

**Gloucestershire Local Access Forum
DRAFT Minutes including Action Notes**

**Thursday 16th October 2025
Formal Meeting at Kier Compound Birdlip**

	Minutes & notes of actions	Actions
Item		Who
1.	<p>Present – Alison Williamson (Chair); Richard Holmes (Vice chair); Jacky German; Paul Lockley; Charlie Morriss; Chas Townley; Craig Drew (standing in for Lucy Moriarty) GWT; John Shaw; GCC Cllr John Patient; Nicola Chidley (GCC); Frank Dorrington-Ward (GCC) + 2 visitors</p> <p>Apologies for absence – Andy Stott; Lucy Moriarty (GWT)</p> <p>Absent: none</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest – AW is involved with 1 DMMO which is on the DMMO update.</p>	
3.	<p>Review of talk and site visit A417 missing link works and progress of Gloucestershire Way Bridge Crossing. Talk from Carolyne Ferguson, Head of Stakeholder Customer and Communications at Kier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CF gave GLAF a summary of the history of the A417 at Crickley Hill and Air Balloon roundabout including photos from 1932 and 1968. The A417 had a high fatality rate with pinch points causing collisions and the steep hill causing traffic flow problems, high pollution levels and congestion on side roads with rat runs being used through nearby country lanes. The scheme, with a cost of £460m, is a landscape led design and in line with dark skies provisions, is going to be unlit. It will have 3 lanes up and 2 lanes down and the separation of pedestrians and vehicles with 2 new bridges for the Cotswold Way and the Gloucestershire Way/wildlife bridge and an underpass for a bridleway south of the old Air Balloon Roundabout site at Grove Farm. The new 19m deep cutting and the new air balloon and Cowley roundabouts going in will offer a 70 mph free flowing dual carriageway from the A46 to the Cowley roundabouts when the new section and upgraded sections are completed in 2027. The Consent Order was granted in 2022 and following environmental and archaeological site assessments and works, Phase 1 construction commenced in Feb 2024. The new link is due to open in Feb 2027 with landscape aftercare continuing until July 2032. In March/April 2026 parts of the new road will start to be used whilst the works to connect the old road and the new footbridges bridges will continue. With 43,000 vehicle movements a day expected to rise to 64,000 by 2041 and a journey time cut by 30%. There have been 500 people on site working, with all arisings reused on site, 2.5million person hours and so far no notifiable accidents. Health testing has been made available on site for staff, such as mental health first aiders, prostate and cholesterol screening. <p>GLAF were very interested to receive the update and talk and to be able to see for themselves the ongoing construction works near the compound including the construction of the wildlife and Gloucestershire Way bridge. A few questions arose:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM wanted to check on some details of Temporary traffic orders outside the red line boundary. <i>CM to follow up with CF</i> CT raised his concern re the redundant bus stop on the Air Balloon Way restricted byway that will be created as a result of the works. CF aim to use this for information. His concern was about the land around the site and how it was to be managed. CF assured him that Kier were on site until 2032 managing the spaces 	CM

