



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 5th July 2019

Date: Friday 5th July 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), Rennie Dickins (RD), Chris Simpson (CS), Ken Mill (KM), Peter Gould (PG), Keith Weller (KW), Peter Bird (PB), Ann Fay (AF), Andrew Gough (AG).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Eddie Proctor (EP), 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 Chris Bloor, Robert Davies, Mike Langley, John Darvill, Duncan Venison	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st March 2019 The draft minutes from the March 2019 meeting had been circulated to all JLAF members. Under B2, 'ambition' should be 'ambitious'. The amended minutes were unanimously approved as a true and correct record.	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	Livestock on Public Rights of Way KT addressed this item. An invitation went out to JLAF members to attend an event in Bradford-on-Avon in connection with a pilot scheme which is being run in Cornwall with the intention of protecting the public and farmers in relation to livestock and public rights of way. KT and AF attended on behalf of the JLAF and Sheila Petherbridge attended on behalf of B&NES Council. Notes haven't yet been circulated, so KT has produced her own notes covering the main points.	

	<p>The scheme is intended to temporarily create alternative routes for members of the public, so that they can avoid fields containing livestock. The three main aims are i) to minimise risk ii) support livestock owners iii) change attitudes. The scheme has been organised by the British Horse Society with the involvement of the NFU, CLA, HSE and farmers. The meeting heard accounts from two survivors of cattle attacks. There was a feeling that the public are aware of the risks relating to steers and bulls but that people underestimate the dangers caused by cows with their calves and certain continental breeds such as Limousin, which are not often handled. Dogs are also often, but not always, a common denominator in cattle attacks. CS stated that most peoples; dogs run behind their owners if they see cattle and this puts their owners at risk; owners should carry big sticks to hit cattle if needed. DM said that the general public aren't often aware of the risk and suggested that there should be more signage and education.</p> <p>Cornwall CC's scheme involves the landowner providing an optional bypass but keeping the legal line open and available for use. If it was a national scheme then the signage could be standardised. A lot of work has already been done but the scheme really needs a national roll out. AF explained that a committee has been set up to look at the possibility of this national roll out; the focus is on walkers but it's also very important to consider riders too. PB asked how successful Cornwall CC's pilot has been. KT said that it is still too early to have any statistics be able to tell. NC said that the ADEPT SW Enforcement Group records the number of attacks and that SGC have done a few temporary diversions. AG asked if landowners could not just implement these alternative routes themselves; the consensus was that they could. DM highlighted that the reporting of these attacks and near-misses is not likely to be very accurate or complete. CS said that it's not known if an animal is dangerous. KT suggested leaving the subject to the next meeting and asked the three Appointing Authorities to find examples of such diversions and possible wording for notices. PB said that walkers should be encouraged to report near misses. DM said that incidents on the PROW network often aren't taken as seriously as those on the road network.</p>	DV/NC/GS
B2	<p>England Coast Path</p> <p>NC addressed this item. Natural England expect to publish their proposals on 25th July 2019 for an eight week period. It will create a 48 mile route from Aust to Brean Down. The Secretary of State will take representations into account when deciding the final alignment of the Coast Path. There are significant exclusions along the coastal margin and the Severnside Flood Alleviation Scheme will also affect the route. This section will be part of a much larger national route. NC will forward the consultation documents when they are available and GS will forward them to JLAF members. The response will need to be submitted before the next meeting. RD asked if the opposed parts of the proposals can be severed; NC confirmed that they could.</p>	NC/GS
B3	<p>Rural Bus Network</p> <p>KT addressed this item and asked what people thought about the rural bus network at present. PG said that it is getting worse and there are proposals to split up First Group. CS said that there is a divide because double-deckers are needed to get large numbers of people into town but they can't</p>	

	serve the smaller rural communities, so they become disconnected. AF to investigate the extent of the network in South Glos and the item will be added to the next agenda.	AF
C	<u>ITEMS TO RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	Joint Local Transport Plan consultation response The response included in the Background Papers was submitted on behalf of the JLAF following consultation with JLAF members via email. KW proposed to ratify the response and AF seconded the proposal. It was voted unanimously to ratify the response.	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT/FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Teams SGC's written report was included in the background papers. An increased number of stiles have been replaced with gates; NC thanked the volunteers and path warden for their hard work making this happen. AC asked if the aim is to replace all stiles; NC that is the goal except for historic stone stiles but that landowner consent was required to achieve this. RD congratulated SGC on their achievement. BCC's written report was included in the background papers. EP stated that planning permission was currently being sought to remove, refurbish and install the Kings Weston Bridge in a higher position; however, the works themselves won't be happening this financial year. £11m is currently being spent to stabilise the Chocolate Path. B&NESC's written report was included in the background papers; there were no questions for GS.	
E	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
E1	Metrobus EP addressed this item. Bristol CC are happy with progress and usage levels. NC said that the M3 route had already surpassed all expectations. EP said that PROW improvements have been achieved in Ashton Vale off the back of Metrobus. KM said that the Metrobus has caused parking problems from where people catch the bus.	
E2	Promoted Routes KT addressed this item. GS said that volunteers helped maintain the promoted routes to a higher standard than the rest of the network. KW asked who actually promotes them; GS agreed to send KW a list. The JLAF could look at routes to connect up existing promoted routes. NC said that the River Frome Valley Walkway is currently bidding for funding. The item is to be added to the next agenda.	GS

E3	Election of Chair for Next four month period DM proposed, and AF seconded, KT for chair; she was elected in unanimously. KT proposed, and KW seconded, DM for vice-chair; he was elected unanimously.	
E4	Any Other Business RD asked for an update on the Chew Valley Lake route; GS will investigate and report back. DM advised that Bathscape now provides an advisory service and has funding opportunities. RD asked if he still needed to be involved.	GS
F	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 1 st November 2019	
	Close 15.45pm	