

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON GROUP**

**MINUTES**

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
<b>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON GROUP</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	14:00 – 16:00	City Hall, College Green
<b>Attendees</b>			
Roger Britton, Avon Area Ramblers (Chair) (RB) Jeff Rowland, Avon Area Ramblers – Chair (standing in for Roger Britton) (JR) Keith Budd, Bristol Ramblers (KB) Eddie Procter, PROW Officer, Highway Network Management, BCC (EP) Theo Brumhead, PROW Officer, BCC (TB)			

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/Outcomes</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies and Introductions</b> Ann Fay, British Horse Society (AF) Alan Morris, Bristol Walking Alliance (AM) Duncan Venison, Highway Network Manager, BCC (DV)  Jeff Rowland, Secretary of Avon Area Ramblers, has attended the last few PROW Liaison Group meetings, and RB requested the group members who were not present to confirm that they have no objection to Jeff becoming an on-going member of the group, notwithstanding the presence on the Group of RB (also Avon Area) and KB (Bristol Ramblers).	<b>All</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from PROWLG meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – matters arising</b>  2-3e Potential PROW claim at Princes' Buildings, Clifton (Portcullis public house blocking footway with outdoor tables) (RB): Outstanding actions for RB to raise with landowner and DV to get highway inspector to visit the location and check whether the Portcullis has a pavement licence.  3a Filton golf course: RB asked for an update on potential diversion applications and EP confirmed that the club were currently focussing on developing new permissive routes around the edge of the course. EP also confirmed that the club and the PROW Team were continuing to replace and improve signage and waymarking of the public	<b>RB/DV</b>

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	<p>footpaths across the course.</p> <p>6 EP confirmed that details of the reopening of the PROW from Wilson Street to Newfoundland Street, St. Paul's had been sent to the relevant ward councillors, and this had also been publicised in the Bristol Walking Alliance newsletter.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters raised by members</b>	
<b>3(a)</b>	<p>Bristol WalkFest May 2023 (EP): Following last year's successful walk in Fishponds/ Frome Valley, EP confirmed that a 5 mile circular walk taking in the Severn Way Bristol Link around Shirehampton and Sea Mills has been registered with the walking festival for this year on behalf of the Liaison Group/ BCC PROW Team. This was previously planned for the 2021 festival which then became a virtual festival only due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.</p> <p>The walk will take place on the afternoon of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May starting at the car park outside Shirehampton railway station at 1.30pm. The walk will be led by the PROW Team who will also manage registrations. Group members are also welcome to come along as this is an opportunity to promote the work of the group and PROW in general to the public: anyone interested should confirm by emailing EP.</p> <p>Details of the walk will be promoted on the festival website and other publicity materials: <a href="#">Bristol Walk Fest   Bristol's hugely popular, annual walking festival</a></p> <p>A map of the route can be found at: <a href="#">PROWLG 14.03.23 - Google Drive</a></p>	<b>All</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Upcoming Public Path Order (PPO) consultations [Standing Item]</b></p> <p>Diversion orders currently in progress:</p> <p>An order for diversions of various PROW across Hallen Marsh ASEA flood mitigation area 4, Avonmouth to reflect the newly configured landscape will be out for formal consultation shortly. Access improvement works for the new routes have already been put in place prior to the flood mitigation works being completed and the footpaths reopened to the public, as outlined in item 7 below.</p> <p>BCC/80, Romney Avenue, Lockleaze: to be readvertised with a revised route based on extensive feedback when the order was initially advertised in 2022.</p>	

