



Minutes

of the Meeting of

North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 14 October 2025

Castlewood Room G:08, Tickenham Road, Clevedon BS21 6FW

Meeting Commenced: 18:01pm

Meeting Concluded: 20:11pm

Councillors:

P Peter Burden

P Thomas Daw

A *Helen Thornton*

Independent Members:

Rights of way and Access Land Users

P Julie Main (Chairperson)

P Sheila Dixon

P Nikki Barton

P Jonathan Brownlett

P Tina Hamilton

A Marianne McLeer

Other Interests

P Richard Simmons

Ab John Harris

P Robert Parsons

P Roger Trubridge

Ab Richard Jones

P Councillor James Tonkin (Vice Chairperson)

Visitor David Howard

Visitor Alana Brierley

Officers

P Elaine Bowman

P Andrew Carroll

A Paul Hayward

P Ben Searle

P Levi Cardwell

Principal Access Officer

Access Officer

Access Support Officer

Principal Sustainable Travel and Road Safety Officer

Committee Services Support Officer

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Ab: Absent

LAF Welcome and apologies for absence

12

Julie Main (Chairperson) welcomed everyone to the meeting, the forum had received apologies from Councillor Helen Thornton and Marianna McAleer.

LAF Public Participation

13

A local resident, David Howard, attended the meeting and addressed the Forum regarding a survey of the Public Rights of Way in Nailsea and how accessible they are to disabled people.

LAF Declarations of Interest by Members

14

None declared.

LAF Minutes 15 July 2025

15

It was noted that the minutes listed Councillor Dan Thomas as a member of the forum instead of Councillor Thomas Daw. It was also to be noted that Julie Main and Peter Burden's names had been spelt wrong in paragraph LAF 5, and that in paragraph LAF 8 a statement regarding control and cost of carparks in Nailsea needed to be corrected.

Resolved: that subject to the minutes being amended as stated above, that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

LAF Transport Team Update

16

Ben Searle presented the update regarding active travel links, planning applications are being connected properly to their local areas, and the way that local transport schemes are scored and selected for further development.

The Pier to Pier routes from Weston to Brean and Weston to Clevedon had been completed, and a further route from Clevedon to Portishead was to be looked at but lack of resources and surrounding sites such as schools and landowners were the main obstacles for the third part of the scheme; the transport team were looking for external help with this scheme and similar proposals such as the Strawberry Line extension to connect Yatton to Clevedon via cycling paths and a bridle way.

It was to be noted that horse-riders should be considered when looking at sustainable and active travel routes.

Questions were asked regarding the scoring system used for active travel schemes, connecting Nailsea & Backwell Station to Clevedon via Festival Way, and Road Safety. There was discussion around the Local Plan and a route that goes through Gordano Valley, and counter data for the Pier-to-Pier route which reported that there had been 100,000 trips on the route so far; made up of 80,000 cyclists, 20,000 walkers, 500 horse riders.

LAF 17 Chairperson's Report (oral report)

Parish Council Invites

Julie and Andy were going to look at inviting parish councillors to the Local Access Forum when the Annual Report comes out.

Extra Sources of Funding

Julie and Tina were going to look at ways to raise additional funding for Local Access projects.

Wick St Lawrence - Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)

AWT had bought land in Wick St Lawrence with the hope of helping wildlife in the local area, but there was a bridle way that went through the land that has been purchased that may be changed into a salt marsh, which would render the bridleway unusable.

LAF 18 Vice Chairperson's report (oral report)

Horse Gate at North Drove

The post and dog bin had been fixed but Andrew Carroll, James Tonkin, and Tina Hamilton were to meet on site to relocate the post.

Councillor Thomas Daw left at 19:02

Engine Lane to Station Road Bridle Way Nailsea Update

There was not enough money to complete the route proposed by North Somerset Council, Nailsea Town Council had highlighted an alternative route.

North Somerset Council's Active Transport team were to look at the feasibility of the suggested alternative route. James Tonkin was to look at available funding sources as the earmarked money for the initially proposed route cannot be reallocated.

Disability Access Survey

74 sites had been surveyed to see whether they are accessible for people with mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Nailsea Town Council would look at funding possibilities to further this work.

LAF 19 Access Officer's Report (oral report)

EPIC Update

A site visit was conducted to look at the public rights of way and the layouts of access routes. North Somerset Council were in discussion with EPIC

regarding potential cycle ways, public transport routes and an accommodation bridge over the A37.

Landslide in Lady Bay, Clevedon

Due to the cliff collapse, the steps to the footpath had been re-routed, but the path was still blocked. Natural England were going to offer support in re-establishing the national trail.

Backwell Lake Path Update

The current path was not recorded as a Public Right of Way and the adjacent landowner has put fencing on either end of the path to stop public from using it. However North Somerset Council has submitted an application to land registry for adverse possession, who responded to say that they would not be able to make a decision until August 2026. Nailsea Town Council had been collecting user evidence forms from the general public, and the Public Rights of Way officers had been working with North Somerset Council's legal team to see what options were available to resolve this.

LAF 20 Secretary's Report (oral report)

DMMOs Update – Elaine Bowman

It had been raised that land believed to be owned or maintained by North Somerset Council had actually been sold off to private owners, and that Tetbury Gardens was one of those pieces of land.

The Public Rights of Way Team were down to 2 and a half staff so progress on works was predicted to slow.

Membership Renewals – Disability Representation

The Local Access Forum were still looking to add a member that would be a representative for disabled people for future meetings.

Annual Report

Andrew Carroll was drafting the report, and it was going to be proofread by Julie Main

LAF 21 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting

The introduction of time slots at Weston recycling centre, and an increase in fly tipping in gateways, cycle paths and bridle ways.

Paul Spears from the Woodspring Ramblers was to be invited in the future.

LAF 22 **Any other business** (notified to the Chairperson by noon on date of meeting)

None.

LAF 23 Next Meetings:

- 27 January 2026 at the Tithe Barn, Nailsea 6pm
- 14 April 2026 at Town Hall 6pm

Chairperson
