



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

Approved Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 21st January 2021

Date: Thursday, 21st January 2021

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Zoom

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Donald MacIntyre (DM), Charlie Moore (CM), Chris Bloor (CB), Piers Horry (PM), Keith Weller (KW), Ken Mill (KM), Robert Davies (RD), Peter Brid (PB), John Darvill (JD), Cllr Ruth Malloy (RM), Rennie Dickins (RDi), Ann Fay (AF), Robert Davies (RDa), Jon Wellington (JW).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Lindsay Saunders – South Gloucestershire Council (LS), Venison - Bristol City Council (DV), Graeme Stark – Bath & North East Somerset Council and Secretary to the JLAF (GS).

		Action
A	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
A1	Introductions KT welcomed everyone to the meeting including the three new members: PH, CM and JW.	
A2	Apologies Andrew Gough (AG)	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st October 2020 The draft minutes from the October 2020 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. RM highlighted via email that Tom Boden's name was misspelt. KT proposed and RM seconded that the minutes should be approved as a true and correct record subject to the foregoing amendment; the resolution was approved unanimously.	

B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	Local Plans <p>KT introduced the subject. WECA are working on the larger Core Strategy, BCC's Local Plan consultation has closed and B&NESC and SGC's Local Plan consultations are ongoing. RD said that the updates to the Local Plans are to ensure that they remain current and therefore avoid the default presumption in favour of 'sustainable development'. It ensures that objectives and obligations in the core strategy can be delivered. KW noted that there's a new call for sites. JD stated that the recent White Paper may have a major impact on Local Authorities ability to determine their own planning future. NC stated that SGC has a new call for sites and that it is a light touch refresh of the Local Plan and also the Green Infrastructure Plan. KT suggested that the JLAF should wait until WECA put their document out to consultation.</p>	
B2	The Path to Sustainable Farming <p>GS introduced the item by saying that the government have published a new agriculture policy but there's only very limited provision for public access. DEFRA's 25 year plan contained a lot about conservation and access but that appears to have been watered down in this policy. More access will need to be funded to make it a reality. KW noted that cross-compliance appears to have been abandoned. RDi stated that permissive paths can provide important links in the network and that they can be especially valuable around the urban fringe. JD stated that these routes could provide useful transport links, rather than just leisure routes.</p>	
D	<u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u>	
D1	White Paper Planning for the Future <p>KT collated the responses from everyone who submitted comments to her since the last JLAF meeting into a response on behalf of the JLAF. The consultation was in a webform and a copy of that response has not been retained.</p>	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	News from the PROW Teams <p>NC introduced SGC's report in the background papers. NC is leaving SGC and LS will be providing continuity while SGC fill the vacant position. The JLAF wished to record their thanks to NC for all her hard work over the years. KM asked about the Severn Way Flood Defence diversions. NC said that they are temporary TROs with no right of objection and that only a small section is being permanently diverted.</p> <p>DV introduced BCC's report in the background papers. RDi asked for an update on the Kings Weston bridge; KT replied to say that she had recently</p>	

	<p>written to BCC's Structures Team and would provide an update to the JLAF when she receives a response. It is understood that the Historic England issues have been overcome.</p> <p>GS introduced B&NESC's report in the background papers. RM asked how people can submit evidence in support of a DMMO claim for the section of the Cotswold Way above Weston Rec; GS will circulate a user evidence form which can be used. KW has collected four forms so far.</p>	
E	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
E1	<p>Slow Ways</p> <p>JD stated that his local parish is looking closely at this project to find the best alternative routes to roads as a means of reducing traffic. JD will find out more about the project and feedback to the JLAF at the next meeting.</p>	JD
D2	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>GS queried what days would be most convenient for members to have JLAF meetings on and what platform is the most accessible while meetings remain virtual. It was agreed that Thursdays are the most convenient, so the next meeting will be on Thursday 4th March 2021. AG confirmed via email is not able to access Zoom on his device and other members stated that they are unable to use Teams, Webex or other video conferencing software. It was agreed that virtual meetings should remain on Zoom as this is the most accessible platform.</p>	
D4	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>GS reported that Ray Newbigin, who for many years was the Chair of the JLAF and made a great contribution to outdoors access in the area, had sadly passed away.</p> <p>KM highlighted the Ramblers' 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign. RDi stated that the Ramblers seem to be prioritising routes which are currently used over lost routes. NC suggested that this might be because some Surveying Authorities are already overburdened with DMMO application and themselves are prioritising currently used routes.</p> <p>DM stated that the government is proposing to criminalise certain types of trespass. This is intended to stop encampments but there is concern it will have unintended consequences for walkers and horseriders. DM stated that the consultation has ended so anyone opposing the changes would need to write directly to their MP at this stage; GS will circulate link to a letter suggested by DM.</p>	GS
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 4 th March 2021	
	Close 15.50pm	

