

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 17 July 2017

PRESENT:

Les Sparks (LS)

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

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

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

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

Andy Wigley (AW) – Shropshire Council (SC)

Joy Tetsill (JT) – Shropshire Council (SC)

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

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

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

Cllr Simon Harris (SH) – Shropshire Council (SC)

Cllr Alan Taylor (AT) – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

Peter Boland (PB) – Historic England (HE)

Tim Slator (TS) – English Heritage (EH)

Karen Price (KP) – Environment Agency (EA)

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

APOLOGIES: **Sir Neil Cossons, Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP, **Katherine Kynaston** – Telford & Wrekin Council

Intro: Les Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor Simon Harris (SH) who is Mayor of Broseley. Cllr Simon Harris replaces Cllr Jean Jones.

World Heritage Site Management Plan

The World Heritage Site Management Plan has been submitted to DCMS with a proviso for Shropshire Council to endorse the Plan following a cabinet meeting in September. This is a matter of protocol and Shropshire Council do not envisage any changes to the Plan. The Action Plan will be treated as a live document and reviewed at subsequent Steering Group meetings going forward.

Iron Bridge Conservation Project

Taziker Industrial Limited have been appointed as contractors. The project start date has provisionally been given as the end of August 2017. It is expected that the erecting of the scaffolding will start in early September. English Heritage Conservation in Action Project has announced that the proposed visitor walk-way which will straddle the Iron Bridge has been approved. The walk-way will be in place for Easter 2018 to coincide with the start of the main visitor season. English Heritage are planning a public meeting to be held within the next few weeks and will invite all relevant stakeholders.

Power Station

No further information has been issued regarding the Power Station since the last Steering Group meeting in March. The Pump House and all the existing bridges within the Power Station boundaries will be kept. Shropshire Council will continue to press for information on how these structures will be maintained and secured for the future and for information on the Cooling Towers demolition process.

Development Sites**AGA**

The AGA works will close in November 2017. IGMT owns property within the existing site and will work closely with any new owners. IGMT is also keen to retain the large car parking area at the rear of the site which is used frequently for Museum events. The AGA site will be kept on the Steering Group agenda until a conclusion regarding the site ownership and use is resolved.

Bath Road Development

The developers wishing to build on the Bath Road site have pulled out and the site is now back on the open market.

Partner Updates

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

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