

Ian Clemmett is moving to a new role in the Peak District following a restructure in the National Trust's Somerset Coast & Countryside team.

Resolved:

(1) that the Forum Clerk would ask the National Trust to nominate a new representative.

LAF 23 Public Participation (Agenda Item 2)

None

LAF 24 Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

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

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

LAF 25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 October 2019 (Agenda Item 4)

LAF15 – Access Officer's Report on Coastal Path Update: the Access Officer clarified that the maintenance being carried out by North Somerset Council (NSC) is on behalf of Natural England.

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

LAF 26 Access Officer's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 5)

The Access Officer provided updates on:

National Grid Update

National Grid (NG) was continuing its work on the renewal and addition of power lines which would span through the district; the works would continue until 2025. North Somerset Council (NSC) would be responding to any complaints received and had contacts at NG for resolving issues.

Coastal Path Update

The Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was considering the report submitted by Natural England (NE) on the England Coast Path (ECP) between Aust and Brean Down; their response advising the work that can be done was awaited.

Work on sections of the Path without objections continued when possible, including changes to access to Middle Hope in conjunction with the National Trust.

Concern was expressed about the worse than usual condition of paths, for approximately 30 metres, at Woodspring Priory which were muddy and impassable. The Access Officer advised they could be repaired with gravel

in the short term but a longer-term solution, including better drainage, was really needed and it was not possible for work to be done everywhere. Ian Clemmett (National Trust) expressed disappointment with the work undertaken by the Environment Agency.

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

Work by Bristol Water to reinstate the Strawberry Line was now 98% complete, including lighting; and an application had been submitted for a mitigation licence in relation to the roosting bats.

Jonathan Brownett expressed surprise that Bristol Water had been given an award for its work on the Strawberry Line before it had been completed.

The Forum agreed an update on work on the existing sections of the Strawberry Line was needed.

Annual Report for 2018-19

The Access Officer gave copies of the draft Annual Report for 2018-19 to Forum members for their review and invited comments.

Members suggested that the Report mention more current activities and future projects, and that the listed members' names be reviewed.

Worlebury Woods

The Access Officer gave an update on the application to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence to remove woodland in the Worlebury Camp Iron Age hillfort.

Resolved:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that Natural England be invited to give an update on the Coastal Path at a future Forum meeting, including the response to local objections;
- (3) that the Access Officer would arrange a site visit to Woodspring Priory with the National Trust to see what path improvement work could be undertaken;
- (4) that Gareth Withers, Principal Green Spaces Officer for NSC, would be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to give an update on existing sections of the Strawberry Line Extension, including the presentation of maps and plans;
- (5) that the Access Officer would revise the draft Annual Report for 2018-19 to incorporate Members' suggested updates.

LAF 27 Secretary's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 6)

In the absence of the Secretary it was

Resolved:

(1) that the Secretary present the Definitive Map Modification (DMMO) Report and Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) at a future meeting of the Forum.

LAF 28 Chair's report (oral report) (Agenda Item 7)

The Chair provided updates on:

Sustrans 'Paths for Everyone' Project

Sustrans had analysed all routes in the National Cycle Network to identify how they can be made safer and more accessible for everyone as part of their 'Paths for Everyone' project. By 2040, Sustrans hopes to add 5000 more miles of traffic-free paths. Sustrans is working with local communities, and where possible would make paths accessible to horse riders.

One local project was to improve the road crossing at Ashton Court, where the Festival Way route crossed the B3128. It was hoped a meeting with the landowner would help to move the project forward to completion.

Membership of North Somerset Local Access Forum

The Chair noted there was a need to recruit new Members for the Forum, and several suggestions were made for organisations to approach, including Sustrans, the Ramblers and the North Somerset Cycle Forum (the latter through Ben Searle, Senior Transport Policy Officer at NSC). Other ideas included promoting the Forum on North Somerset Council's social media, and its *Life* magazine.

The Chair also noted that letters inviting current Forum Members to renew their Membership were due to be issued by the Secretary. It was hoped those that renewed their Membership would remain committed to the Forum, and those who were no longer able to commit would stand down, to free up places for new Members.

Huddle

The feature enabling Discussions within Huddle was reported to have been removed and the Chair advised she would raise this with Huddle.

Agriculture Bill 2020 Second Reading

The Chair reported that the Agriculture Bill 2020 would be discussed in Parliament during early February 2020. The Bill included a clause relating to public access and it was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to North Somerset's MPs (Liam Fox and John Penrose), on behalf of the Forum, asking them to support the clause.

Resolved:

(1) that the report be noted;

(2) that the Secretary be asked to produce an article for North Somerset Council's *Life* magazine promoting the Forum and inviting applications for membership;

(3) that the Chair raise with Huddle why it had removed the Discussions feature;

(4) that the Chair would write, on behalf of the Forum, to North Somerset's MPs regarding the Agriculture Bill 2020.

LAF 29 Vice-Chair's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 8)

In the absence of the Vice Chair it was

Resolved:

(1) that the Vice-Chair be asked to provide a report on the Oxford Farming Conference to a future meeting of the Forum.

LAF 30 Sub Committee Reports (oral report) (Agenda Item 9)

None.

LAF 31 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting (Agenda Item 10)

Resolved:

(1) that named (or other appropriate) representatives would be invited to future meetings of the Forum to report on:

- Abbots Leigh Parish Council's Lost Ways Project
- Clevedon Park Run
- North Somerset Cycle Forum (Ben Searle at NSC)
- MetroWest Consultation
- Weston to Clevedon Cycle Route and public access over the Tutshill Sluice (David Fish at NSC)

Chairman
