

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 18 April 2016

**PRESENT:**

**Les Sparks OBE** – Chair

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

**Sir Neil Cossons**

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

**Andy Wigley** – Shropshire council (SC)

**Joy Tetsill** – Shropshire Council

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

**Charlotte Cain** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

**Phoebe Farrell** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

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

**Neal Rushton** – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

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

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

**Cllr Ian Pickles** – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

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

**Alex Nicoll** – Ironbridge Traders Consortium (ITC)

**John Hughes** – Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT)

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

**APOLOGIES:** **Alex Page** – English Heritage, **Ann Towers** – English Heritage, **Chris Turley** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Henry Owen-John** – Historic England, **Jean Jones** – Shropshire Council, **Katherine Kynaston** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP, **Peter Boland** – Historic England, **Stella Jamieson** – Telford & Wrekin Council

**Intro:** Les Sparks opened the meeting and welcomed Alex Nicoll from Ironbridge Traders Consortium, Valerie Hulme from Telford & Wrekin Council and John Hughes from Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

**Stabilisation Update**

**JACKFIELD PROJECT**

Neal Rushton (TWC) reported that the project is very near completion with just landscaping works to complete. New signage and a nature trail will be installed over the coming months. Plans for an official opening in the summer are being discussed.

**JIGGERS BANK**

Some movement in the carriageway has been reported, this is being monitored. Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) are in continued discussion with the government over funding needs for works to the area.

TWC are working to establish land ownership in the Lodge field area with regard to unrecorded mine shafts.

#### **World Heritage Site Management Plan (WHSMP)**

Consultation with the Town and Parish Councils has begun. Public consultation on the WHSMP will take place in June and the first two weeks of July.

#### **Ironbridge Power Station Update**

The decommissioning of the Power Station continues on behalf of site owners Uniper who are a wholly owned subsidiary of EON. Decommissioning will continue into 2017. A large electricity sub-station will remain on the site and this will be a major factor in determining how the site is used in the future. Talks are on-going between Uniper and Shropshire Council. The Steering Group urged Shropshire Council to set out the Council's expectations for the site in a Planning Brief to provide guidance to Uniper before they develop their own proposals.

#### **Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT)**

John Hughes briefed the Steering Group on the activities of SWT and the Wrekin Forest Plan. The Wrekin Forest Plan 2015–20 was created by a partnership (formerly a working group of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to provide a framework for the protection, conservation and management of the Wrekin hill and the surrounding landscape. The group are currently putting together a stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme for £3m – see [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

#### **Lydebrook Dingle**

Russell Rowley reported on a recent event where, following prolonged rainfall, a large amount of water carrying furnace clinker and pulverised fuel ash from former CEGB tipping in the 50's and 60's was swept down the Lydebrook and into the Loamhole Silt Trap and Upper Furnace Pool. This has created a massive scour with consequential environmental damage.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS BARBARA TAYLOR

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