



JLAF 12

Draft Minutes of meeting of Friday 06JUL07

Date: Friday, 6th July 2007

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, Peter Gould, Robert Killen, Alun Morgan, Ray Newbigin (JLAF Chairman), Ron Phelps (Deputy to JLAF Chairman and Vice Chairman), Adam Stratton, Janet Wallis, Margaret Wilson, Robin Winfield (JLAF Vice Chairman) (JLAF Members), Cllr Malcolm Bridge (substituting Cllr Peter Tyzack).

Cllr Charles Gerrish (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Cheryl Hannan (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Will Steel (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Andrew Whitehead (Bristol City Council)

Action

1	Introductions	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting, including Cllr Charles Gerrish, who is the new Cabinet Member for Customer Services for Bath & North East Somerset Council. The Chairman made the following introductory statement:</p> <p>"1. The last few months have been turbulent with a cancelled JLAF meeting and the prolonged absence of Chris, who does so much to smooth our way. Chris was seconded to the ROWIP full time.</p> <p>2. The Training Day was a great success and we swapped many ideas about the ROWIP and about the long term plans for the JLAF.</p> <p>3. One thing you will notice is that the organisation of the JLAF has changed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robin & Ron share the responsibility with me for running the JLAF - Both Robin & Ron have taken on the Chairmanship of a sub-group - We now share the responsibility of the Liaison Groups between us: Robin has taken B&NES, Ron has taken Bristol and I remain the Chairman of the South Gloucestershire Liaison Group. <p>4. Our major task today is to fully discuss and agree the three elements of the JLAF response to the draft ROWIP. These are: our letter, the "detailed comments" and the "broad points". Today's agenda will be expanded or contracted to cope with these full discussions.</p> <p>5. The three of us have been working on the "broad points" of the JLAF responses for the last 8 months (started on 6 Nov 06 and 13 drafts later) and on the "detailed points" only for as long as all of you. We have all had to learn how to use our emails and we had a magnificent 59% response rate to my request for comments on the draft ROWIP – in the JLAF language this was 6 Users, 2 Land managers and 2 Independents. The 59%, by the way, excludes the 3 Councillor nominees but includes one of our members</p>	

	<p>who has only been to one meeting. Thank you for the work you did, and you will be able to spot your own work in the JLAF responses.</p> <p>6. One point about the writing style we have used. I hope that all our points are practical and to the point and that the language used is straight forward. The three of us have found the draft ROWIP to be a good read but it tends to lapse into "officialese" at times. We have tried to avoid this in our response.</p> <p>7. One last point, and Chris has emphasised this to us, and that is to say that this is the JLAF response and you are perfectly free to respond as a member of another group or as an individual. I personally hope that you will do this."</p> <p>Ken Scott has resigned from the JLAF. Cllr Kevin Quartley is now the JLAF Member nominated by Bristol City Council, thus Cllr Chris Jackson is not now a JLAF member.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Kay Bath, David Colbourne, Cllr Chris Cray (Bath & North East Somerset Council), John Gunnery, Bob Hall, Mark McGuinness, Cllr Kevin Quartley (Bristol City Council), Andy Short, Cllr Peter Tyzack (substituted by Cllr Malcolm Bridge, South Gloucestershire Council) (JLAF members)</p> <p>Cllr Chris Jackson (Bristol City Council), Richard Saunders (Sustrans)</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest raised under this item.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting on 3rd November 2006</p> <p>The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Notes of the training day held 2nd March 2007</p> <p>The Chairman reviewed the training day held on the 2nd March 2007. The notes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>Page 2: item 7, Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda: The Chairman had again written to Sir Elgar Jenkins about Access Land at Lansdown on the 11th October 2006 and the 10th February 2007 and there had been no response. On the 2nd July 2007, the Chairman had written to the new Cabinet Member, Cllr Charles Gerrish who in person promised to respond soon.</p>	Chairman to monitor
7	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and the draft JLAF Response</p> <p><u>Introduction and explanation of the process of consultation with the JLAF members</u></p> <p>The Chairman described how 59% of JLAF members had sent comments to him and that this was an excellent response. The Chairman, with the Vice Chairman and Deputy had collated all of the responses as shown in the background papers. This will form the JLAF response to the draft ROWIP document, JLAF members are encouraged to make their own responses as a member of another group or as an individual.</p> <p><u>Letter to the ROWIP Consultation Team</u></p> <p>A covering letter to accompany the JLAF to submission of its comments to the ROWIP team had been prepared. Some amendments were agreed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to add to the letter that this submission had been agreed at the JLAF meeting held on the 6th July 2007 to add the standard paragraph from the LAF Guidance: "This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire. The Councils are required, in 	

accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this Forum in carrying out its functions.”

