



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 4th March 2021

Date: Thursday, 4th March 2021

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Zoom

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

Also in attendance: Michael Bell - South Gloucestershire Council (BM), Lindsay Saunders – South Gloucestershire Council (LS), Duncan 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.	
A2	Apologies Andrew Gough (AG)	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st January 2021 The draft minutes from the January 2021 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. KT proposed and RM seconded that the minutes should be approved as a true and correct record; the resolution was approved unanimously.	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	A new vision for the Cotswolds National Landscape KW suspected that the JLAF's thoughts will be similar to those submitted by other bodies; JD agreed. GS to acknowledge receipt of consultation and pass on thanks for being consulted.	GS

B2 B3	Transport Delivery Action Plan and England Mass Transport Project <p>JD noted that it was focused on urban areas and tackling congestion and therefore didn't have any comment to make on the consultation. RM noted that other schemes on B&NES Council's website extended beyond Bath. KT stated that there is a need to look at the means of getting into and out of Bath, rather than just around the city. JD flagged the draft Joint Local Transport Plan 4 and that connections between public transport and paths are very important. RM stated that walking and cycling infrastructure give people more choice but it's accepted that they are also part of the conversation. JD will search the website to see what other schemes are relevant to the JLAF.</p>	JD
B4	Slow Ways <p>JD described Slow Ways as an interesting project which was started at the beginning of 2020. 7,500 routes have been added to their map and there are useful webinars available online. 10,000 volunteers were due to check the paths and mapping but this has temporarily been put on hold due to lockdown. The project dovetails very well with other transport consultations. CB queried how transport nodes like bus stops fit into the project; JD indicated that there will be reliable, mapped routes between settlements. RD raised the issue of missing links in the network; JD stated that the project will identify these and help to get the gaps filled in. JD will draft a letter to DEFRA and local MPs about the project. DM suggested that the JLAF should ask for an extension to the 2026 cut-off date; CM agreed and stated that it would release pressure on OMAs. JD proposed that the JLAF should write to appropriate bodies formally requesting that the 2026 cut-off be put back; CM seconded and it was passed unanimously.</p>	JD GS
B5	Disabled Access <p>KT notes the importance of making provision for disabled users and that it fits in with many of the current consultations. MB stated that disabled people should have the same opportunities that everyone else enjoys. CM highlighted that 4x4ing is many people's only way of getting out and enjoying the countryside. British Standard BS5709:2018 was highlighted but LS pointed out that large pens are not always suitable. JLAF members will consider whether any circular routes could be created or upgraded to make them fully accessible.</p>	
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	News from the PROW Teams <p>LS stated that Nicola Chidley's old post has still not been filled.</p> <p>DV stated that BCC have not installed stiles in many years and trying to remove staggered barriers wherever possible. The 2021 capital programme has been compiled. KT has contacted BCC's Structures Team regarding the Kings Weston bridge; planning permission has been granted but no funding</p>	

	<p>has been made available. RD highlighted that the path has been closed for 5.5 years and is worried that it will take a fatality to get the bridge repaired and reopened; DV stand that BCC doesn't regard it to be a high-risk site.</p> <p>GS stated that the opposed Concurrent Creation and Extinguishment Orders for Bath Racecourse are finally being determined by PINS.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>Bathampton Meadows</p> <p>Bathampton Meadows is being transferred to the National Trust; RM pointed out that this will prevent the building of a Park & Ride or any other development on the site. RW highlighted the Wiltshire Whippet-style solution as an alternative to a single Park & Ride site.</p>	
D2	<p>Electric Vehicles</p> <p>KT stated that charging points are needed for electric vehicles in rural areas. JD stated that it is important to provide points where people are visiting. MB highlighted that all new residential developments in South Gloucestershire must have charging points.</p>	
D3	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>RD stated that a trial of eScooters has started in Bristol and Bath (voiscooters.com). JD asked whether they have bells and it was confirmed that they do.</p> <p>RM queried whether other people had seen an increase in litter and flytipping since the start of lockdown. JD is part of a litter picking group and hasn't notice an increase.</p> <p>MB queried how the countryside can be made more accessible for black and ethnic minority people. KW stated that Bristol Ramblers are actively trying to encourage more diversity amongst its walking groups. JD stated that East Harptree are trying to make a connection to south Bristol schools to encourage them to explore the countryside</p>	
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 1 st July 2021	
	Close 16.00pm	