

08 November 2022

Roslyn Williams
Interim Town Clerk
Bridgnorth Town Council
College House
4 St Leonard's Close
Bridgnorth
WV16 4EJ

Dear Roslyn

## **Bridgnorth Commemorative Garden**

I write to you on behalf of Bridgnorth Aluminium Limited. Our Shareholders in Greece are keen for us to help to develop a commemorative garden in Bridgnorth in memory of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. After some initial discussions with Mayoress Barlow when she was in post, we have followed up with Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Bridgnorth Town Council's Outdoors and Properties team informally. Now, by means of this letter I would like to formally approach the Council to seek authorisation to pursue this project.

Our motivation to commemorate HRH Duke of Edinburgh stems from his Greek origins and our Group's long standing connections with the Greek Royal family. Our Group has also been a very significant investor in Bridgnorth, we have not only safeguarded the 219 jobs which were in existence in 2001, we have since grown our workforce to around 450. We want to put something back into a community where we have been able to grow this business, we want to work sustainably and with local stakeholders.

Our vision is to work with Bridgnorth Town Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Bridgnorth Community Garden Project and the Trevithick Society to improve the Hazeldine foundry site by designing and constructing an improved garden on the site. We hope the garden will be a beautiful and tranquil place, full of interesting plants and sensory elements, and with an educational and commemorative element celebrating the life of HRH Prince Philip and the late Queen, explaining the industrial and innovation history of the site, the link with modern day metals processing in Bridgnorth, and the wildlife and other sustainability aspects of the garden and its design. We of course envisage access to the garden to be open to all, at all times, free of charge.

We have held discussions with all these partner groups and have strong alignment on our mutual objectives. We plan to finance the design and construction and commit to a reasonable fee for ongoing maintenance. We understand that the plot itself is BTC property and we envisage entering into a long term lease or similar with BTC for a peppercorn rent.

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I hope I have explained our vision, we now request your approval and support to pursue the project further, including continuing to allow Barry Ince to support us so well, progressing the formalities of the land and future maintenance costs of the project and any other land ownership and regulatory issues which need to be covered.

Please get in touch with your questions and comments, and I look forward to taking this project further alongside our other partners in the community.

Yours sincerely,

Simon MacVicker Managing Director

**Bridgnorth Aluminium Limited** 

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