



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 1st November 2019

Date: Friday 1st November 2019

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Donald MacIntyre (Vice-Chair of the JLAF) (DM), Chris Bloor (CB), Andrew Gough (AG), Ann Fay (AF), John Darvill (JD), Chris Simpson (CS), Peter Bird (PB), Ken Mill (KM), Peter Gould (PG)

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Duncan Venison (DV), Theo Brumhead (TB), Graeme Stark – Bath & North East Somerset Council and Secretary to the JLAF (GS).

		Action
A	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
A1	Introductions KT welcomed JLAF members to the meeting.	
A2	Apologies Keith Weller, Rennie Dickins, Ruth Malloy	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th July 2019 The draft minutes from the July 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	Home Zones KT introduced the concept of Home Zones and raised the question of how they fit into the West of England Plan and whether the JLAF should support them. The idea is traffic is slowed naturally by the layout; there are no footways and all traffic co-mingles together. CB - there are several such areas in Bristol, such as the Dings near Temple Meads. AG - they do not work if they're through-routes. AF - Coalpit Heath has different surface treatments but this just serves to make create confusion about where you	

	<p>can and should drive. JD – Exhibition Road and Parliament Square in London are examples of shared surfaces; they rely on cars moving slowly and removing conflict between cars and non-motorised users. CS asked who maintains them; GS stated that if they are adopted then it would be the local authority. JD – the concept requires cultural change and infrastructure has to be maintained and replaced. CB – retaining old roads in Emerson's Green has retained a semi-rural feel. AF – Home Zones allow children to play close to home rather than travelling to a recreation ground. KT – they are likely to be included in new developments and planning is trying to move away from provision for private car ownership. JD – there's a positive impact on physically disabled people but a negative effect on visually impaired people. PB – to draft representation to be circulated to planning depts. at three Councils by GS.</p>	PB/GS
B2	<p>England Coast Path</p> <p>NC stated that the consultation took place over the summer. Objections to first section but none to second or third sections. Accessibility (including on scooters) was the main thrust of the representations. The sea wall flood defence works were approved and will take 18 months. A funding application has been submitted for the unobjected to parts; works to be completed over the summer. Funding application for first section will be submitted next summer after Secretary of State approves proposals. The Aust to Brean section with launch in 2021. KM – a lot of work has been done but the flood defence works remain the biggest concern. NC – the Environment Agency and the Councils are trying to ensure that their works dovetail with one another. AG – why isn't it a multi-user route? NC – the legislation relating to the England Coast Path only provides for foot use and not multi-user routes.</p>	
C	<u>ITEMS TO RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	<p>England Coast Path consultation response</p> <p>KM – proposed ratification. CB – seconded ratification. Majority voted to ratify.</p>	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT/FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Teams</p> <p>South Glos. Council: NC – SGC have declared a Climate Emergency. PROW and access are all part of the solution; making routes easier to use reduces reliance on cars but it does need funding. Harmful chemicals have been removed from timber but this does mean that signposts and bridges now rot quicker; fibre polymer is being looked at as an alternative. DM – melting and burning plastic releases carbon. CS – oak lasts for years and is much better than the timber which is often used. AG – does the Climate Emergency have any teeth? In theory, it attracts more funding. The Monitor of Natural Engagement provides interesting statistics.</p> <p>Bristol City Council: DV – s106 projects including the resurfacing of College Road to Halfpenny Bridge are currently ongoing. Diversions are being</p>	

	<p>progressed to improve connectivity to Metro Bus near the North Somerset border.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Council: GS – the Council is looking at a circular walking route around Chew Valley Lake. NC – the Somerdale Bridge project is seeking WECA funding. It will connect to the towpath. If the bridge is to be accessible to horse riders then it will need higher parapets.</p>	
E	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
E1	<p>Bathscape</p> <p>GS stated that the project officer is Dan Merrett and the Bathscape project is proposing 25 access schemes comprised of circular, radial and cure paths. TB – Bristol has a circular walk and the Community Forest Path.</p>	
E2	<p>Livestock Incidents</p> <p>CS – most cattle aren't aggressive but there's always the exception. There are lots more incidents with cars compared with cattle. Members of the public should carry a stick when walking in fields with livestock.</p>	
E3	<p>Election of Chair for Next four month period</p> <p>PB proposed KT for chair and DM for vice-chair; AF seconded both; both was elected in unanimously.</p>	
E4	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Rural Bus Network: In some areas the Council have found the necessary funding for rural buses to continue. Often these networks start off voluntarily but funding then dries up, so they need to be self-funding to continue. AF – the projects that were circulated since the last meeting have been keep going because they've been self-funding. KT – Keynsham TC has secured funding to buy mini-buses.</p>	
F	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 6 th March.	
	Close 16.00pm	