



## JLAF 09

### Draft Minutes of meeting of Friday 03MAR06

Date: Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: The Carter Room, Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU.

Present: David Colbourne, Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, Peter Gould, Pete Hart, Robert Killen, Alun Morgan (JLAF Chair), Ray Newbiggin (JLAF Vice Chair), Cllr Christopher Orlik (Bristol City Council), Ron Phelps, Ken Scott, Andrew Short, Janet Wallis, Margaret Wilson, Robin Winfield (JLAF members)

Helen Blencowe (Bristol City Council), Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Ann Partridge (South Gloucestershire Council), Will Steel (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Chris Weedon (Forest of Avon), Chris Westcott (Rural Development Service)

#### Action

		Action
1	<b>Introductions</b>	
2	<p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr Chris Cray (Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council), John Gunnery, Mark McGuinness, Adam Stratton, Cllr Peter Tyzack (South Gloucestershire Council) (JLAF members)</p> <p>Hilary Winter (South West LAF Officer), John Roy (Bristol City Council), Alison Sherwin (Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council)</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest raised under this item.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005</b> The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b> There were no matters raised from the Minutes of the last meeting. Matters for this or future meetings:</p> <p><b>Access Land</b> An report on the works in the Access Land grant scheme for 05/06 will be included in the next meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>, when the works will be complete.</p> <p><b>Access Land Site at Lansdown</b> There had been no reply to the letter sent from the Chair to the landowner. This is to be kept under review by the JLAF. Further action is to be considered at the next JLAF meeting.</p> <p><b>Cross Compliance</b> South Gloucestershire had distributed a press release through the NFU journal and the CLA to explain Public Rights of Way in Cross Compliance, following a letter from the Rural Payments Agency to South Gloucestershire Council previously reported to the JLAF. Cross Compliance to be revisited at a future JLAF meeting.</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p><b>S Glos.</b></p>

	<p><b>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill</b>  This is likely to be passed as an act during the next month. It includes provisions to create the new government body Natural England, and to change rights of way legislation so that historic evidence of the use of a route by non-motorised vehicles will be evidence for the recording of a route as a Restricted Byway, rather than as a Byway Open to All Traffic. Evidence of use by pedal cycles will also be evidence for recording routes as Restricted Byways. The secretary will keep the JLAF updated on the passage of this Bill.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>National Countryside Access Forum (NCAF) meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005</b>  The Chair had given a presentation at the NCAF (background papers). The meeting was interesting, but was the NCAF was not seen to be a body that proposed actions, rather to report and comment on the actions of the bodies who were represented at it, particularly on the work of the Countryside Agency. The format of the NCAF may change as Natural England is created in October 2006. The secretary is to report on the dates of NCAF meetings in the background papers of the JLAF.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>JLAF Membership</b>  Half of the non-Councillor memberships on the JLAF expire before the next meeting and will be available for new members to apply or current members to reapply. Subject to any changes to the Statutory Guidance on (Joint) Local Access Forums, expected this spring, current members will not have to complete application forms again, but can be re-considered on the basis of their original applications. The secretary will write to all affected members concerning this.  Following a request at the last JLAF meeting, the application form will be redesigned so that it is more approachable. Peter Gould has offered to help with this.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>  <b>Secretary &amp; P.Gould</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Environmental Stewardship Schemes</b>  Chris Westcott, Rural Development Service</p> <p>Chris Westcott gave a presentation on Agri-Environment schemes and on access within Environmental Stewardship schemes. Copies of the presentation will be made available to members of the JLAF. Questions were raised to clarify the payments made for access under Environmental Stewardship; and on how access elements of the old scheme Countryside Stewardship, would relate to access under the new scheme Environmental Stewardship (Countryside Stewardship schemes are typically agreed for a ten year period and would continue until they expire, new Environmental Stewardship schemes are agreed separately). Members asked how access under stewardship was publicised – they are shown on the website at <a href="http://countrywalks.defra.gov.uk/">http://countrywalks.defra.gov.uk/</a> and access is marked on each site. Members suggested that this access could be more widely publicised and be added to the websites of each council.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)</b>  <b>a. ROWIP update</b>  A section within the Joint Local Transport Plan, to be published at the end of March 2006 contains a summary of the overall aims of the ROWIP. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is to be published by November 2007. The first part of the ROWIP is the Assessment, the study part, assessing in particular the provision of access and the demand for use of that access and matters relating to this, such as the impact of access. Following the assessment, a Statement of Action will be produced within the ROWIP containing proposals for access to the outdoors for a period of 4-10 years. The councils are carrying out the assessment part of the ROWIP during 2006, including a review of public rights of way on the definitive map and of other</p>	

