



**LAF Public Participation (Agenda Item 2)**

12

None

**LAF Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)**

13

The Chair reported that she was a member of the British Horse Society and was a District Bridleway Officer.

Jonathan Brownett reported that he worked for Natural England who were promoting the England Coastal Path.

**LAF Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2019 (Agenda Item 4)**

14

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**LAF Access Officer's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 5)**

15

In the absence of the Access Officer the Principal Access Officer/Secretary provided updates on:

**National Grid Update**

National Grid had commenced work relating to the renewal and additional power lines which would span through the district. This was a rolling programme undertaken over many years. It was hoped that the majority of Public Rights of Way (PROW) affected by this would be kept open by controlled crossings rather than closure or diversion. These works would continue until 2025. It was not known what the impact of these works would be but the council would be responding to any complaints received.

The Vice-Chair commented that the controlled crossings he had observed were being very professionally managed. It was not known if the crossings were always manned.

**Coastal Path Update**

Natural England (NE) had submitted its report relating to the England Coast Path (ECP) between Aust and Brean Down to the Secretary of State on 25 July 2019. Consultees were advised that the submissions could be accessed online. Notifications had also been placed in various newspapers in the district. Comments were requested to be submitted to NE by 19 September 2019 and North Somerset Council (NSC) submitted its response on 17 September 2019. The Local Access Forum Sub Group had also submitted comments. These representations were being considered by NE, who in turn would provide a response to the Secretary of State. The Access Officer had met with NE to review all the comments as preparation to respond to any issues raised by the Secretary of State.

Minimal objections were raised and mainly related to the Woodspring estuary. NE would work on sections of the Path without objections whilst negotiating the rest.

The ECP was part of a national trail from NE rather than an NSC trail although NSC would be responsible for its ongoing maintenance - 70% of this cost could be reclaimed from NE. The ECP was intended for pedestrians rather than cyclists, although there would be common usage on some stretches.

The Access Officer had identified and costed every piece of work to be done on the ECP. Once permission was given this information would be used for the funding bid to NE who should fund the ECP in its entirety.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

## **LAF 16 Secretary's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 6)**

The Secretary provided updates on:

### **Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Report**

Work was continuing on the backlog of applications listed on the Definitive Map Register. Of the 21 directions:

- 10 files had been completed;
- 1 direction received to make an Order (Sandmead Drove);
- 3 appeal decisions were awaited (Ruggs Rd, Kenn Moor, Backwell Stones);
- 1 Order out to consultation (Lilypool Drove);
- 1 out to Public Hearing on 1 April 2020 (Locking Head Drove);
- 4 objected orders to be sent to Secretary of State for determination.

Work had also commenced on other applications on the register which had been awaiting their turn for determination, including another direction which has been issued by the Secretary of State. Three reports were being presented to the next meeting of the Public Rights of Way Sub Committee on the 26 November 2019.

### **Strawberry Line Extension (SLE)**

Initial consultations had been undertaken to identify a route along which the bridleway could pass. Although fifty six landowners had been consulted only minor progress had been made due to the sensitivities involved. For example, for some the proposed route would pass through parking bays, or farmland not previously open to the public. Nonetheless, the initial consultations had identified where agreement could be reached or where objections were strong. Objections would need to be passed to the Secretary of State for review and could lead to a public inquiry. Knowledge of the objections in advance should help to minimise the time and cost of an inquiry.

The route had been broken into sections. The first of these between Arnolds Way and Lampley Bridge, on land being developed by Bloor, was complete. This section was suitable for use by cyclists also.

Work was ongoing on how to manage the route where it travelled under the M5 at Lampley in order that it could be accessed by all, including cyclists, horse riders and users of mobility scooters.

Cllr Harley, a member of the Strawberry Line Society (SLS) Management Committee, requested that information on the SLE from this Forum be shared with the SLS Management Committee.

It had been identified that the SLE project needed more officer input. Accordingly, Lucy Roca, Access Officer DMMO, would progress the DMMO work enabling the Secretary to concentrate on the SLE (in addition to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan). It was hoped that this would demonstrate to other partners NSC's commitment to the SLE project.

### **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)**

The Secretary reported that she was working on a rewrite of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). She would be undertaking consultations with Parish Councils to assess their priorities on routes in their area which they considered to be important for the benefit of everyone.

