



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 6th March 2020

Date: Friday 6th March 2020

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Community Room, Keynsham Library, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Cllr Ruth Malloy (RM), Chris Simpson (CS), Ken Mill (KM), Keith Weller (KW), Peter Bird (PB), Ann Fay (AF), Rennie Dickins (RD), Chris Bloor (CB), Andrew Gough (AG).

Also in attendance: Liz Kinsey – South Gloucestershire Council (LK), 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 Liz Kinsey (LK)	
A2	Apologies Nicola Chidley (NC), Donald MacIntyre (DM), Robert Davies (RoD) and John Darvill (JD)	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st November 2019 The draft minutes from the November 2019 meeting had been circulated to all JLAF members. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and correct record.	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	Frome Valley Partnership LK is the River Frome Reconnecting Officer and gave a presentation on the project. The Frome was a priority catchment area that required more attention, covering 4,000km of river from Old Sodbury to the Floating Harbour. The Environment Agency (EA) assessed that it had poor/moderate ecological quality due in part to the amount of culverting. The intention is that partners (BCC, SGC, EA, Wessex Water and the Bristol	

	<p>Avon Catchment Partnership) work collaboratively to address health, water quality and biodiversity by identifying funding and schemes and improving communications. The five key themes are: reconnecting people and communities, reconnecting the Frome to nature, resilient landscapes and sustainable land management and reducing flood risk and development. It is intended to embed the partnership within each of the organisations involved and to act as a conduit for existing projects and to build an evidence base.</p> <p>The partnership seeks to identify what issues local business have and how these link to the project e.g. flooded premises, health improvements for employees etc. GS to forward Frome Valley Partnership URL to JLAF members. The masterplan for Yate will include improvements to the Frome Valley Walkway and the Avon Wildlife Trust is looking at the possibility of making the river a linear nature reserve. A bid is being considered for funding from WECA and the National Lottery and Paul Spiers will be auditing the walkway to help focus where improvements could be made. If people would be interested in joining the Frome Forum then they could be kept in the loop. CB – has contact been made with the Frome Fairies? LK – the partnership is aware of the group but they're not currently working together. GS to circulate slides and LK's contact details.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>GS</p>
B2	<p>Lower Traffic Neighbourhoods</p> <p>AG attended a presentation on behalf of the JLAF which is now available to watch on YouTube. Waltham Forest have implemented a 'Mini Holland' scheme which is a form of Low Traffic Neighbourhood. Originally intended to promote cycling but presenting through-traffic has had wider benefits such as promoting café culture and improving air quality. Initially there were demonstrations against the proposals but this opposition has evaporated. There are both similarities and differences between B&NES and Waltham Forest. It doesn't have to be expensive to implement. CB – a large part of the difference in house prices between Shirehampton and Thornbury is due to the rat-running through the centre of the former. CS – what is the impact on small businesses? AG – small business often oppose these schemes at first but Cllr Noakes who gave the presentation thought it had a neutral effect on businesses in the medium and long term. A culture change is needed to implement these types of scheme. RM – Cllr Wright supports the principle and is conscious that problems shouldn't just be pushed to neighbouring areas. CS – it's important to think about the increasing elderly population who are more likely to have mobility problems.</p>	
B3	<p>Hierarchy of Users</p> <p>KT stated that not all rules for motorists also apply to cyclists, notably speed limits. CB – pedestrians should be the priority. KT – the law needs changing. CS – electric cars should make a noise and so should bicycles to warn pedestrians. DV – the hierarchy was in the previous JLTPs and will be reiterated in the JLTP4 but council policy and the law aren't the same. KT – the safety of pedestrians should be paramount.</p>	
B4	<p>Agriculture Bill</p> <p>AF stated that equestrian groups are concerned that there's no firm commitment to providing equestrian access in the new Agriculture Bill. KW – the Ramblers have looked closely at the current situation and it appears that amendments that were proposed to the previous version of the Bill have</p>	

	<p>not been brought forward in respect of the current version. It was suggested that the JLAF write to the local MPs. There are two issues i) cross-compliance, and ii) permissive access. Cross-compliance does create red tape for farmer but it does also ensure compliance by acting as a lever to enforce obligations. Litigation is more expensive for local authorities and cross-compliance is a simple mechanism to encourage farmers in a non-contentious manner. Permissive Paths were included in the previous stewardship schemes and these provided financial incentives to include permissive access as a means of overcoming farmers' reluctance. CS – most farmers wouldn't agree to additional access even with incentives but he wouldn't have any objection to such a scheme so long as there's no obligation. AF – the draft letter contained in the background papers should be amended to make it clear that access should be for horse riders, in addition to walkers. KW proposed and CB seconded that the amended letter should be sent to all MPs in the JLAF area. KT thanked KW and KM for preparing the draft.</p>	GS
B5	<p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</p> <p>PB – the LCWIP is very piecemeal and the proposals for Thornbury don't hang together. There are some new routes for Bristol but mostly the proposals are a miss-mash without an overall strategy. These proposals won't encourage greater use of sustainable transport options. AG – the South Glos proposals are very unambitious. KW – the proposals are so piecemeal that it would be preferable for individual members to comment direct on their own area. DV – the LTP4, Bristol Transport Strategy and WECA plans cover strategy and the LCWIP is intended to be a plan of specific works. RD – PROW Teams weren't consulted. KT – to draft a response saying that PROW Teams should be involved in identifying schemes in the plan. AF – new routes should be multi-user.</p>	KT
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>RD – is the Glenavon Farm DMMO relating to the Avon Valley Adventure & Wildlife Park? GS – the Glenavon Farm DMMO relates to paths on the other side of the A4 from Avon Valley on paths which were permissive from 2001 onwards.</p> <p>GS – apologised for the absence of BCC's report from the background papers and will circulate after the meeting. RD – asked for an update on the Kings Weston House Bridge and it's been closed for 4.5 years now. DV – there is no funding and Historic England rejected an application to raise the bridge. KT will write to BCC's Structures Team to ask for a resolution to the damaged bridge.</p>	GS KT
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>Green Infrastructure</p> <p>LS – there's a new Green Infrastructure Manager but LS has not been provided with any further information at this time. GS to ask NC if there is anything that can be circulated. KM – SGC's Green Infrastructure plans will be discussed at the next South Glos Liaison Group so a decision will be</p>	GS

	made whether to bring this back to the JLAF based on what is said at the liaison group.	
D2	Chocolate Path DV – the Chocolate Path and Cumberland Road have been closed as the bank of the New Cut has slipping into the river. Tender documents for the repair works have been returned and BCC will award the contract for rebuild the path and road shortly. Works will start in June and are expected to last 18 months. The aspiration is for Cumberland Road to reopen one lane by April so that Metrobus and traffic can use it.	
D3	Membership renewal/recruitment The following individual's current membership will expire at the end of June: JD, PB, Peter Gould, CS, KM, KW, RD, AG, DM, KT, Chris Barrable, Ruth Howard and Philip King. Existing members will be considered for reappointment unless GS is informed otherwise. There is likely to be at least three vacancies so JLAF members are asked to actively consider if they can find prospective new members, particularly from a landowner background.	
D4	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair KM proposed and KW seconded that KT should be chair for the next fourmonth period and Donald MacIntyre should be Vice-Chair. KT and DM wereelected unanimously.	
D5	Any Other Business None	
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 3 rd July 2020.	
	Close 16.00pm	