	<p>access across the area and a questionnaire being distributed to approximately 4000 homes within the area during the spring.</p> <p><b>b. JLAF ROWIP working group meetings</b>  The councils have also selected four local assessment areas as reported to the JLAF at the last meeting in November 2005, to consider networks of routes in a local context. This is outlined in the background papers.</p> <p>Packs were distributed to members containing maps and details of the four local areas: Timsbury, Brislington, Sodbury and Oldbury-on-Severn, together with some guidance on this aspect of the ROWIP. JLAF ROWIP working group meetings will be held, one for each area as follows:</p> <p><u><b>JLAF ROWIP working group meeting dates (shown with main JLAF meeting dates)</b></u></p> <p>Main JLAF meeting on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2006 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham.</p> <p><b>JLAF ROWIP working group – Brislington East and West Wards</b>  <b>Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 2:30pm in the Council Chamber of Keynsham Town Hall</b></p> <p>Main JLAF meeting on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 at Somerdale Lodge, Somerdale, Keynsham</p> <p><b>JLAF ROWIP working group – Timsbury Parish</b>  <b>Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 2:00pm in the Council Chamber of Keynsham Town Hall</b></p> <p><b>JLAF ROWIP working group – Sodbury Parish</b>  <b>Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 at 10:00am at Riverside Offices, Chipping Sodbury</b></p> <p><b>JLAF ROWIP working group – access for bridleway users in Oldbury-on-Severn Parish</b>  <b>Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 at 2:30pm in the Council Chamber at Castle Street, Thornbury</b></p> <p>Main JLAF meeting on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2006 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham</p> <p>Main JLAF meeting on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2007</p> <p>(amended to include the re-scheduling of Timsbury meeting)</p> <p>JLAF members were encouraged to contact the secretary with the areas and meetings they would like to be involved in. The meetings are, however, open for any member to attend. JLAF members were encouraged investigate the current access in the areas, the potential for access in the areas, and how that potential might be achieved. Suggestions that JLAF members had already submitted for each of the local assessment areas were summarised by the Secretary, as examples for consideration in each JLAF ROWIP working group meeting.</p>	<b>Members</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Research Project: Dedication of Land for Public Access</b>  Chris Weedon, Forest of Avon</p> <p>Chris Weedon gave a presentation on a bid by the Forest of Avon to the Countryside Agency to undertake a project to investigate the potential for dedications of Access Land under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This project would cover the new boundaries of the Forest of Avon, that is the area formerly covered by Avon County minus those areas within the Mendip Hills AONB and the Cotswolds AONB.</p>	

	<p>Members expressed support for both the extension of the Forest of Avon Boundary and the bid by the Forest of Avon to undertake this project. Members agreed that a formal letter of support be sent from the JLAF to the Forest of Avon.</p> <p>The Forest of Avon will update the JLAF on this project.</p>	<p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>FoA</b></p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Updates (for information):</b></p> <p><b>a. Bath Definitive Map Project</b> Further to the information in the background papers a new Definitive Map and Statement showing the routes where modification orders have been confirmed, will be published during March.</p> <p><b>b. Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups</b> Further to the information in the background papers, JLAF members raised that a key topic for the South Gloucestershire liaison group for increased enforcement on Public Rights of Way. An update on enforcement matters by each council would be an item on the agenda of the next and subsequent JLAF meetings.</p> <p><b>c. Use of mechanically propelled vehicles on Rights of Way – the Government’s framework for action (Defra)</b> Information contained in background papers.</p> <p><b>d. Coastal Access</b> (Countryside Agency/ English Nature/ Rural Development Service) Information contained in background papers.</p> <p><b>e. Outdoor Recreation Strategy</b> (Countryside Agency/English Nature/ Rural Development Service/Forestry Commission) Information contained in background papers.</p>	<p><b>Councils</b></p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>The next meeting JLAF10 on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at the Somerdale Lodge, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Agenda Items</b> Access Land, including a report on works on Access Land and an update on land at Lansdown. Enforcement NCAF meeting dates</p> <p><i>Agenda items for the next or subsequent meetings:</i> Cross compliance Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (or Act) Update on the Forest of Avon bid for the dedication research project</p> <p><b>Subsequent Meeting Dates</b> The dates for the next year of main meetings are on the Background Papers for the meeting.</p>	
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Close</b></p>	