

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 3 May 2017

PRESENT:

Les Sparks

Sir Neil Cossons

Paul Gossage – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Russell Rowley - Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

Val Hulme – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council (SC)

Joy Tetsill – Shropshire Council (SC)

Cllr Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council (MPC)

Cllr Heather Oldershaw – Gorge Parish Council (GPC)

Alex Nicoll – Ironbridge Consortium (IC)

Peter Boland – Historic England (HE)

Ann Towers – English Heritage (EH)

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

APOLOGIES: **Anna Brennand** – IGMT, **Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP, **Henry Owen-John** – English Heritage, **Tim Slator** – English Heritage, **Cllr Nicola Lowery** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Chris Hogarth** – Natural England

Intro: Les Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Paul Gossage, Director of Marketing at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, who is representing Anna Brennand.

World Heritage Site Management Plan

The Management Plan has gone through several internal meetings at Telford & Wrekin Council and had subsequently been approved by Cabinet on 20 April along with the Telford & Wrekin Council Local Plan. Shropshire Council wish to formally approve the Plan but would not be able to do so until the September Cabinet meeting. Shropshire Council do not envisage making any changes to the Plan.

Iron Bridge Conservation Project

A commencement date has not yet been set due to the on-going procurement process. The procurement procedure has taken longer than anticipated and a contractor has not yet been appointed. The underwater inspection had been completed and no further deterioration to the foundations had been reported. The English Heritage Education Team continue to work on an educational programme and volunteer package and the Conservation in Action Team are working on a publicity campaign to encourage visitors to come and see the works. Talks are on-going with the utility companies.

Power Station

No further information has been issued regarding the Power Station since the last Steering Group meeting in March. The message of establishing a public meeting has been passed on to Uniper.

Shropshire Council will continue to press for information on how the remaining structures will be maintained and secured for the future and for information on the Cooling Towers demolition process.

Partner Updates

Updates from Telford & Wrekin Council, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and Severn Gorge Countryside Trust were received and discussed by the Group.

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