

PRESENT:

Les Sparks OBE – Chair

Anna Brennan – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Michael Barker – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Chris Turley – Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Russell Rowley, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)

Cllr David Davies – Telford & Wrekin Council

Cllr. Alan Mackenzie – Madeley Town Council (MTC)

Chris Hogarth – Natural England (NE)

Mike Vout – Telford & Wrekin council (TWC)

Neal Rushton – Structures & Geotechnics Team Leader Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Cllr Graham Hollox – Broseley Town Council (BTC)

Mandy Thorn – Marches LEP

Andy Wigley – Shropshire Council

Barbara Taylor – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)

Kezia Taylerson – English Heritage (EH)

APOLOGIES: **Sir Neil Cossons, Katie Foster** – Shropshire & Telford Tourism Strategy Board (STTSB), **Rev'd Keith Osmund-Smith** – The Gorge Parish Council, **Cllr Jean Jones** – Shropshire Council (SC), **Peter Boland** – English Heritage

Intro: Les Sparks welcomed everyone to the meeting and included a welcome to Andy Wigley from Shropshire Council who will now sit on the Steering Group in place of John Harrison. Apologies were as above.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes from the last meeting on 14 April 2014 were approved by all present.

Stabilisation Update

JACKFIELD PROJECT.

NR reported that the project was progressing well and that the good weather has helped significantly. Mine grouting is on-going and all unrecorded mine shafts have now been located. The main piling is still planned for early August. A public relations day is planned for September including press and local TV. The crown-hole project on the Ironbridge Road is progressing well, the re-opening of the road is planned for the end of July or early August.

LLOYDS COPPICE

Funding for the project, to make good a 40m section of bank and create a rock defence wall has been identified. A start date for the works is now being planned.

World Heritage Site Management Plan (WHSMP)

A detailed outline of the plan will be brought to the next Steering Group meeting on 13 October. In order to best assess the proposals from Madeley and Broseley to extend the World Heritage Site boundary, a Working Group site visit has been arranged for Monday 4 August. Following the site visit the Working Group will put forward recommendations to the Steering Group suggesting a way forward.

Iron Bridge HLF/ERDF Bid

The repairs that are necessary to the Iron Bridge are not as extensive as first anticipated and indications are that these works will be funded by English Heritage.

Solar Panels Planning Considerations

Telford & Wrekin Council have approved plans for a house on Cherry Tree Hill to install Solar Panels on the roof. This approval is a one off and should not be treated as a precedent, and that the Article 4(2) Direction will be discussed in detail and revised if appropriate and guidelines may be produced to provide more constructive advice.

The Steering Group also agreed that there are some areas within the WHS where the impact of solar panels would have more damaging impact than in other areas; this would suggest more severe restrictions are needed in the more sensitive areas. Such areas might be defined in the Management Plan.

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