

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 17 October 2016

PRESENT:

Les Sparks - Chair

Anna Brennand – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Russell Rowley – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council (SC)

Joy Tetsill – Shropshire Council (SC)

Cllr Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Parish Council (MPC)

Phoebe Farrell – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Stella Jamieson – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Charlotte Cain – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Psyche Hudson – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Colin Pitcher – 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)

Bill Klemperer – Historic England (HE)

Alex Nicoll – Ironbridge Traders Consortium (ITC)

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

APOLOGIES: **Steve Hollins** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Valerie Hulme** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Nicola Lowery** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP

Intro: Les sparks opened the meeting and introduced Helen Hutchinson and Sarah Butler from Donald Insall Associates and Ed Morton from the Morton Partnership who will be giving presentations on the TWC Severn Gorge Area Management Plan (CAMP) and the Iron Bridge Conservation Project.

Severn Gorge Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP)

The Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) will be produced in conjunction with Historic England. The purpose of the CAMP document is to support the Supplementary Planning Document of the TWC Local Plan and to consolidate all other documents relating to the conservation area produced by relevant stakeholders and the local Parish Councils. The CAMP document will go out to public consultation via the TWC website on 31 October for 21 days.

Ironbridge Conservation Project – The Iron Bridge

The Morton Partnership are working with Ferguson Mann Architects to consolidate work already carried out by the previous contractors Ramboll and to look at options for public engagement with the project. Work is expected to start in April 2017 with the erection of the scaffolding which will take approximately 8 weeks to complete. The whole project which will include various repairs to the structure, the roadway and the re-painting of the Bridge is expected to take at least 12 months.

World Heritage Festival Feedback

Psyche Hudson from TWC reported that approximately 20,000 people attended the Festival which was way beyond the 9,000 expected and therefore caused some challenges for the organisers. The entertainment, activities and food stalls were very well received in Dale End Park, along the Wharfage, in the Market Square and around the Iron Bridge. There were issues surrounding the evening event and this will be analysed along with comments received after the event from the general public. The findings will be presented to the Steering Group at a later date.

World Heritage Site Management Plan

The final draft World Heritage site Management Plan was not presented at this meeting because further comments have been received from members of TWC after the agreed deadline and require more time to be analysed. It is hoped that the final draft will be brought to the Steering Group in January (date to be confirmed).

Power Station

Uniper have appointed an Economic Growth Manager, Andrew Stirling, and will be running their own stakeholder conservation group. Joy Tetsill has encouraged Andrew Stirling to get in touch with Les Sparks to hopefully facilitate a representative from the Steering Group to be present in future discussions.

Ash Dieback

Russell Rowley reported that Ash Dieback disease has been identified in the Ironbridge Gorge area. It is estimated that it will take 10 years for the full impact of the disease to be felt in the Gorge and the surrounding area, but it will significantly alter the landscape particularly on Benthall Edge. The SGCT have been planning for this over the past 4 years and have been using a continuous planning scheme of disease resistant Ash to help replace those trees which will be lost.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS BARBARA TAYLOR

E. worldheritagesite@ironbridge.org.uk T.01952 435929