

MINUTES OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD AT IGMT Coalbrookdale on 23 April 2018

PRESENT:

Anna Brennand – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Val Hulme – Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Nicola Lowery – Telford & Wrekin Council
Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council
Joy Tetsill – Shropshire Council
Russell Rowley – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
Cllr Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council
Cllr Heather Oldershaw – Gorge Parish Council
Phoebe Farrell – Telford & Wrekin Council
Penny McKnight – Telford & Wrekin Council
David Balme – Telford & Wrekin Council
Heather Sebire – English Heritage
Tim Slator – English Heritage
Tom Jones – English Heritage
Alex Nicoll – Ironbridge Consortium
Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

APOLOGIES: **Sir Neil Cossons, Chris Turley** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Charlotte Cain** – Telford & Wrekin Council, **Mandy Thorn** – Marches LEP, **Cllr Simon Harris** – Broseley Town Council, **Karen Price** – Environment Agency

Intro: Val Hulme sat in as interim Chair of the Steering Group whilst recruitment for a new chair is in progress. Val Hulme also welcomed Liz Peck and David Bohannon from LPA Lighting who will present an overview of the Lighting Project for the Iron Bridge.

Iron Bridge Conservation Project

Heather Sebire from English Heritage announced that the Bridge will be painted a reddish brown which is a marked change from the usual grey or black shades used in previous restoration phases. Following extensive research fragments of a reddish brown colour were identified as being authentic and historically correct.

Deck surface research had revealed that the original surface was probably a mix of industrial material including slag and quarry stone. The current surface of a mix of tarmacadam and stone will be removed and a surface of quarry stone and tar will be put down by hand and then rolled. Test samples of shades and texture of quarry stone will be laid in the compound prior to any decision being made.

Some minor repairs will be made to the abutments using locally sourced rock which may look out of place until weathering dampens down the colours.

Heather Sebire confirmed that the 13 month Project was on track and completion date of October 2018 is likely to be met. Discussions will take place with relevant stakeholders on a 'grand unveiling' maybe to coincide with the Lighting Project.

Lighting Scheme for the Iron Bridge

Liz Peck and David Bohannon from LPA Lighting gave a Powerpoint presentation on the lighting scheme for the Iron Bridge. The new lighting system will allow the monument to be lit up all year round and enable the lighting to be colour changed for local events and special occasions. The Funding for the project comes from grants from the £2 million Telford & Wrekin Council Telford 50 Legacy Fund and the Arts Council England Cultural Destination Project.

The old infrastructure for the lighting will be completely removed and the new lights will be mounted onto columns to be placed near to the Bridge on the north and south banks at heights to be clear of any potential flooding. Heather Sebire reported that English Heritage will investigate the deck lighting now that the issue has been raised.

Power Station

Shropshire Council reported that there was no further information to add to the report in the previous minutes. The sale of the site is ongoing.

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