



## IRONSTONE SIGNALS WAY AHEAD FOR TELFORD RAILWAY PROJECT

The development consortium behind plans for Shropshire's newest urban village has underlined its support for the ambitious Telford Steam Railway project.

Guy Scott, who has lived in the county for 20 years, is the project director of the Ironstone Development Group (IDG), which is creating a new 3,300-home community in Lawley.

He recently visited TSR's gala weekend at Horsehay, to see its 5619 tank engine in action and to discuss the group's proposals, which include the opening of a line between Lawley and Ironbridge Gorge.

Guy came away impressed by the sight and sound of the ex-Great Western loco, and the enthusiasm and strategic vision of the organisers.

He says the three construction companies behind IDG – George Wimpey, Persimmon Homes and Barratt Homes – are fully in tune with TSR's proposals.

"We think their long-term plan of opening a Park & Ride serving Ironbridge Gorge is excellent, as it would bring tourists to the area and reduce the flow of vehicles into a world heritage site," said Guy.

"We are equally keen to see progress in the medium-term, towards establishing a terminus at Ironstone, which would become an attraction in its own right, and we are working closely with TSR to deliver this."

TSR also aims to recreate a link between its line, and the area's main-line railway route, via a freight line currently linking Madeley Junction and Ironbridge Power Station.

“That idea would certainly be welcomed, as it would offer the prospect of having rail services directly from our new Ironstone village,” said Guy.

“We appreciate that no progress can be made with regard to that proposal, until Railfreight indicates when it will cease to use the freight line to serve the power station.

”However, the prospect of having – even in the long-term – a rail link which could be used by residents at Ironstone to swiftly access the main line between Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester and Shrewsbury is very appealing.”