Will Steel said that the JLAF response might not appear as an appendix to within the final published ROWIP as previously indicated. This was because, along with other documents linked to the Joint Local Transport Plan the document will be concise, and there are no other appendices planned. However, the JLAF’s response will be available, published on the internet with other background papers as part of the consultation papers resulting from developing the ROWIP.

Disappointment was expressed that the JLAF paper might not be an appendix to the ROWIP, and that the JLAF would prefer for it to be so. The Councils said that there would be a direct reference to the JLAF’s paper within the ROWIP document.

Council Officers were asked if they objected to anything included in this response and they did not.

“Detailed comments” made by the JLAF members

JLAF members had responded with detailed comments on the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which the Chairman had collated into practical suggestions to be submitted to the ROWIP authors to fill in gaps and amend their views where appropriate. Some comments were made and amendments were agreed at the meeting (references are to comments included in the background papers, comments on numbered sections in the draft ROWIP):

- at 1.7 in the Draft ROWIP add “and their detailed comments are available on the internet at [address]”.
- responding to the comment in the background papers at 2.3, officers clarified that many enhancements to maintenance and signage above the statutory duty were considered as improvements in the ROWIP.
- at “bridleway and byway network” map on page 14, the reference to “set-aside” is to be removed as it is likely to end during the term of the ROWIP.
- at 3.17, remove “and the Single Farm Payment Scheme could be used”.
- add “3.21 No riding routes mentioned – please mention Circular Rides in South Gloucestershire”

The JLAF officers had attempted to cost Table 5 in the draft ROWIP as in the background papers, as in order to make the plans meaningful they must be supported by money and political will. One amendment was suggested:

- add a reference to the period of time to which the proposal costings refer, e.g. 5 years.

Council Officers were asked if they objected to anything included in this response and they did not.

“Broad points” made by the JLAF members

This was introduced by the Chairman. With the Vice Chairman and Deputy they have been working on the broad points document for eight months, and the draft was discussed at the JLAF training day in March. It is written in a style that is practical and to the point and the language is straight forward. The ROWIP is a good read but it tends to lapse into “officialese” at times. The JLAF has tried to avoid this in its response. Some comments were made and amendments were agreed at the meeting:

1. “Money and political will”. Add at end “A table showing an estimate of financial costs should be included in the ROWIP”.
2. “Demand and supply for Rights of Way”. Add at end of first paragraph: ... “is not only to stimulate demand, but to add routes wherever possible, particularly where the joining of existing routes will enhance and improve the overall facility”
3. Agreed.
4. “Land Managers”. Change “enough time to this vital task” to “the vital task of building relationships”. Remove “The carrot and stick should be used judiciously”.

