

Contact: Levi Cardwell
Direct Dial: 01934 426537
E-mail: Levi.cardwell@n-somerset.gov.uk
Date: 13th January 2025

Dear Sir or Madam

North Somerset Local Access Forum Meeting

**Room G.08, Castlewood, Tickenham Road, Clevedon, BS21 6FW – Tuesday
 21st January 2025 – 6pm**

A meeting of the Forum will take place as indicated above. The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

To: Members of the Forum

Councillors: Dan Thomas, Helen Thornton and Peter Burden

Independent Members:

Rights of Way and Access Land Users	
Nikki Barton	Jonathan Brownett
Sheila Dixon	Marianne McAleer
Julie Main (Chair)	
Landowning Interests	
Vacancy (National Trust)	John Harris
Richard Jones	Robert Parsons
	Richard Simmons
Other Interests	
Gillian Hopkins	Roger Trubridge
Nigel Bourne	James Tonkin (Vice Chair)
Vacancy	Vacancy

Attending from North Somerset Council - Elaine Bowman (Principal Access Officer, Place), Levi Cardwell (Committee Services Support Officer, Dem Services)

*The quorum is seven members, with one representative from each interest group. If seven or more members are present but not all of the interest groups are represented, the quorum shall not be met (extract from the NSLAF Conduct of Business)

This document and associated papers can be made available in a different format on request.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

2 Public Participation

To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Forum on matters that appear on the agenda. The Chairperson will select the order of the matters to be heard.

3 Declarations of Interest by Members

4 Minutes

15 October 2024 to approve as a correct record.

5 Access Officer's Report – (Oral Report)

- **DMMOs Update:** Removal of cutoff date
- **PPO Update**
- **Coastal Path Update**

6 Vice Chair's Report – (Oral Report)

- **Disability Group Representation**

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

For 22 April 2025:

- **Chair's Report:** Police Road Safety Event, and a Discussion of Speaker from Natural England and DEFRA update
- **Ethnic Minority Representation:** Potential Speaker for April

8 Any other Business (notified to the Chairperson by noon on date of meeting)

- **Standing Item:** What Local Access Forum members want to see discussed in future meeting.

9 Dates of future meetings during the 2024-25 Municipal Year

- 22 April 2025 – 6pm

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 | A Jonathan Brownnett |
| P Sheila Dixon | P Julie Main (Chair) |
| A Nikki Barton | A Marianne McLeer |

Landowning Interests

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

Other Interests

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

Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| P Elaine Bowman
(Place) | P Andy Carroll
(Place) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

LAF 13 Welcome and apologies for absence.

13

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

LAF 14 Public Participation

14

None.

LAF 15 Declarations of Interest by Members

15

Richard Jones 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

16

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

LAF 17 Access Officer's Report (oral report)

17

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 would be aiming to find a suitable alternative route. 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 should be open soon.

The Officer advised that an application had been made to Natural England for work to the coastal path from Clevedon to Weston super mare.

Regarding Chapter 6, whilst authority has been given to implement this section no action taken. Discussion ongoing with Natural England in regard to the establishment of a Project Officer post, funded by Natural England. No capacity within the team.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

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

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

In regard to a current consultation for a Public Path Order at Langford the Committee were advised that officers of the PROW team had been working closely with the landowner and the company wishing to install Solar Panels so that Public Rights of Way were diverted to suitable locations.

A request was made for the LAF members to receive an update from the Public Rights of Way committee (PROW).

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

LAF Chair's Report

18

1. Huddle Update: The online resource files, forums and resources that were originally in huddle were valuable, however, now that Natural England are using a SharePoint site to disseminate information, we are no longer able to share information and discussions with other LAF's, Natural England are looking into whether they can use the SharePoint chat function. At the moment Natural England's security rules have made it challenging to set up an external users chat function. However, they are working with their IT team to find a solution that complies with NE's rules

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**

Any other Business

John Harris advised that a meeting had been held between EDF and the residents of Kingston Seymour.

The residents had been advised that EDF were looking for a site flood for saltmarsh to mitigate damage that will be caused to the sea life when Hinkley Point becomes operational. 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.

**LAF
21**

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 requested from other members of the committee for including at other meetings, for example an update from farming / 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 Any other Business

22

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.

2. Buddy System

Vacancies existed in the parish / town council buddy system. The buddy system allows members of the committee to provide an interface between the LAF and Parish Councillors, to potentially attend parish meetings to provide updates and to promote the Local Access Forum. This is also supported by our Annual Report which is sent to each Parish.

Resolved: that the PLACE officer would send the Annual Report to Parish's once the graphics have been completed.

3. Planned Maintenance of Tutshill Greenway

Cyclists had caused some issues with maintenance that is required on the Pier-to-Pier way. The maintenance is required due to potential flooding and is only required twice a year. The Committee fully agreed that it may be better to close the route when maintenance is taking place, and that putting up notices of closure in advance, should be acceptable to the users. Closure would likely only be for a day and therefore people would have notice in advance.

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

4. Update from Principal Officer, PLACE.

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, the chair will look into this in more detail.

**LAF
23**

Dates of future meetings during the 2024-25 Municipal Year

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

Chairperson
