



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Draft Minutes of meeting, Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Date: Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (KT), Francis Bover (FB), Peter Bird (PB), Andrew Gough (AG), Rennie Dickins (RD).

Also in attendance: Charlie Steele (CS), 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 including Frances Bover who has joined the JLAF.	
A2	Apologies Ann Fay (AF), Chris Bloor (CB), Jeff Rowland (KM), John Darvill (JD), Ken Mill (KM), Charlie Moore (CM), Shaun Stephenson-McGall (SSM), Lindsay Saunders (LS), Duncan Venison (DV) and Katie Davis have given their apologies.	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th March 2025 The draft minutes from the March 2025 meeting have been circulated to all JLAF members. The minutes were approved unanimously as a true and correct record.	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	Election of Vice Chair Donald MacIntyre (DM) has stepped down from the JLAF due to ill-health. The JLAF expressed its thanks for Donald's time both as a JLAF member and as the Vice-Chair; his contributions as a pro-access landowner has been very much appreciated. KT to write to DM to thank him for his contributions to the JLAF. KT asked JLAF members to consider who might be happy to stand for vice-chair at the next meeting.	KT

B2	<p>National Planning Policy</p> <p>KT introduced the government's '<i>Planning Reform Working Paper: Speeding Up Build Out</i>' policy paper. AG highlighted that much of the consultation isn't directly related to PROWs. PB stated that the protection of PROWs, cycle routes and public transport in policy is essential; if planning policy doesn't provide for an effective transport policy then people will just continue to use their cars. AG queried whether PROWs etc. could be vulnerable because reducing protections could be seen as a way of making it easier to build, which is the ultimate aim of the new National Planning Policy. The four-year closure of the Concorde Way in Bristol was highlighted as an example of sustainable transport being sacrificed in favour of house building.</p> <p>KT said that the new National Planning Policy appeared to be focused solely on speeding up planning. AG stated that whatever is done to speed up house building shouldn't be at the expense of the public access. The consultation runs until 7th July and GS will circulate a link.</p>	GS
C	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u>	
C1	<p>News from the PROW Teams</p> <p>No one from South Glos Council has been able to attend the meeting but any questions can be forwarded to LS. PB highlighted that the England Coast Path has taken a long time to implement. CS stated that the coast path legislation includes roll-back provision but no such equivalent applies to the PROW network. KT highlighted the importance of the volunteer teams.</p> <p>GS said that that has been a greater focus on enforcement and work is ongoing to adopt a new Enforcement Policy. RD asked about the budget situation and GS confirmed both capital and revenue budgets are stable.</p> <p>CS said that Homes England dedicated a network of path at Brislington Meadows and they're seeking to stop up and divert the same paths now that permission has been granted to build homes on the site.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Recruitment is being delayed until November in the hope that landowner interests will be less busy at that time of the year and more likely to apply to join the JLAF.</p> <p>GS to invite someone from the Forest of Avon to speak at the November meeting.</p>	GS
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 6 th November 2025.	

	Close 15.10	
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