	<p>5. "25% of the population do not own a car". Change title to "Transport to the countryside" or similar". Emphasise "25% of the population do not own a car" as the first sentence.</p> <p>6. Agreed</p> <p>7. Agreed</p> <p>8. Agreed</p> <p>Conclusion. Agreed</p> <p>Council Officers were asked if they objected to anything included in this response and they did not. The response was agreed by the JLAF with the amendments shown above. This will be submitted as the JLAF response to the draft ROWIP.</p>	Chairman/ Secretary
8	<p>Reports of the sub-groups</p> <p>As the deadlines of these Defra consultations fall outside the meeting cycle of the JLAF, the sub-groups, each of which is chaired and has additional members, one from each of "user", "land management" and "other interest" representatives, will submit their response with the following wording:</p> <p>"Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to consider this consultation properly before a scheduled full meeting of the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF). However, at the last full meeting, the JLAF appointed a working group, with representatives from Landowning, User and Other interests to formulate a detailed response. This response has been agreed with the consensus of that working group, however, it cannot be considered as formal advice with the consensus of the JLAF as a whole. We request, however, that you pay full attention to the advice that this response does provide. This response will be reported to the JLAF at its next full meeting on the 2nd November. Additionally, individual members of the JLAF may have made separate responses to this consultation."</p> <p><u>"Right to Apply"</u></p> <p>The Vice Chairman Robin Winfield introduced this item, a Defra consultation, which will be discussed by a sub-group of the JLAF, Chaired by Robin with Ann Fay, Peter Gould and John Gunnery.</p> <p>Due to the time scale and we have to submit our report by the 31st August, it will not be possible for the sub-group to hold a meeting and report back to the full JLAF before submission, so will be sent with the paragraph explaining this.</p> <p>Members were invited to make any further comments on the 79 page consultation document during the meeting or to contact the Vice Chairman after the meeting. He will then ensure that those points are put forward when the Sub Group meets.</p> <p>The document is to be answered in a Question and Answer format, and therefore there won't be to much need to vary from that, unless by adding comments or riders where appropriate.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman introduced the document itself. This, should it pass into Law in its present form, will enable owners, lessees and occupiers of land used for agriculture, forestry or for the breeding or keeping of horses, and for the proprietors of schools to apply for special extinguishment or diversion orders to be made. It has the advantage for these sectors over the present legislation of introducing not only time limits for the Councils to deal with the application, but an appeals system to the Secretary of State as well.</p> <p>It will be on what is basically a fixed cost basis which would be reviewed after 12 months of operation. Ann, Peter and John, have already agreed on a few points in the Sub Group's brief discussions, outlined here.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman had also spent a morning with Nicola Chidley of South Gloucestershire Rights of Way, and then a couple of hours with Will Steel of BANES, as both of them had been involved in meetings and working parties prior to the actual</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with local landowners in the process of developing the route • The involvement of and liaison with the Chew Valley Trail group at a later stage, as they might wish to raise local support/ and or awareness of any proposals. 	
10	<p>4 "Quick Wins" mentioned in the draft ROWIP, table 5</p> <p>There are four 'quick wins' that are mentioned in the draft ROWIP at table 5, where the JLAF are included as a 'Key Partner or Stakeholder'. These are: Joint Diversion Policy; Signage Review and Guidelines; Ensure 90% rate of Signage; and Provide Information, Guidance and Support to Landowners. The JLAF wanted some information on the Councils' intentions for their involvement.</p> <p>The Council Officers stated that the roles of 'Key Partners and Stakeholders' will be reviewed before the final ROWIP is published, as there are errors in the table. The first year of implementation for the ROWIP would be 2008/9, though some actions will probably be started this year. The Councils would encourage the JLAF's involvement as each quick win was developed and the JLAF might want to have a standing working group to look at these proposals.</p> <p>It was agreed that the JLAF would address their involvement at the November 2007 meeting.</p>	
11	<p>JLAF Future Plans, 2008 to 2010</p> <p>The table of the JLAF's future plans in the background papers was considered. It was agreed that this could be used in the Annual Report of the JLAF to be included in the agenda of the November meeting.</p>	
12	<p>Updates on: Access Land</p> <p>As Access Land was a priority of the JLAF, and one of its purposes in legislation, the JLAF requested that the Councils provide an update on Access Land before the next meeting, with details of work already completed, planned work and future proposals for access land.</p> <p>Liaison Groups</p> <p>The agendas for the most recent meetings of the Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups in each council are in the amended background papers for the meeting. They are on the internet on the JLAF's meetings webpage.</p> <p>The meeting was reminded that the JLAF Chairman chairs the South Gloucestershire PROW Liaison Group, that the Vice Chairman attends the Bath & North East Somerset PROW Liaison Group and the Deputy attends the Bristol PROW Liaison Group.</p>	Councils
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>JLAF Member Descriptions.</u></p> <p>Members had been sent short descriptions to be added to the JLAF website and included in the JLAF's Annual Report</p> <p>It was agreed that the Secretary would email absent JLAF members concerning this, and that subject to amendments agreed before 31st July 2007 the information could appear on the JLAF website and in the JLAF Annual Report.</p> <p><u>Representation of dog owners on the JLAF</u></p> <p>The JLAF had received a letter from the Kennel Club suggesting that there could be an</p>	Members & Secretary

	appropriate representative on the JLAF. By a show of hands, six JLAF members present at the meeting own dogs.	
14	<p>The next meeting JLAF13 on the 2nd November 2007 at The Carter Room, Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU</p> <p>Proposed Agenda Items</p> <p>JLAF's involvement in the ROWIP Statement of Action – Quick Wins JLAF Annual Report Access Land update from the Councils</p> <p>Subsequent Meeting Dates The dates for future JLAF meetings are on the Background Papers for the meeting.</p>	
13	Close	

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