

YORKSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022, 12:00-13:25 Zoom
<b>SESSION 1</b> A brief update from Mike	
<b>Dr Mike Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England</b>	<p>Historic England has extended the funding for the Industrial Heritage Support Officer post, which will now run until March 2025</p> <p>The project aims have been updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support and promote best practice</li> <li>• Promote partnership working across the different industrial sites</li> <li>• Provide strategic leadership, post pandemic</li> <li>• Gather data on all the different sites across the country</li> <li>• To develop and implement sustainability for the project beyond 2025</li> </ul> <p>All ten regional industrial heritage networks are now up and running and it is hoped that for next year's meetings, some will be held in person/on site as well as continuing online</p> <p>Mike has been expanding the online presence of the project – it now includes: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, websites and a e-news bulletin every 2-3 months. Mike is planning on merging the two websites into one (<a href="https://industrialheritagesupport.com/the-industrial-heritage-support-officer">https://industrialheritagesupport.com/the-industrial-heritage-support-officer</a>) in the near future</p> <p>The last review of the industrial sites was carried out in 2008, building on the original 1998 report. A new review is planned next year which will aim to capture what has happened to all the sites since 2008, to explore which sites have opened or closed since then</p> <p>The Covid survey carried out by Mike in 2021 provided data on how sites coped during the lockdowns. The results indicate that the larger sites coped better and were able to gain more emergency funding during this period than the smaller sites. As of March 2022, there have been no permanent closures, but the cost of living crisis poses a larger threat</p> <p>The recent AIM survey of independent museums (including industrial sites) has indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 museums are at risk of insolvency</li> <li>• Reduce visitor numbers are a concern but the largest worry are the increasing energy costs</li> <li>• Many sites have had to scale back on activities to reduce costs</li> <li>• Some sites are exploring restructuring models and possible redundancies</li> <li>• Lower income and visitor numbers are expected for 2023</li> </ul> <p>There is still an intention to hold more face to face meetings in 2023, the online meetings will also continue</p> <p>Mike reminded everyone that he is happy to provide advice and guidance, and that they should get in touch if they need any help</p> <p>Mike's presentation will be distributed with these notes</p>

<b>SESSION 2</b> The attendees each gave an update on their sites and any challenges they are facing	
<b>Mike Nevell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed the meeting that HE were looking to resume the DLB consultant's survey of 1998 in order to get fresh data on the types of sites and the way they are managed and owned, as well as the current issues they face, this should be completed in 2023 and will be done mostly online</li> <li>• Mike mentioned that he was the Secretariat for Industrial Heritage on the All-Party Parliamentary Group</li> <li>• Told the group that sadly, all challenges faced by sites seem to be generic in nature</li> </ul>
<b>John Tanner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John shared a 3D image of the colliery and explained that over the last 10-12 years the site has had substantial redevelopment, which has transformed the understanding of the site and the wider landscape</li> <li>• Have recently received funding from HE and the NLHF for the beam engine and the hydraulics</li> <li>• It was the first Heritage Action Zone in the country</li> <li>• It was built as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Estate Village to Wentworth Woodhouse</li> <li>• Have secured £3.1m funding for further restoration and transformation of the Heritage Railway</li> <li>• John then shared the new video that gives a bird's eye view of how it would have looked as a working colliery (Mike will share the link). This video took 6-7 months to create with lots of collaboration from locals and volunteers across the UK. It is hoped that further down the line, it can be used on a smartphone type device which can be used when touring around the site and gives you an idea as to what it would have looked like when it was a working colliery</li> <li>• John did say that visitor numbers were back up and exceeding pre-Covid levels but admitted that the free parking and the fact that it wasn't seen as a traditional visitor attraction helped this</li> </ul>
<b>Tim Kirker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Said that visitor numbers were not yet back up to pre-Covid levels, down by about 20%, but the visitors that were coming in seemed to be spending more money than previously, especially in the café. Unfortunately, visitor numbers are very unpredictable</li> <li>• Also, they are down on volunteer numbers as some are either still shielding or just decided not to come back</li> <li>• Said that Roger Harvey advised them to use an energy broker, they are now paying less in energy bills than before and the price is fixed for 2 years</li> </ul>
<b>Louise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelham Island Museum has now merged with the Sheffield Museums Trust and no longer charge an entrance fee but are relying on donations and other income sources. Visitor numbers are picking up but are not yet back to pre-Covid levels, down by about 17-18%</li> <li>• The Sheffield Museums Trust has now qualified for the NPO status grant</li> </ul>
<b>Mike Nevell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the topic of the NPO Status, Mike did say that one of his objectives was to get the message out there to industrial sites that although it is applied through the Arts Council, this was a bit of a misnomer as any type of visitor attraction/site can apply, not just art galleries and libraries and if sites see the call out for applicants (every 3 years) then please do not hesitate in applying. All in the meeting agreed that it was a bit confusing. Tim was also curious as to how many industrial applicants failed</li> </ul>
<b>All – general conversation on training and skills shortages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim said that they could now afford to buy a new steam boiler and be able to operate 4 steam engines, unfortunately there seems to be a bit of a skills gap for the training in using them</li> <li>• Mike agreed that this seems to be a long-standing problem, and unlike apprenticeship schemes for steam trains, there didn't seem to be anything for steam engines/engineering, he did suggest that Tim contact the Lancashire Museums Services</li> <li>• Louise also suggested that Tim contact Eddie Foster, who is the Head of Engineering at Kelham Island Museum</li> <li>• On the whole, there does seem to be a general skills gap in Heritage craft skills</li> <li>• Tim also mentioned that they were talking to the Princes TRust</li> </ul>

<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	
Mike Nevell	Industrial Heritage Support Officer
Tim Kirker	Calderdale Industrial Museum
John Tanner	Elsecar Heritage Centre
Louise	Kelham Island Museum / Sheffield Museums Trust