



Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

SGCT HQ, Coalbrookdale

Thursday 11th July 2024, 9:30 – 11:30

Present:

Ken Sloan (KS) – Chair/Harper Adams University
Brandi Hall-Crossgrove (BHC) – Coordinator
Rory Hunter (RH) – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
JP Brayford (JB) – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
Cllr Rae Evans (RE) – Madeley Town Council
Ian West (IW) – Broseley Town Council (online)
Cllr Caroline Bagnall (CB) – Shropshire Council (online)
Helle Jorgensen (HJ) – University of Birmingham (online)
Matthew Lowe – Harper Adams University

Cllr Carolyn Healy (CH) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Ed McGregor (EM) – English Heritage (online)
Peter Boland (PB) – Historic England (online)
James Dunn (JD) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Penny Stephan (PS) - Telford & Wrekin Council
Barbara Johnson (BJ) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Catherine Worrall (CW) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Dave Edwards (DE) – Environment Agency (online)
Angela Bainbridge (AB) Ironbridge Business Consortium (online)

1.	Introductions of New Chair and apologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from KS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harper Adams University could help the WHS Steering Group partners to host student placements <p>Action: ML to send BHC a list of broad areas to distribute around the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey on Future Ways of Working (including initial priorities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1s with the Chair & Coordinator <p>Action: Partners to have Actions Prioritized for meeting (1, 2, 3) in line with the funding bids Action: Partners ready for 1:1 – What do you think the Steering Groups role should be around planning? Action: BHC to colour code actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies received from: Adrian Carney (TWC), Alison Hinks (Madeley Town Council), Maureen Bragg (IG Parish Council), Sarah Simmonds (ICOMOS UK), Becky Jones (SC), Andy Wigley (SC), Daniel Trewin (EA), Mary Lewis (Coracle Trust), Marion Blockley (Coracle Trust), Andy Gittins (TWC), Jon Bielstein (TWC), Nick Ralls (IGMT), and Ioanna Katapidi (Uni of Birmingham)
2.	Minutes of last meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be agreed at the October meeting and Cllr Healy’s Comments around planning and Steering Groups ToR will be discussed then.
3.	Matters arising
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second meeting with be created for those online.
4.	Partner Updates
	<p>Telford & Wrekin Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PS - Planning) AGA APPEAL as of 26/06 – Hearing took place on 25/06 and site visit 26/06. Now awaiting PINS decision letter, but with the 28/03/24 letter from PINS suggesting a decision date on or before the 29th August 2024. AGA Demo App (TWC/2024/0383) as of 26/06 – Applicants are intending to withdraw this week, and will simply await determination of appeal as reasonable timescales provided for determination of that.

Power Station as of 26/06 – Ongoing. Various DOC applications and Phase 1a is currently under consideration (resubmitted)

Fletcher Methodist Chapel – Recently caught fire and the building has now been secured.

Seven Terrace & the Beacon - planning applications on the horizon

- **(JD – Prosperity & Investment Director)** – Fiber is rolling out across the council area.
- **(JBiel – Culture)** We are committed to a **World Heritage festival** programme again this year in September starting with the Coracle Regatta 28th Aug, Seven Art Exhibition 6th -15th Sep , IGMT Coalbrookdale Open Days 7th/8th, a Wharfage road closure day 14th Sep, and Ironbridge Dog show TBC. Will let you know more details before the 26th.
- We are also undertaking our **Cultural Ambitions project**, an Arts Council England funded consultation that’s starts a conversation towards the development of a Culture Strategy for the Borough (Culture including Heritage) – Marion Blockley, Mary Lewis (Coracle Trust & Heritage Craft Association) and Nick Booth – IGMT all came to one of the three engagement sessions. The next step will be a culture mapping exercise followed by the **launch of our Culture Club networking/action set group**.
- **(CW – Neighbourhood & Enforcement)** Dale End: had a new play park that design has been decided, Ash Tree removals, Awarded the Green Flag Award, new Interpretation scheme going forward, bathing status granted and the entrance is behind the MoG. Only one incident of pollution since the status has been secured.
- **(HB - Transport & Hwys)** The Council successfully received funding from Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to install EV charge points in Council car parks. We are currently working on proposals to install EV charge points in three of the car parks in Ironbridge – Dale End, The Wharfage and Station Yard. The proposal is

