

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 11 July 2016

PRESENT:

Anna Brennand – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Russell Rowley – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council (SC)

Joy Tetsill – Shropshire Council (SC)

Jean Jones – Shropshire Council (SC)

Cllr Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Nicola Lowery – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Phoebe Farrell – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Valerie Hulme – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Heather Oldershaw – Gorge Parish Council (GPC)

Cllr Ian Pickles – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

Timothy Slator – English Heritage (EH)

Ann Towers – English Heritage (EH)

Peter Boland – Historic England (HE)

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

APOLOGIES: **Les Sparks** - Chair, **Neal Rushton** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Colin Pitcher** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Alex Nicoll** – Ironbridge Traders Consortium

Intro: Anna Brennand opened the meeting on behalf of Les Sparks and introduced Andy Sheldon, Andrew Marsden and Stephanie Cain from Shropshire Homes and also introduced Malgorzata Trelka, a University of Birmingham PhD student who will be observing the meeting.

Shropshire Homes

Andrew Sheldon gave a powerpoint presentation on the development proposals for the former Beeches Hospital site in Ironbridge. The basic proposal is to convert the former hospital into 36 apartments and construct 47 new two-storey houses on near-by pasture land and 6 new two-story houses will be constructed to replace the 1930s nursing accommodation. Small parts of the nineteenth century and all of the twentieth century additions to the original building will be demolished. The landscape will be enhanced and a play area will be constructed which will pass into TWC hands for maintenance on completion of the site. There is also a proposal to provide a new access road off Beeches Road to serve the new build element of the site.

World Heritage Festival

Psyche Hudson from TWC joined the meeting to discuss the forthcoming World Heritage Festival. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Ironbridge Gorge being designated a World Heritage Site TWC will lead on the event which will be extended to include a River Festival with an evening flotilla

of boats. The Wharfage will be closed to accommodate street entertainment and food stalls and further entertainment will be placed in Dale End Park.

World Heritage Site Management Plan

The draft World Heritage Site Management Plan is now on the TWC website and will stay live until 8 August. Public consultation sessions are being held in Ironbridge, Telford, Madeley and Broseley. Comments from the public consultation will be analysed and incorporated into the Plan where necessary. The final draft of the Plan will be presented to the steering Group at the October meeting.

Farm the Flow Partnership

On 12 April following heavy rainfall, a concrete chamber on private farmland blocked at the top of Jiggers Bank causing a large amount of pulverised fuel ash and furnace clinker to be washed down Lydebrook Dingle which has subsequently caused a large build-up of silt in the Upper Furnace Pool. After being reviewed on a site visit for the local Farm the Flow Partnership by the Environment Agency, the catchment has been described as one of the most complex in the UK. To hopefully alleviate some of the problem TWC are hoping to dredge the Upper Furnace Pool in the next few months and to monitor the situation the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT) in partnership with TWC Resilience Team and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) have recently installed a Telemetry Rain Gauge to monitor rain fall.

Power Station

Les Sparks will write to Uniper on behalf of the Steering Group requesting to be informed of any development plans for the site.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS BARBARA TAYLOR
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