#### **Resolved:**

- (1) that the report be noted.
- (2) that the Chair re-circulate Barbara Bennett's photographs of the SLE route at Lampley to members;
- (3) that the Secretary liaise with the Natural Environment Officer and Principal Green Spaces Officer at North Somerset Council in order to progress sharing the relevant SLE extracts from the LAF minutes with the SLS Management Committee.

**LAF  
17**

### **Chair's report (oral report) (Agenda Item 7)**

The Chair provided updates on:

#### **Festival Way**

Concerns had been raised by the landowners about horses using the Festival Way Cycle Path and therefore they were no longer allowed to use it. The Chair formally requested that the Secretary contact the landowners directly to find out their concerns.

#### **Uphill Nature Reserve**

Concerns had been expressed with regards to horse riders using this route. Originally there had been a sub-committee set up to talk to the relevant Councillors and parties. This was cancelled and therefore the Chair formally requested that this meeting be re-arranged to talk through the concerns with the relevant parties.

## **Huddle – NE LAF Discussions**

### *Vehicular access to Public Rights of Way (PROW)*

There had been a rise nationally in vehicles accessing PROWs, including laying tarmac on a PROW to access a property. DEFRA had advised these were local matters in which they could not become involved. The Secretary informed members that a special licence was required to drive across a PROW. Any work to a PROW needed to be approved by NSC and that householders would be informed to remove any unapproved works.

### *The Blue Book for Roads*

The Blue Book for Roads had been created on Huddle for the recording of 'unadopted' or 'white' roads. Any that had not been recorded by 2026 could be lost. Some were uploading streets to 'one.network' (<https://one.network/>). The Secretary advised that NSC was not doing this in order to avoid it leading to a presumption that the roads were in NSC ownership. However, NSC does use the site to list roadworks. Elaine had asked that NSC's Geographic Information System (GIS) included a layer where 'white' roads could be recorded. Their precise status might be unknown but it recorded them as a potential PROW.

### *Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit*

The Chair and Vice Chair had both contributed to this Government consultation, which included reformation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It was disappointing that there were no 'roundtable' discussions near North Somerset. Open access had not been included in the consultation.

### **Resolved:**

- (1) that the report be noted.
- (2) that the Chair circulate a link on the discussions on Huddle;
- (3) that the Secretary arrange a meeting with landowners to hear objections regarding Festival Way.
- (4) that the Secretary arrange a meeting with Councillors and parties to discuss concerns regarding horse riding in the Uphill Nature Reserve.

**LAF  
18**

### **Vice-Chair's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 8)**

The Vice Chair provided updates on:

#### **Park Runs**

To brief members of the Forum on Park Runs (which were free for participants), the Vice Chair had arranged for Jonathan Goodland, one of the organisers of the new Park Run in Clevedon

(<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/clevedonsalthousefields/>) to attend the next Forum to speak. Mr Goodland was involved in the Little Stoke Park Run which was closed following Stoke Gifford Parish Council's request that participants be charged to contribute to the upkeep of Little Stoke Park.

**Resolved:**

(1) that the report be noted.

(2) that the Secretary liaise with John Flannigan, Community and Environment Service Manager to determine the charging policy for users of NSC's parks and open spaces.

(3) that the Secretary contact Jonathan Goodland to confirm his attendance at the next LAF meeting.

**LAF 19 Sub Committee Reports (oral report) (Agenda Item 9)**

**Coastal Path Sub-Committee**

Rhiannon Robinson served on the Coastal Path Sub-Committee to promote accessibility for disabled users. The sub-committee had been very helpful on these issues and the only known point of concern was at Huckers Bow where new work was being undertaken over the sluice. Mobility access would not be possible but there was a roadway alternative.

Cllr Tonkin expressed an interest in serving on the sub-committee, provided it was not a conflict of interest with his role as NSC's Executive Member for 'Planning and Transport (excluding public transport)'. He would seek advice and inform the LAF in due course.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**LAF 20 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting (Agenda Item 10)**

It was agreed that the following items be brought to the next meeting of the Forum:

**Park Runs**

**Bristol Water's Reinstatement of the Strawberry Line**

**Resolved:** that the Secretary invite Bristol Water to report on the reinstatement of the Strawberry Line following work to improve water supplies.

**LAF 21 Date of the next meeting (Agenda Item 12)**

Members noted that the next meeting would be held at 18.00 on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at Castlewood.

---

Chairman

---