



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 27th October 2022

Date: Thursday, 27th October 2022

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Community Space, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS29 1FS

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Donald MacIntyre (Vice-Chair of the JLAF) (DM), Charlie Moore (CM), John Darvill (JD), Andrew Gough (AG), Ken Mill (KM), Peter Bird (PB), Keith Weller (KW), Chris Bloor (CB), Ann Fay (AF).

Also in attendance: Theo Brumhead - Bristol City Council (TB), 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 first face-to-face meeting since COVID-19. CM introduced himself and said he represents motorised vehicular users. KT expressed the JLAF's thanks to Chris Simpson who has stepped down from being a JLAF member after many years' service.	
A2	Apologies Ryan Wills, Rennie Dickins, Michael Bell, Tessa Fitzjohn, Duncan Venison - Bristol City Council, Lindsay Saunders – South Gloucestershire Council.	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd November 2021 The draft minutes from the November 2021 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. The minutes were approved unanimously as a true and correct record.	

B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p>Local Plans</p> <p>KT explained the basis of Local Plans (LP) and that B&NES Council are currently consulting on the first stage of re-drafting their LP. CB queried whether LPs should be considered by PROW Liaison Groups rather than the JLAF; PB and KM highlighted the opportunity for cross-fertilisation and a wider view of the subject if considered by the JLAF. CM pointed out that LPs are planning in their broadest sense and not just transport planning. KW felt that most LAFs will deal with LPs and that it just happens that the JLAF is a 'joint' forum across Council boundaries. GS said that Spatial Development Plans are currently on hold while BCC, SGC and B&NESC rewrite their LPs; all three LPs are at substantially the same stage. GS outlined the key principles that will shape the LPs. CM felt that the promotion of sustainable transport and access to the countryside should be a key principle. AG stated that it they should increase access more generally, including to facilities.</p> <p>KW proposed that the JLAF respond to B&NESC's LP consultation stating that protecting and enhancing access to the countryside and greenspaces should be included as a central policy aim; CM seconded and the JLAF voted unanimously in favour.</p>	GS
B3	<p>LAF Liaison</p> <p>CM explained that there's a push to create an overarching group to connect different LAFs. AG queried whether this was funded and GS confirmed that DEFRA have said that resources will be made available. It was agreed that this was an opportunity to improve communications between LAFs. KT will engage with the liaison group and circulate updates with the JLAF as needed.</p>	KT
B2	<p>Badminton Road Cycle Lanes</p> <p>AF explained that the Badminton Road carriageway has been narrowed to create a cycle lane and that horses are prohibited from using the cycle lane. This means that horse riders have to use the narrow, and therefore more dangerous carriageway, instead. JD raised concerns for vulnerable highway users. It's unclear on what basis horses are excluded from using the land as this was previously all-purpose highway. AG queried why it could be designed as multi-user. CM proposed that the JLAF contact SGC to i) raise concerns that provision hasn't been made for horse riders and to ask that safe routes are created between quiet lanes which join Badminton Road and ii) ask for clarification about legislative mechanism has been used to exclude horse riders; KM seconded and the JLAF voted unanimously in favour.</p>	GS

C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>TB introduced BCC's report. PB asked if the Avonmouth works tied in with the coastal path; TB confirmed that they do.</p> <p>GS introduced the B&NESC report. KW raised the issue of the landowner blocking the former permissive path on the River Avon Trail. GS explained that B&NESC have engaged with the landowner but they are not willing to reopen the permissive path and there's nothing further that B&NESC can do.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>English Coastal Path: Aust to Brean Down</p> <p>GS noted that the section of the English Coastal Path between Aust and Brean Down has now been signed off by the Secretary of State and that the necessary physical works on site can now commence.</p>	
D2	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>CM was unable to access the Permanent TRO page on B&NESC's website; GS will look into this.</p> <p>AG queried why JLAF meetings had been moved to Thursdays and asked if members had a preference for which day meetings should be held; the majority of members favoured Thursday meetings.</p> <p>KT suggested asking a representative from the Woodland Trust to give a presentation to the next JLAF meeting; KT will extend an invitation.</p> <p>AG asked if Dan Norris (WECA Metro Mayor) could be invited again to talk at the next JLAF meeting; GS will extend an invitation.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>KT</p> <p>GS</p>
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 2 nd March 2023.	
	Close 15.25	