

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 6 March 2017

**PRESENT:**

**Les Sparks**

**Sir Neil Cossons**

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

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

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

**Val Hulme** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

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

**Cllr Jean Jones** – Shropshire Council (SC)

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

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

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

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

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

**Karen Price** – Environment Agency (EA)

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

**APOLOGIES:** **Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP, **Alex Nicoll** – Ironbridge Consortium, **Joy Tetsill** – Shropshire Council, **Andy Wigley** – Shropshire Council, **Henry Owen-John** – English Heritage, **Ian Pickles** – Broseley Town Council, **Phoebe Farrell** – Telford & Wrekin Council

**Intro:** Les Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that this is the last meeting that Councillor Jean Jones will attend as she is retiring this year. On behalf of the Steering Group Les Sparks thanked Jean for her hard work and dedication to the Steering Group over the past few years.

**World Heritage Site Management Plan**

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Management Plan is nearing completion. The Management Plan will go to Telford & Wrekin Council Cabinet on 20 April 2017 for endorsement along with the Ironbridge Gorge Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP).

**Iron Bridge Conservation Project**

The Morton Partnership are preparing a works schedule, specifications and drawings, liaising with utility companies, looking at public engagement options, applying for Scheduled Ancient Monument & Environment Agency consents and inviting tenders.

The Severn Gorge Countryside Trust assisted with access on Bower Yard for a cherry picker which was used to investigate the underneath surface of the Iron Bridge.

The methodology for the scaffolding is being investigated. The Bridge will require a full encapsulation to safeguard the local environment and the river from falling debris from the cleaning and repair methods. Other repairs identified include the renewal and removal of some utility services, repairs to the masonry and re-surfacing of the road way which will have a grey aggregate finish.

Public access across the Iron Bridge will be maintained throughout the works programme. Repairs to the deck plates and the road surface will be undertaken in two halves. Access to pathways underneath the Bridge will be restricted due to the scaffolding method and alternative access routes established via the upper paved areas. Residents and business affected will be fully briefed prior to commencement of the works.

#### **Power Station**

Several members of the Steering Group recently attended a meeting hosted by Uniper. The site will retain a large sub-station, the listed railway bridge, the pump house and the bridge for A Station. The large sub-station will restrict the future use of the site. Decommissioning is due to be completed by April and, subject to planning approval, the cooling towers will then be demolished, although no date has been given.

#### **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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