	<p>and some were being handed over to GCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JS asked if the stopped up sections were returning to landowners and could links for accessibility be retained. - There is a walking cycling horseriding group that meets twice a year, <i>CF to provide the link to the next WCH meeting in December.</i> - <i>GLAF Request for a plan of the paths network once the works are complete</i> - <i>GLAF Request another meeting with Kier and site visit in 2027 before Kier leave the site.</i> - <i>On behalf of GLAF, NC to thank Caroline for her organisation of, and presentation to, GLAF, and apologise that we had to cut her presentation short due to time constraints (not lack of interest!);</i> - <i>Request for updates on the Cotswold Way crossing during the upcoming works as currently it was very dangerous.</i> 	<p>CF/NC</p> <p>Kier/NC NC</p> <p>NC</p> <p>CF/Kier</p>
4.	<p>Notes of meeting on 12 June 2025 accuracy and matters arising not covered in the agenda</p> <p>Notes agreed and signed by Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>GLAF requesting reports on the progress of the Awre proposals</i> 	NC (JW)
5.	<p>Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF and Membership – None</p> <p>received relating to GLAF functions</p>	
6.	<p>GLAF Annual Report</p> <p>The final GLAF Annual report went to CROW Committee 7 October for information. Annual report and minute at Appendix A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Request for separate annual report page on hosted GLAF web page please</i> - <i>Request that the CROW Committee minute be shared to AW and circulated</i> - <i>Request for update on unsurfaced UCRs report</i> 	NC/FDW NC NC
7.	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2027 – 2037</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC informed the GLAF of the planned upcoming review of the rights of way improvement plan. That 4 areas had already been identified for review, accessibility, development and PROW, standards for 'new paths' in path orders and enforcement. That an assessment of network and a public engagement would be taking place to assess the needs of the network going forward. <i>NC requested that GLAF respond to the survey when it is sent out and would appreciate some attendance for the few focus groups proposed.</i> • CT stated that the current ROWIP was woolly and had no set targets and he wants to see clear ambitions in any future iterations. • The ROWIP should include the consolidation of the Def Map (this will be dependent on the budget for time and resources to deliver) • That should the local government re-organisation trigger two unitaries how would the Definitive Map be arranged/split and managed <p>NC confirmed that the Rights of Way Improvement plan is an aspirational document and is dependent on resources, legal framework and opportunities to deliver any actions within the statement of action. NC added that the statement of actions will be clearly set out in the new version.</p>	All
8.	<p>a) Don't Lose Your Way/Restoring the Record – updates from Stakeholder reps –</p> <p>no update - leave on agenda.</p> <p>b) Review of Definitive Map statistics – Progress in DMMO update October 2025 (Appendix B). Progress shown with 8 determinations in the 2025 period (7 being listed in detail in the report). 8 applications resolved with 1 route added to the record by other legal mechanisms. An update on the GLAF request for CROW Committee to consider how DMMOS are decided. This will be presented by report to CROW committee in 2026. If any changes are recommended then it would need a formal</p>	

	<p>full Council decision whether to amend the Constitution. New CROW Committee meeting on 7th October; no further news on Dereg regulations. A new career grade officer post has been approved for the DMMO processing; Trinome changes – no update on how to resolve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any relevant minute and update on the report re DMMO determinations to GLAF please GLAF Thank Karen for her update on these figures. Discussion on the main use tests for dual recorded ways – whilst no case law there is some Planning Inspectorate decision evidence that may help. Mark (visitor) to provide examples as the common interpretation may be incorrect. <p>c) PROW Report (Appendix C) – Summary of PPO applications, and operational reports showed the high number of cases that PROW are dealing with. GLAF questioned why if they are self funded can not more officers be employed. We can only recharge reasonable costs. Other authorities are more expensive there is no standard charge for path orders and that if costs were made prohibitive it might deter further applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT was concerned that where land has been sold on who is responsible for costs – these remain with the applicant generally. In IPROW guidance development orders are sub contracted back to the county. This is not something that operates in Gloucestershire area. A report on the review of methodology used in Hertfordshire and some other counties was shared. PROW to explore any mitigation measures available for problems arising in recent trials. <p>The PROW operational update was well received and Paul Lockley expressed his thanks to Frank for achieving the landowner approval for the Tetbury Trail improvements that have been carried out. PROW operational update to be included at future meetings.</p>	<p>NC</p> <p>NC</p> <p>MH</p> <p>NC</p> <p>NC</p>
9.	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotswold Trails and Access Partnership (The meeting was the same day as GLAF.) Any notes or minutes to be shared at next meeting. Eleven Rivers Group - 3 Choirs Way /Wysis Way & Gloucestershire Way – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eleven rivers are meeting with Councillor Joe Harris. The 3 Choirs Way is now signed through Herefordshire and with forestry posts. A proposal to amend the route at Ashleworth. Gloucestershire Way. There is concern re the Homedowns railway crossing just south of Tewkesbury arising due to neighbouring development and National Rail wish to close the crossing. Question re the cost of a new bridge like at marlin School Stroud. The first draft of the text has been submitted to Cicerone. The Wysis Way signage has been improved at Robinswood Hill. Tetbury Trail - PL reported that 1.2km of the surface had been improved by work. Kemble to Cirencester Railway Update – No Update. Llanthony Swing Bridge – GLAF are seeking strategic connection to Alney Island . Is there any update on the Nature park from Meyrick? Any works to the bridge should be included in any plans for the Island. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could we request update from Meyrick to next meeting. GLAF would like a proper update from Highways on the bridge please An invite to Cllr Joe Harris to attend next GLAF meeting or for comment on the points raised Pilley Bridge at Old Pates. Charlton Kings – Following a meeting between CBC and GCC we are seeking an alternative solution to restoring the bridge due to the costs involved. The suggestion to infill the railway cutting is not 	<p>NC</p> <p>NC/GCC</p> <p>NC</p>

