



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Draft Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 5th August 2021

Date: Thursday, 5th August 2021

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Zoom

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Donald MacIntyre (Vice-Chair of the JLAF) (DM), Charlie Moore (CM), Chris Bloor (CB), Ann Fay (AF), Rennie Dickins (RD), Keith Weller (KW), Andrew Gough (AG), Piers Horry (PM), Ken Mill (KM).

Also in attendance: Michael Bell - South Gloucestershire Council (BM), 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 meeting and introduced Cllr Ryan Wills, who is the new B&NES Councillor representative on the JLAF. Each JLAF member in attendance introduced themselves.	
A2	Apologies John Darvill (JD), Keith Weller (KW), Peter Bird (PB), Duncan Venison - Bristol City Council (DV), Lindsay Saunders – South Gloucestershire Council (LS).	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th March 2021 The draft minutes from the March 2021 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. The minutes were approved unanimously as a true and correct record subject to the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• B1 to read "... JLAF's thoughts will be similar to those submitted by ..."• D3 to read "...KW stated that Bristol Ramblers are actively ..."	

B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p>Slow Ways</p> <p>JD's following written update was read aloud to the meeting: <i>"Slow Ways is now a Lottery Community Funded organisation started in 2020 and has commenced mapping various walking routes that connected villages to villages, to towns and between communities. There are thousands of volunteers involved in the process. The intention is to test whether these routes – some ancient and some registered pathways are verifiable and useful. This will enable a national network of walking and cycling routes to be re-established and mapped so that they can encourage people to connect without taking transport. This in turn will result in a healthier population and a more sustainable environment.</i></p> <p><i>There is an excellent link if you search 'slowways.org' on the net where there is more information plus press cuttings. As far as it may be relevant to the JLAF the Slow Ways is just one of several national initiatives that are responding to government and health advice to increase exercise by dropping the car and walking as well as encouraging hikers to expand their scope for journeying.</i></p> <p><i>The Ramblers launched 'Don't Lose your way' project recording historical ways and as previously discussed the JLAF has written to DEFRA and MPs regarding an extension to adding these routes to definitive maps. So there is a big push to map and thus encourage the population to use paths to connect to neighbouring communities, to transport hubs and reduce traffic as well as improve their health. This seems a timely project that relates to people getting outdoors, out into the countryside and rehabilitating if not avoiding the pandemic."</i></p>	
B2	<p>Rewilding</p> <p>DM introduced the item by saying that rewilding builds upon a history of ecological restoration. It's based on the principals of unenclosed and self-sustaining landscapes; a drop in the sheep population would change the landscape. Additional PROWs are not themselves part of rewilding and environmental land management solutions don't fund permissive access either but this may be an incidental benefit. MB stated that farmers are very resistant to the introduction of wolves. KT highlighted that it is more likely to be relevant to upland areas, rather than the west of England. CB stated that landowners still need to generate income. Wilderness (e.g. brambles) don't always work with public access. GS highlighted B&NES Council's draft Tree Planting Delivery Plan.</p>	
B3	<p>Disabled Access</p> <p>KT introduced the subject and highlighted that there's proposal to make a disabled access route on existing rights of way in Peasedown St John. AF has a particular interest in improving access for the disabled and said that more needs to be done to improve access such as removing or upgrading gates. DM stated that some farmers will resist removing stiles because they want to reduce public usage of the PROWs on their land. MB stated that access can't be improved for all; however, very few routes are fully</p>	

	accessible and improvements can be made by removing stiles or making some routes accessible on trampers. AF stated that gates can be put back in after they are removed if they're lawful limitations.	
B4	<p>WECA Mayor</p> <p>KT suggested inviting Dan Norris, the new WECA mayor, to a future meeting. MB stated that WECA deal with transportation, housing and climate change and this is therefore within JLAF's remit. GS to invite Dan Norris to a future meeting.</p>	GS
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>LS stated that the Coastal Path has been a recent priority. The grant funding application is being prepared but this has been challenging. There have been future incidents involving cattle. DM reiterated that farmers are responsible for ensuring that animals that are known to be dangerous are not put in a field containing a PROW. KM stated that dog owners also have a responsibility in this respect. AG highlighted temporary closures particularly around Stoke Gifford; RD queried the right to object to TTROs; GS clarified that there's no statutory right of objection to the making of a TTRO but that the Secretary of State take objections into account when deciding whether to grant an extension.</p> <p>TB stated that the coast path proposals have been signed off and it has been relatively straight forward.</p> <p>GS introduced the report relating to BANES Council.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>Clean Air Zone update</p> <p>The Bath CAZ Team were requested to provide an update on the CAZ but no update was provided. It's understood that traffic volumes have reduced and payments have increased but no further details are known and the extent of rat-running remains unknown to the JLAF.</p>	
D2	<p>Planning for the Future White Paper update</p> <p>Patrick Conroy provided a written note regarding the Planning White Paper stating: <i>"Currently there is no further update on the PWP other than to say the Government is still considering the feedback they received to last years' consultation. That said with the summer Parliamentary recess approaching there may be further announcements soon. For now, it's probably a holding position pending announcements from Government."</i></p>	

D3	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>MB asked whether ash die back has had an impact on the PROW network; GS said that B&NES Council had received applications for TTROs for associated tree works.</p> <p>AF asked if B&NES Council could provide an update on the Chew Valley Lake route; GS to ask Alison Sherwin.</p> <p>KT asked whether the next meeting should be held in person or via Zoom. GS stated that the Keynsham Community Space can be booked but it would depend on what happens with COVID-19 in the meantime. CB proposed the November meeting should be held via Zoom; RM seconded. The proposal was passed with nine in favour and one vote against.</p>	GS
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 4 th November 2021	
	Close 16.00pm	