

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 1 February 2016

**PRESENT:**

**Les Sparks OBE** – Chair

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

**Russell Rowley** – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

**Mike Vout** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Michael Barker**

**Cllr Chris Turley** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Cllr Nicola Lowery** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Charlotte Cain** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Phoebe Farrell** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Colin Pitcher** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Cllr Alan Mackenzie** – Madeley Town Council (MTC)

**Heather Oldershaw** – Gorge Parish Council (GPC)

**Cllr Ian Pickles** – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

**Joy Tetsill** – Shropshire Council

**Peter Boland** – Historic England (HE)

**Ann Towers** – English Heritage (EH)

**Timothy Slator** – English Heritage (EH)

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

**APOLOGIES:** **Sir Neil Cossons, Henry Owen-John** – Historic England, **Cllr Jean Jones** – Shropshire Council, **Andy Wigley** – Shropshire Council, **Neal Rushton** – Telford & Wrekin Council

**Intro:** Les Sparks opened the meeting and welcomed Joy Tetsill from the Planning Policy Team at Shropshire Council who is representing Andy Wigley, Jackie Heath from Ramboll and Michael Barker formerly of Telford & Wrekin Council.

**Stabilisation Update**

**JACKFIELD PROJECT**

Colin Pitcher delivered a report on behalf of Neal Rushton. Post piling monitoring is on-going and showing that movement has virtually stopped. The main highway is almost complete and all footpaths are nearing completion. The landscaping has begun although the grass seeding has been delayed due to the adverse weather.

Ground penetrating radar work on the Wharfage and Madeley Bank is on-going and findings are currently being interpreted. More in depth monitoring will be carried out on any areas that indicate a potential problem.

Discussion is on-going with the Coal Board regarding the partially collapsed mine shaft on Lodge field, off Hodge Bower, Ironbridge.

#### **World Heritage Site Management Plan (WHSMP)**

Consultation on the draft WHSMP will commence with the Town and Parish Councils in April. Public consultation will take place in June and July in the form of 4 drop-in sessions and an on-line questionnaire placed on the Telford & Wrekin Council website.

#### **Iron Bridge Programme of Works**

Timothy Slator introduced Ann Towers, Project Manager at English Heritage (EH). Ann Towers reported that EH has recommended an expansion to the scope of work to be undertaken on the Iron Bridge in addition to the repairs to the deck plates and replacement of the surface. Investigation work in the form of roped inspection on the Iron Bridge will take place at the end of February and the main repair work will start in the autumn. The repair works are expected to take 12 months.

#### **Market Square/Iron Bridge surroundings HLF/ERDF Bid**

Mike Vout informed the Steering Group that Telford & Wrekin Council do not have the resources to pursue the this Bid at the present time but will revisit the project when resources permit.

#### **WH:UK**

Anan Brennand gave an overview of the new World Heritage UK (WH:UK) charitable organisation which replaces the former Local Authority World Heritage Forum with representatives from the 29 UK World Heritage Sites. The Ironbridge Institute is one of two academic partners for the new organisation.

#### **Pride in Your High Street**

The Steering group was advised of the four projects within the WHAS boundary that have received funding under the scheme.

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