



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 1st October 2020

Date: Thursday, 1st October 2020

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Zoom and YouTube

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Chris Bloor (CB), Keith Weller (KW), Donald MacIntyre (DM), Ken Mill (KM), Cllr Ruth Malloy (RM), John Darvill (JD), Rennie Dickins (RD), Robert Davies (RD), Andrew Gough (AG).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Eddie Proctor - Bristol City Council (EP), Duncan Venison - Bristol City Council (DV), Graeme Stark – Bath & North East Somerset Council and Secretary to the JLAF (GS), Patrick Conroy - South Gloucestershire Council (PC)

		Action
A	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
A1	Introductions KT asked everyone present to introduce themselves. GS informed attendees that the meeting was being livestreamed onto B&NES Council's YouTube channel.	
A2	Apologies Chris Simpson (CS).	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th March 2020 The draft minutes from the March 2020 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. KW stated D4 should be amended to read " <i>KM proposed and KW seconded that KT should be chair for the next four month period and Donald MacIntyre should be Vice-Chair. KT and DM were elected unanimously.</i> " The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and correct record subject to the foregoing amendment.	

B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p>Election of chair and vice-chair</p> <p>RD proposed and KW seconded that KT should be Chair and DM should be Vice-Chair until the close of the March 2021 meeting. KT and DM were elected unanimously.</p>	
B2	<p>PC11-20 White Paper Planning for the Future</p> <p>GS introduced Patrick Conroy (PC) who is the Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Manager for South Gloucestershire Council. PC provided a presentation on the White Paper Planning for the Future.</p> <p>The White Paper proposes to change the Government's methodology for determining planning need; this, in turn, informs the Local Plan housing targets. An increased number of planning applications will get approval in principal, particularly those relating to large scale, brownfield sites. It is anticipated that this will result in a 37% increase in approved applications across the West of England.</p> <p>The consultation, which ends today, relates to proposals which can be implemented through revised guidance and doesn't require primary legislation. The other proposed planning reforms published on 6th August are subject to a consultation which runs until end of October. If all the proposals came in it will be the most radical change to planning policy ever.</p> <p>It is assumed that the changes could be implemented by June 2021 and Local Planning Authorities would have to bring in new Local Plans within 30 months (c. end 2024). The streamlined proposals introduce three new 'annotations' (zones); Growth Areas, Renewal Areas and Protected Areas. Local Plans will define what land falls into which of the three annotations. Planning proposals within Growth Areas would effectively be approved without the requirement for outline planning consent; being in a Growth Area means that you're effectively beyond the outline planning stage. In Renewal Areas, it's a bit of a middle ground and it is less clear how Protected Areas compare with current protections such as AONB, green belt etc. The test of soundness and the duty to cooperate will be replaced with a test of sustainable development.</p> <p>Section 106 and CIL will be abolished and replaced with a national infrastructure levy; there might also be a regional element to the levy. This will significantly change in lieu and monetary contributions which currently fund school etc. Developers will have more choice whether to provide school funding rather than affordable housing.</p> <p>KW noticed reference to tree planning but not more comprehensive green space. PC agreed that the White Paper doesn't make connections to other planning considerations such as green infrastructure.</p> <p>NC asked if PROWs will still be a material consideration. PC said that he would hope so, but this is unknown from the information currently published.</p> <p>RD said that site notices are very important and that many people wouldn't know about proposals if notices are online only.</p>	

	<p>JD stated that planning rules are there to protect everyone, but developers are there to make a profit. The new regime will make Codes and Guidance even more important and that this is where the JLAF should focus its energies.</p> <p>RD stated that the proposals will leaves Protected Areas in the dark about what might happen to them and that it's important to bear in mind that it doesn't mean they won't be built on.</p> <p>JLAF members should send their comments to GS by 9th October 2020 and KT, DM and JD will then draft a consultation response for the JLAF to agree in time for submission by the end of October.</p>	
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>GS – In B&NES, the permissive path connecting the Bristol and Bath Railway Path (BBRP) and the River Avon Trail (RAT) has been closed by the landowner due to antisocial behaviour. The Council are unable to take any action to secure the reopening of this path as it was permissive and a Creation Order can't be used to formally create a PROW because it doesn't connect to public highway due to the BBRP also being permissive.</p> <p>NC – In South Gloucestershire, a permissive path on SGC's side of the River Avon connecting Bitton to the RAT and the BBRP has also been closed; it is hoped temporarily due again to significant antisocial behaviour during lockdown. Part of the England Coast Path (ECP) has been approved in South Gloucestershire; there have been some delays to grant applications for establishment works due to the ongoing Avonmouth Severn Enterprise Area (ASEA) major scheme for the sea wall that will prohibit works going ahead along most of the length. However, SGC want to ensure the ECP is accessible and have approval in principle from Natural England for the structures required at the Bristol/SGC border to ensure the length from New Passage to Bristol is accessible. The northern end of the ECP from Aust to New passage has not yet been approved.</p> <p>DV – In Bristol, the grant application for the ECP in Bristol has been approved today.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>eScooters</p> <p>Bristol and B&NES are going to be trialling the use of eScooters. In B&NES this will only be on highway which is legally accessible to motor vehicles but DV stated that he attended a briefing update that suggests in Bristol it will include the use of any paths where cycles are permitted e.g. cycleways, cyclepaths and bridleways. This is a DfT scheme to promote eScooters and trial their use.</p>	

