deadline for re-opening the road. Finally, CHURCH HILL, work is delayed due to legal reasons over landownership on a section where the temporary works are to be sited. Works when started are due to take 11 weeks which will include a short road closure within that period. In addition, a wall failure on Church Hill is also

causing concern. In accordance with World Heritage constraints, Telford & Wrekin Council are looking at appropriate solutions. In addition to the above issues, a section of road on Lloyds Coppice was in imminent need of repair due to 'embayment' (indentation of the riverbank to form a small bay).

**Periodic Review and Management Plan:** Steve Miller gave an overview of progress regarding the Periodic Review. **The deadline for submission to English Heritage of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013** was met and the Steering Group is now awaiting feedback from English Heritage ahead of a submission of the final Periodic Review to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The completed Factors Summary Table was discussed by the Steering Group. Russell Rowley suggested adding a positive indicator to section 3.5 – Biological resource/modification because the potential **Ash Dieback** issue was being well managed within the World Heritage Site.

**The World Heritage Festival 2013.** Psyche Hudson gave an overview of plans for the Festival. This year's event will be different from previous years but will be the 'best show' put on with the resources available. Full details of the Festival will be delivered at the next Steering Group meeting on 8 July.

**Marches Local Enterprise Partnership update.** Mandy Thorn reported that the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, consisting of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, has produced an economic growth prospectus detailing the mechanisms for unlocking funding and added that all future regional European funding would come through the Local Enterprise Partnership. Mandy Thorn also reported that the World Heritage Site was identified as an important asset for the Marches area.

**In terms of other matters,** Les Sparks announced that this was the last meeting with Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group Vice Chairman Steve Miller. Steve Miller is taking up the post of Head of Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service. Les sparks and the Steering Group extended their thanks and appreciation to Steve Miller for all his hard work and wished him every success for the future.

INITIAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS BARBARA TAYLOR  
E. worldheritagesite@ironbridge.org.uk T.01952 435929