

Notes

of the Meeting of the

North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 23 April 2024

Castlewood

Meeting Commenced: 6.02 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.20 pm

Councillors:

P Dan Thomas

P Peter Burden

A Helen Thornton

Independent Members:

Rights of Way and Access Land Users

Ab Marianne McAleer

P Sheila Dixon

P Nikki Barton

Ab Jonathan Brownett

P Julie Main (Chair)

P Tina Hamilton

Landowning Interests

P John Harris

P Robert Parsons

Ab Bernard Gray

A Richard Jones

Other Interests

Ab Gillian Hopkins

A Nigel Bourne

P James Tonkin

Ab Roger Trubridge

Officers

P Elaine Bowman
(Place)

A Andy Carroll
(Place)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Ab: Absent, no apologies received

LAF 39 Welcome and apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

LAF 40 Public Participation

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr John Ives (Waymarking Public Rights of Way), addressed the Forum. He read out a statement relating to the duty of North Somerset to put signs where the public right of way leaves the metalled highway. He believed that half were missing or not fit for purpose and stated the public should know where the public paths are.

Mr Ives referred to legislation which he considered was relevant, advising that there was a lack of clear national policy relating to the fitting and specification of signage. There had not been a review since 2008. Mr Ives advised that he:

- had approached DEFRA and received an initial email.
- had undertaken research.
- would like the Local Access Forum to approach other LAFS.
- would ask the Local Access Forum to approach Councillors to bring forward at the Planning and Regulatory Committee

Mr Ives believed that this was a UK wide issue and said he would contact other Local Access Forum's asking for their interpretation of s27. Officers challenged whether this should be funneled through the Public Rights of Way Committee.

Councillor Thomas advised that he sat on the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

Mr Ives suggested that requirements for use of steps and guidance were checked. The chair passed a document to Mr Ives in relation to what she had found in relation to another LAF's response, and as there was no central government stance on this, she stated that he would need to continue to raise this with North Somerset Highways department, as the matter appeared to be more of a highway issue, or with a central government body such as DEFRA. This was not something the LAF felt they would be able to advise upon as there was no national standard.

LAF 41 Declaration of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 2)

None.

LAF 42 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 January 2024 (Agenda Item 3)

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

LAF 43 Secretary's Report (Agenda Item 5)

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Membership

A new member had joined the LAF, Roger Trubridge.

PROW Team

The subject of minimal staff was discussed. The suggestion was made to look at College/University Students or interims.

Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders

The LAF were advised that at that point in time there were 32 Public Path Orders files on record and 72 Modification Orders, 40 of which had not been commenced.

LAF 44 Access Officer's Report (Agenda Item 6)

In the Access Officer's absence, the Secretary presented the report

Coastal Path Map on Natural England Website

Further to the item presented at the last meeting, the members had requested sight of plans showing the location of the King Charles II England Coast Path.

Landslip at Ladye Bay

The Forum was advised that there had been a major landslip below a section of the King Charles II England Coast Path at Ladye Bay. This section of path had been closed to the public for safety reasons and has been observed for further fall. Officers were already in discussion with Natural England about a possible alternative route in the future whether it was not possible to reopen this section.

Planning Updates

Nothing to report.

Maintenance updates

The Local Access Forum was advised that over the last twelve months 344 issues had been logged, 236 had been resolved. 11 bridges had been replaced, 71 gates and 145 vegetation issues.

LAF 45 Chair's report (Agenda Item 7)

Maintenance

The Chair told the Forum that hedges in the area were being cut back which was welcomed.

The Chair advised the Forum that she had attended a course in Dartmoor. She recalled an incident near her where she had been advised to contact the Police Commission Office. She received an instant response from them. Following this an Officer attended Felton Common and gave a presentation. They are willing to come to a LAF meeting and present. The Chair felt that this was very interesting.

The police in Gwent had established a Blue Cross scheme comprising of three training sessions. They had been investigating irresponsible dog

behavior. There was an offer of getting some police presence into troublesome areas. The LAF were advised should they be aware of any concerns around dog walkers, they should be reported to the police.

Action: Chair to contact the Police to request attendance at the next meeting.

AGM Meeting 16th July 2024

It was suggested that the AGM meeting include a visit to Tutshill Sluice cycle way to see the route when it would hopefully be open and available for use. Suggested meeting in Kingston, village hall.

Action: The Secretary to book the village hall or another local venue if this was unavailable for the AGM with refreshments.

LAF 46 Sub-Committee Reports (Agenda Item 8)

It was felt by those present that groups such as horse riding and farming need to ensure representative on subgroups.

Vice Chairpersons Report

There was concern raised about E motorbikes and scooter, and illegal use being made on the highways, and questions raised about possible action that could be taken about their speed reduction. In locations where there were problems, were predominantly in precincts. This concern also related to disability vehicles. It was considered that Police involvement was needed. It was also thought that information shared through social media would be the best way of spreading the message. Any instances that cause concern should be reported to the Police so that locations could be recorded.

LAF 47 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 10)

PROW alteration of Youngwood Lane, West End – Suggestion of this being bridleway & cycleway – it was believed this needed a mini meeting to discuss.

Neighborhood Plan – it was advised that Wraxall's plan was going to a referendum.

AGM – to be held on 16th July 2024 in Kingston Seymour. Secretary to send a location plan of meeting and site visit once confirmed.

LAF 48 Date of Next Meeting during the 2024/25 Municipal Year (Agenda item 11)

Concluded: that the Forum would meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday 16th July 2024 6pm
- Tuesday 15th October 2024

- Tuesday 21 January 2025
- Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Chairperson
