

# Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## North Somerset Local Access Forum

### Tuesday 15 October 2024

Castlewood Room G08, Tickenham Road, Clevedon BS21 6FW

Meeting Commenced: 18.00

Meeting Concluded: 19.07

#### Councillors:

- P Thomas Daw (substitute for Dan Thomas)  
P Peter Burden  
A Helen Thornton

#### Independent Members:

##### Rights of Way and Access Land Users

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| P Tina Hamilton | P Jonathan Brownnett |
| P Sheila Dixon  | P Julie Main (Chair) |
| P Nikki Barton  | P Marianne McLeer    |

##### Landowning Interests

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| P Richard Simmons | Vacancy         |
| P John Harris     | P Richard Jones |
| P Robert Parsons  | Vacancy         |

##### Other Interests

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| P Gillian Hopkins | P James Tonkin<br>(Vice Chair) |
| P Nigel Bourne    | Vacancy                        |
| P Roger Trubridge | Vacancy                        |

#### Officers

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| P Elaine Bowman<br>(Place) | P Andy Carroll<br>(Place) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**LAF 13 Welcome and apologies for absence.**

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The Chair shared condolences in respect of the death of Katherine Diver who had worked on the Pier-to-Pier team.

**LAF 14 Public Participation**

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None.

**LAF 15 Declarations of Interest by Members**

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Richard Simmons declared an interest in the extension to the Strawberry Line as a landowner.

**LAF 16 Minutes of the meeting held on the 16 July 2024**

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**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting 16 July 2024 be approved as the correct record.

**LAF 17 Access Officer's Report (oral report)**

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**1. Coastal Path Update**

The Officer presented a verbal update to those present, that a section of the coastal path at Ladye Bay remained partially closed, due to a severe landslip. North Somerset Council (NSC) were in discussion with Natural England on the closure and required approval on funding. No resolution had been sought to date. Coastal erosion had occurred and was a cause for concern regarding public safety.

The steps down to Ladye Bay would be open soon.

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

**(2) Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) and Public Path Orders (PPO)**

The Officer advised that an application had been made to Natural England for work to the coastal path from Clevedon to Weston super mare at Uphill. Dialogue was made and approval given with Farmers and Landowners. A start date was to be confirmed.

Natural England and the Local Access Forum (LAF) discussions were

ongoing in relation to the boundary changes and the issues on Wildlife. A consensus would be sought with other agencies.

Little progress had been made on DMMO's. 46 remained undetermined. The Secretary of state had acknowledged the appeals but had not responded.

No further contact had been received from EDF in relation to the contract for Solar Panels. A consultation was required with EDF and the Environment Agency to agree mitigation for the site. A discussion ensued in relation to the plan B, to mitigate the risk of fish getting into the coolers. EDF proposing 350 hectares of salt marsh.

Landowners would provide documents and an update for the LAF members at the next meeting.

A request was made for the LAF members to receive an update from the Public Rights of Way committee (PRoW). The officer advised that the LAF members viewed the minutes of PRoW meetings on the Council website.

**Resolved:** that the committee noted the report and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

**LAF  
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### **Chair's Report**

1. Huddle Update: The online resource files, forums and resources were valuable. Natural England used a SharePoint site to disseminate information. North Somerset Councils IT department were creating access for the LAF members to enable engagement and feedback from other forums.

**Resolved:** that the committee noted the report and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

2. DEFRA update: The Chairperson attended a webinar (Access Roads to New Roads) held by a Barrister from New Chambers. Information from DEFRA was received in relation to common land. Deregistration of common land must be requested from the Secretary of State and Deregistered common land needed to be replaced. Consents were required by the Commons Act 2008.

The Chairperson also attended a webinar on Rights of Way in Towns

and Villages.

**Resolved:** that the committee noted the report and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

**LAF  
19**

**Vice Chairperson's report.**

A director level report was required to provide an update on the Nailsea Cycle path (from Engine Lane to the Station).

**Resolved:** that the committee noted the report and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

**LAF  
20**

**Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting**

- (1) The Chairperson advised that there were still vacancies on the Membership of the Forum, a revised listing was brought to the meeting.
- (2) Ideas were needed for discussion from a landowner perspective.
- (3) A speaker was required from Natural England or DEFRA.

**Resolved:** that the committee noted:

- 1) That the report on the Local Access Forum membership be noted, and that an email was to be sent to Natural England, The National Trust, Sustrans and DEFRA requesting that a person be nominated to speak.
- 2) That the discussions on ethnic minority representation and disabled access be discussed as agenda items at the next meeting.

**LAF  
21**

**Any other Business**

**1. Ethnic Minority Representation**

A question was raised in relation to what use was made of Ethnic Minority Representation (cited) article in the Times newspaper.

**Resolved:** that the committee agreed that ethnic minority representation be discussed at the next meeting. The Chairperson was to invite "Bird girl" to speak at the January meeting.

## 2. Buddy System

Vacancies existed in the parish / town council buddy system. Councillors were needed to attend parish and town council meetings to provide updates and to promote the Local Access Forum.

**Resolved: that** the PLACE officer would provide a graphic to present at Parish and Town meetings.

## 3. Planned Maintenance of Tutshill Greenway

Planned maintenance had caused upset to cyclists on Pier-to-Pier way Concerns were raised about flooding should there be insufficient maintenance. An advertisement or notice was required for closure as a matter of courtesy.

**Resolved:** that Internal Drainage Board (IDB) would provide a notification to Horse riders and cyclists.

## LAF 4. Update from Principal Officer, PLACE.

21 North Somerset Council were experiencing financial pressures that could result in less projects in the future as non-statutory services would be subject to funding availability.

**Resolved:** that the committee were advised that the LAF could apply for funding and grants for improvements that NSC could not

## LAF 22 Dates of future meetings during the 2024-25 Municipal Year

- 1) 21 January 2025 - 6pm Chairperson not available
- 2) 22 April 2025 – 6pm

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Chairperson

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