	<p>possible due to the scale and nature conservation restrictions. An update will be brought to GLAF when available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stowfield (Black) Bridge – Closed by temporary order? <i>NC to check TTRO still in place.</i> GCC Highways infrastructure leading. No Update forthcoming from GCC Structures. (Feb - Principal Ecologist to resume site discussions, proposed repairs, needs the scaffolding platform to be able to reopen. Hoping that scaffolding can be replaced and bridge reopened whilst longer term options are considered.) <i>GLAF requesting a full update at next meeting.</i> - Nailsworth to Stroud Railway Path – An earlier consultation regarding recording this route as a bridleway met with objections. CT advised that Open spaces would want it to be recorded as Restricted Byway due to main use being cycling. A DMMO would not be suitable due to the 1991 agreement in place making use by right. GLAF would like to know how these informal unrecorded cycle ways might be best recorded. Visitor John Bloxsom took part in a walkover of the N – S section and thought Woodchester PC would not object to a bridleway order and would like to recommend to GLAF that this course of action be taken. - <i>GLAF request formal advice on making an order as bridleway for N – S railway path - or what would be the preferred action from GCC in light of legislative framework.</i> 	<p>NC</p> <p>NC</p> <p>NC</p>
10)	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) RH advised that since the GLAF visit in August to Aston Rowant that they were seeking to trial the accessibility gate but it seems the gate is not being manufactured. 'Secure a field' to take the design away to see if it is feasible. b) The Cotswold Way Association have an accessibility sub group. The top third of the CW National Trail has been assessed and the wardens have started works to improve accessibility using Cotswold Way Association grant funds. The next section is next to be assessed and John Shaw is working on a Cotswold Circular accessible route. Looking at where the barriers are eg stiles, kissing gates and steps and scouring of surface. They are testing Leckhampton Hill down by the Limekilns but the bottom few metres are difficult. Battery range for electric mobility vehicles is improving but generally 8 - 10 miles. Looking at ideas to swap batteries to increase this. Range is affected by terrain, weight of passenger and also air/ambient temperature (colder decreasing the range). Recently JS had explored the 6 mile route at Ebworth which was on you tube. A Sudeley to Hawley route of 8 miles was being explored. c) <i>Please note next years meeting dates.</i> d) <i>GLAF to forward any ideas for February meeting site visit or talk.</i> 	<p>GLAF</p> <p>GLAF</p>
11)	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Next formal meeting Thursday 26th February 2026 - Shire Hall Gloucestershire. Await collection from Reception.</p>	
	2026 Meeting dates :- 26th February 2026, 18th June 2026; 22nd October 2026	

GLAF Agreed Minuted notes on:

Signed :.....

Appendix A – Annual Report - & Minute

Appendix B – DMMO report from October 2025

Appendix C – PROW report INC OPERATIONAL UPDATE from October 2025

Appendix D –