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	<p>As part of Mary Knight’s work on updating the Definitive Map with changes to the PROW network which were not legally added to the Definitive Map at the time, several diversion orders are also being prepared to divert PROW onto the actual footpaths on the ground where documentary evidence of the original legal event has not been found. Group members will be formally consulted on these orders in the usual way when they are advertised:</p> <p>BCC/41 Concorde Drive, Southmead</p> <p>BCC/54 Lamplighter’s Marsh, Shirehampton</p> <p>BCC/123 Lake Road, Southmead</p> <p>BCC/243 BCC/244 Clay Bottom, Eastville</p> <p>BCC/430 South Bristol Cemetery, Bishopsworth</p> <p>BCC/503, BCC/505, BCC/547 Crox Bottom, Bishopsworth</p> <p>Plans for all the above orders can be found at: <a href="#">PROWLG 14.03.23 - Google Drive</a></p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Claims for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO)</b></p> <p>RB confirmed that Bristol Ramblers have now submitted a DMMO claim for a footpath through a new housing development off Airport Road, Filwood. This is the first of 10 priority claims which will be made in Bristol under the Ramblers Don’t Lose Your Way project, including Brentry Wood; Sheep Wood, Henbury; and Princes Lane, Clifton.</p> <p>There was some discussion on the possible repeal of the 2026 cut-off date for historical claims for routes to added to the Definitive Map. RB quoted a recent update from The Ramblers in which the Minister responsible for public access had confirmed at a recent event that a new extended cut-off date may be put in place rather than repeal. This conflicts with updates from DEFRA on this issue and so the situation remains unclear.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Enforcement issues</b> [Standing item]</p> <p>EP confirmed that BCC/2a off Moorhouse Lane, Avonmouth, a long-standing obstructed route under the railway, had now been cleared of obstructions and reopened-up as part of the Hallen Marsh improvement scheme and in agreement with the landowner, Network</p>	

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	<p>Rail.</p> <p>Also in Avonmouth, the landowner has engaged with the PROW Team on proposals to divert BCC/4, another PROW with long-standing access problems, onto a new route more beneficial to path users as part of the development of a solar farm. An application to divert will be submitted in due course and consulted on through the normal diversion order process.</p> <p>The list of long-term enforcement issues can be found at: <a href="#">PROWLG 14.03.23 - Google Drive</a></p>	
7	<p><b>PROW improvement works</b> [Standing item]</p> <p>EP ran though the PROW improvement schemes completed, currently underway or due to commence.</p> <p>Some members of the group are keen to see the access improvements and diverted routes across Hallen Marsh and EP will liaise with RB over a date for a visit when the public footpaths are open again and ground conditions have improved in May/ June.</p> <p>EP confirmed that a summary and photos of improvement schemes implemented in 2022/23 has been submitted for inclusion in Bristol Ramblers eBoot newsletter.</p> <p>The Powerpoint presentation can be found at: <a href="#">PROWLG 14.03.23 - Google Drive</a></p>	EP
8	<p><b>Major development projects with impact on PROW</b> [Standing item]</p> <p>EP shared the current list of major current and future development and infrastructure schemes which the PROW Team have been consulted on. The list is included at the end of the Powerpoint presentation for item 7 above.</p> <p>Kings Weston Bridge: EP confirmed that following the approval of the planning application from the BCC Highway Structures team to remove, repair and reinstate the bridge, a budget has now been approved to commence this work in 2023/24. As a complex process on a listed structure this process may take up to 2 years to complete and for the bridge to reopen for public use.</p> <p>River Frome Connected Project: a condition survey/ access audit has recently been completed of the whole route of the River Frome Walkway within BCC and South Gloucestershire to identify priorities for improvements in infrastructure for which grant funding will be</p>	

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	applied for. It is hoped this will enable improvements to well-used PROW sections of the route, for instance the riverside path through the Oldbury Court Estate.	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) update</b> [Standing Item]</p> <p>DV attended the most recent JLAF meeting. JR also attended the meeting as an observer and confirmed that they were looking for new members to apply. A presentation on WECA strategic transport initiatives had to be postponed and will be included in the next meeting.</p> <p>There were no specific Bristol related matters raised. One main issue discussed was the current lack of financial incentives for farmers and landowners to open up more permissive public access in the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which is replacing financial support previously available via the EU.</p> <p>JLAF agenda and minutes can be obtained from <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/public-rights-way/local-access-forum">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/public-rights-way/local-access-forum</a></p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>Meeting dates for 2023 (venues to be confirmed):</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> June (in person at City Hall)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> September (tbc)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> December (tbc)</p> <p>There was some discussion on the merits of in person verses virtual meetings with the general feeling of those present that in person was preferable. If any group members have a preference for virtual meetings then it may be possible to continue to run alternate in person/ virtual meetings and they are asked to let RB know as the Chair.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>