



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 6th March 2025

Date: Thursday, 6th March 2025

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), John Darvill (JD), Peter Bird (PB), Charlie Moore (CM), Rennie Dickins (RD), Andrew Gough (AG), Ann Fay (AF)

Also in attendance: Charlie Steel - Bristol City Council (CS), Lindsay Saunders – South Glos Council (LS), 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.	
A2	Apologies Donald MacIntyre (DM), Ken Mill (KM), Jef Rowland (KM) and Katie Davis have given apologies.	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th November 2024 The draft minutes from the March 2024 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. The minutes were approved unanimously as a true and correct record.	
A5	Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair KT agreed to put herself forward as Chair until 30 th June 2025. RD proposed KT as Chair, AF seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. DM agreed to put himself forward as Vice-Chair until 30 th June 2025. KM proposed DM as Vice-Chair, JR seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.	

B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p>Local Plans</p> <p>KT highlighted that under the new government there is a commitment to build more houses. B&NES Council has been asked to provide more housing and will take that on board when the revised NPPF is published in January. JD stated that B&NES has been asked to make a much a larger increase than Bristol or South Glos. PB asked what the situation was with South Glos's Local Plan; LS understood that the Local Plan was in force; AF understood that a new Local Plan was currently out for consultation.</p>	
B2	<p>Promoted Routes</p> <p>There was some general discussion about promoted routes both in B&NES and in the wider area, and whether anything could be done to give greater publicity to these routes. This will be considered further at a future meeting.</p>	
B3	<p>Encroaching Vegetation</p> <p>CM is the Somerset Rep for the Green Lane Association who promote the responsible sustainable use of green lanes. GLASS work to ensure that what is left of the 4x4 network since NERC is retained. A limited number of GLASS members are willing to come out and clear vegetation along byways. KT suggested that the Council cut any vegetation adjoining a public right of way that a landowner has the obligation to cut, and then invoice them for the cost of doing so, to ensure that no public right of way gets overgrown.</p>	
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>CM asked for an update on Pipehouse Lane. GS stated that AtkinsRealis have carried out the necessary surveys and produced an options paper with possible solutions. Lauren Baxter, the new PROW Officer, will take forward both the Pipehouse Lane and Batheaston Riverpath schemes. KT said that a lot of improvements have been made across the network over the last 12 months. AG queried the situation with the proposed bridge at Somerdale.</p> <p>LS invited questions in respect of South Gloucestershire. CB queried the situation with the situation with the recent court case; LS confirmed that a diversion application is needed but the anti-vandalism paint has been removed.</p> <p>DV stated that Mary Knight has retired after 49 years Transport and Rights of Way. KT asked how improvement schemes are prioritised; CS emphasised the importance of safety works and ensuring that improvements are spread geographically across the network. DV highlighted that some sizable s106 contributions have been secured.</p> <p>GS flagged that an increasing number of developments aren't having the routes dedicated and adopted. PB suggested that the issue should be raised with government as this could be storing up problems for the future</p>	

	with maintenance not being carried out and routes potentially being closed off. KT to send a letter to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government highlighting i) risk that routes will not be maintained ii) burden on householders and local authorities iii) the loss of routes if they're never dedicated. KT to raise the issue with other Access Forums.	KT
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	Any other business RD asked for an update on the Concorde Way in Bristol which has been closed for three years now. DV will provide an update at the next meeting.	DV
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 6 th March 2025.	
	Close 15.30	