



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

JLAF 04

Draft Minutes of meeting of Friday 09JUL04

Date: Friday, 9th July 2004
 Time: 2:00pm
 Venue: The Tortworth Estate Office, Tortworth, Wotton-under-Edge, South Glos. GL12 8HF.
 Present: David Colbourne, Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, Cllr. Howard Gawler (South Gloucestershire Council), Rae Harris, Peter Hart, Robert Killen, Alun Morgan (JLAF Chair), Ray Newbigin (JLAF Vice Chair), Angela Nicoll, Ron Phelps, Adam Stratton, Janet Wallis, Chris Weedon, Robin Winfield (JLAF members)
 Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Colin Hudson (Bath & North East Somerset Council), John Roy (Bristol City Council)
 Mark Connelly (Cotswold AONB), Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Ann Galway (South Gloucestershire Council), Ben Melarikas (South Gloucestershire), Tom Sunderland (English Nature)

Action

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1	Introduction and Housekeeping	
2	Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the JLAF Alun Morgan was elected chair of the JLAF, Ray Newbigin was elected vice chair of the JLAF. The period of office of the chair and vice chair will be until the election of a chair and vice chair at the first full meeting of the JLAF after 1 st July 2005.	
3	Apologies Bill Blyth (JLAF member), Cllr Chris Cray (Bath & North East Somerset Council and JLAF member), Cllr Christopher Orlik (Bristol City Council and JLAF member), Andrew Short (JLAF member), John Gunnery (JLAF member), Paul Wynne (JLAF member) Mike Amos (N Somerset LAF), Tina Bath (Mendip AONB), Chris Burke (Countryside Agency) Denise Chandler (Wiltshire County Council), Cllr. Pat Hockey (South Gloucestershire Council), Cllr. Sir Elgar Jenkins (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Will Steel (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Dave Morrison (South Gloucestershire Council), Richard Phillips (N Somerset Council), Sally Vickery (Somerset County Council).	
4	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest raised under this item.	
5	Minutes of the last meeting on 12th March 2004 The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting	
6	JLAF Administration a) Changes to membership Cllr. Evelyn Elworthy, who was the Bristol City Council appointee on the JLAF, has now been replaced by Cllr. Christopher Orlik, who is the chair of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee of Bristol City Council. Cllr. Arnold Lovell, who was the South Gloucestershire appointee on the JLAF, has now been replaced by Cllr. Howard Gawler, who is the chair of the Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration Committee of South Gloucestershire Council.	

	<p>Authorities) has been launched by the Countryside Agency on behalf of the government and is, at the moment, available for one year 2004/5. £3 million is available for mapping regions 1-5 and is prioritised for sites of high nature conservation value and sites of high demand. It is acknowledged that this fund is very limited. Access Authorities have been told that applications this year might be considered for grants offered in subsequent years. A guide figure of £1.50 payment per hectare for planning work on access land is designed to enable an access plan to be developed and a further application (in the autumn) for funding for signage and infrastructure items on the ground. In the JLAF area two areas of access land might attract funding this year through this scheme as they are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The scheme essentially does not fund section 15 land, as it is not access land.</p> <p>In Bristol, almost all land shown on the provisional maps is likely to be section 15 land, so there is very little, or no access land in Bristol. Bath & North East Somerset Council has undertaken a survey of much of its access land and is likely to apply for funding from the AMGS in the autumn. Work may be undertaken on some priority sites prior to commencement in December. South Gloucestershire has undertaken a desk survey identifying priority plots for a field survey that will start shortly. South Gloucestershire is likely to submit an application to the AMGS in the autumn.</p> <p>A point was raised, that in the Signage Guidance for Authorities document, a deadline for area 3, Central Southern, of 20th September 2004 was given for Access Authorities to submit the location of access information points to the Ordnance Survey to appear on published maps. These access information points are information boards that will show long term information about access, that can show any restrictions and further information. It was requested that the authorities work towards this deadline.</p> <p>The chair proposed that the JLAF could send a letter of support with any application by the authorities to the AMGS. This was <i>agreed</i>.</p> <p>A copy of the chair's letter to the Ordnance Survey regarding the mapping of access land, and the Ordnance Survey response, received on Thursday 8th July 2004, was distributed as a late paper for the meeting. The response by the Ordnance Survey was viewed as positive by the JLAF.</p>	<p>Authorities</p> <p>Chair with secretary</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan Framework</p> <p>A Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Framework document was introduced as a useful document, as a link to the Local Transport Plan, as a precursor to the Rights of Way Improvement Plans and as a standalone funding document.</p> <p>The authorities noted that the ROWIP and the framework should make PROW work more forward looking, and that to ensure the document is effective it must be adopted across council departments and with agencies that will need to be involved in delivery, for example on route safety.</p> <p>All members of the JLAF were encouraged to send any comments relating to the document to the secretary. Comments made at the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 'Potential ROWIP themes' add a theme that is not inanimate, for example 'Motivate people to use local rights of way'. 	<p>JLAF Members</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mention of owners and occupiers in the document • The anticipated LTP themes do not fit horse users very readily. It was suggested that improved provision for horse riders could be considered as a road safety asset. 	
9	<p>Members' Submissions (not addressed elsewhere in agenda)</p> <p>a) Local authority resources The authorities were thanked for the information provided.</p> <p>b) Signage The note on white painted stile posts was considered – some members thought that it might be unsightly. It was reported that Bristol City Council had been able to fund improved PROW signage, including destination and distance information, through the Safer routes to schools scheme.</p> <p>c) Disabled Access The background paper was supported as a reasonable approach to an issue sometimes considered difficult. Various comments were made on the value of improvements to access, for example that small improvements can have a great effect. An invitation will be extended to an Access Officer from one of the authorities to make a presentation as offered at the next JLAF meeting. Rights of way improvement plans specifically must assess the needs of people with mobility problems.</p> <p>d) Use of cycle paths by riders This was considered as a result of the consultation by Bath & North East Somerset Council on a draft Strategy for Horse Riders, and proposals related to the use of cycle routes by horse riders and drivers, and the assessment of those routes. Bath & North East Somerset Council will prepare a report on the results of the consultation which will be considered by the executive member for transport. Members of the JLAF were encouraged to lend their experience to advise on this issue. Two Countryside Agency documents could be considered in relation to this item on the interaction of users on off-road routes*. The document "<i>Local Transport Notes on Walking and Cycling</i>" referred to under item 6c refers to shared use, and there was reported a study to be published by Sheffield Hallam University. It was noted that the strategy is being produced for the Local Transport Plan, so may be able to attract funding.</p> <p><i>[* "How people interact on off-road routes" 1 and 2 from the Countryside Agency on telephone 0870 120 6466 or at: http://www.countryside.gov.uk/Publications/articles/Publication_tcm2-4634.asp#]</i></p> <p>e) City of Bath Definitive Map Project Thanks were given for the background paper, and the project was reported to be going well by some of the members. A further update on the project will be requested for a future meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>JLAF Members</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business None</p>	
11	<p>Date of the next meeting, JLAF05 (in Bristol) and proposed agenda items Friday 5th November at 2:00pm in Bristol. A presentation by an Access Officer. An item 'Members submissions' should appear again, with the useful 'written answers', soon in the agenda of the meeting.</p>	