• Car Park	• Number of Fast EVCPs	• Number of rapid EVCPs
• Dale End, TF8 7DS	• 2	• 0
• Station Yard, TF8 7JP	• 4	• 2
• The Wharfage, TF8 7NH	• 3	• 0

More details will be shared when they are available.

- **(Cllr CH)** Telford & Wrekin Council new Destination Management Plan that will dovetail with the WHS Management Plan. Planning issues are a key issue for the WHS which include the AGA site and Power Station as well as incremental resident development. Planning Surgeries were introduced to combat the tension between residents, developers and the Local Authority.
- Flood Funding** has been secured for the area £1.2 million for about 40 properties that includes businesses, residential and flood walls. Details are still being refined.

Shropshire Council

- No partner updates available.

Broseley Town Council

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Madeley Parish Council

- No partner updates available.

Ironbridge Gorge Parish Council

- No partner updates available

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

- **(JB)** Financial means is the biggest driver at the moment and fundraising is their major focus as well as independent contracting.

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

- **(RH)** visitor numbers for summer is the key driver for funding. Visitor on target but revenue is not. Annual passes have changed to rolling debit with has helped, but they are still nowhere near pre-pandemic levels.
- Two Funding sources: 1. NHMF (National Heritage Monetary Fund) 2023-2026. Museum of the Gorge (MoG) is completed. About £1 million needed to turn it into the World Heritage Centre. Several buildings have been completed at Blists Hill. The Tollhouse is next to be tackled and with the Coalbrookdale site being at the end of the year. Jackfield and Coalport will take place following Coalbrookdale. 2. ACE (Arts Council England) with this funding a new fence is being erected around Blists Hill, the Hay Incline Plane will be addressed, the foundry is undergoing work as well as looking to reduce carbon & energy output.
- Other works that are needed but have no funding to be achieved: A sink hole needs investigation, Coalport has a wall falling, the Arboretum has two walls down, and Coalbrookdale has a wall that needs addressing.
- IGMT are having careful conversations around the environmental changes and the WHS at the moment.
- They will be introducing EV charging points soon
- Working towards a case study to use the mine water as an energy source with the Coal Authority and TWC.

IG Business Consortium

- No partner updates available.

Birmingham University

- **(HJ)** will shortly have a long (12,200 words) chapter on "UNESCO's World Heritage Convention" coming out as e-publication ahead of print in the new reference work "The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Heritage and Conflict" (eds. Ihab Saloul and Britt Baillie).
- HJ is relocating to Denmark and will no longer be employed at the University of Birmingham from the end of September, but she will retain an affiliation as honorary research fellow at the university and she is happy to remain engaged in the steering group remotely.

English Heritage

- No partner updates available.

Historic England

- No partner updates available.

Environment Agency

- **(DE)** No major updates. The Power Station planning has not had any significant issues as of yet and same for the AGA site according to the EA.

ICOMOS UK

- **(BHC)** AGM July 16th at 3pm followed by retirement do for Susan Denyer (Secretariat)

AOB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (RH) The movement of minerals from the Power Station Site – is the railway not an option now? As this can cause a disruption to transport links, a disruption for the destination management and further infrastructure issues. • (PS) There has been placed a timescale for work to go forward on the bridge from network rail and it seems to have less extractions that are available to be taken out. <p>Action: More information needed from Shropshire Council (AW, BJ, or LE) to BHC to distribute to the Steering Group.</p>
9.	Date of next meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 22nd, 2024 from 12-3pm (Microsoft Teams) Note this date has changed • April 16th, 2025 from 12-3pm (in person @SGCT)