



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

## JLAF 15

### Draft Minutes of meeting of Friday 04JUL08

Date: Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members:

Janine Averis, Cllr Malcolm Bridge (South Gloucestershire Council), Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, Anna Ferguson, Roger Fowler, Peter Gould, Bob Hall, Robert Killen, Colette Linehan, Ray Newbiggin (JLAF Chairman), Ron Phelps (Deputy Chairman), Andy Short, Janet Wallis, Margaret Wilson, Robin Winfield (JLAF Vice Chairman)

Also in attendance:

Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Jenny King (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Will Steel (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Chris Weedon (Forest of Avon)

Members of the public were also in attendance.

#### Action

		Action
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b> The Chairman welcomed all present. He particularly welcomed the new members of the JLAF to the meeting.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>JLAF Membership</b> Janine Averis, Anna Ferguson, Roger Fowler and Colette Linehan have been appointed as members of the JLAF. Alun Morgan, Kay Bath and Mark McGuinness are no longer members of the JLAF.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b> JLAF Members: David Colbourne, Cllr Chris Cray (Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council), John Gunnery, Adam Stratton, Cllr Kevin Quartley (Bristol City Council) and Cllr Chris Jackson (Bristol City Council, Cllr Quartley's substitute) Also: Andrew Whitehead (Bristol City Council), Richard Phillips (North Somerset Council)</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest raised under this item.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b> The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b> Item 6: The Chairman of the JLAF will write letters thanking former JLAF members Alun Morgan and Kay Bath for their contributions. Item 9 f iii: An at-grade crossing was installed instead of the Toucan Crossing proposed at the last meeting.</p>	<b>Chairman</b>

<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>JLAF Elections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Terms of Chairmanship</b></li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the formal positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the informal position of Deputy Chairman would be for a period until the first full meeting of the JLAF after the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Election for Chairman of the JLAF</b></li> </ul> <p>Ray Newbigin was nominated by Bob Hall, seconded by Robin Winfield and elected unopposed to be Chairman of the JLAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Election for Vice Chairman of the JLAF</b></li> </ul> <p>Robin Winfield was nominated by Malcolm Bridges, seconded by Robert Killen and elected unopposed to be Vice Chairman of the JLAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Election for Deputy Chairman of the JLAF</b></li> </ul> <p>Ron Phelps was nominated by Peter Gould, seconded by Bob Hall and elected unopposed to be Deputy Chairman of the JLAF</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Forest of Avon Diversification</b></p> <p>Chris Weedon, Forest of Avon</p> <p>Chris outlined the Forest of Avon's (FOA) Land Diversification programme as outlined in the background papers. This limited fund is designed to help landowners and could fund events or seminars on particular subjects. An example could be to highlight the benefits of access to farmers. A flyer on the subject was distributed to members and had been posted to farmers in South Gloucestershire, and will be sent out to other areas soon. JLAF members made the following points/suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed that the FOA area now includes the whole of the old Avon area except the Cotswolds and the Mendip Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> <li>• This programme should complement the work of FWAG to include more advice on access</li> <li>• Farmers might benefit from advice on diversions of public rights of way</li> <li>• Diversions should be of benefit to the public as well as landowners</li> <li>• Advice on how to address the problems of farming at the edge of urban areas</li> <li>• How farmers can access funds to make access related and other improvements, and what government funds are available</li> <li>• How farmers might provide for higher rights – e.g. horse riders as part of diversification</li> <li>• Care would be needed to make any events attractive to busy farmers, who received many invites to other events, by making the subject matter very relevant and interesting, possibly followed by individual farm visits.</li> </ul> <p>All members, but particularly those with a land management interest, were encouraged to contact the secretary with further thoughts on this matter, to be passed onto Chris Weedon at the Forest of Avon.</p>	<p><b>Members and Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Update</b></li> </ul> <p>The Councils have formed officer groups to consider the implementation of the ROWIP. The work of the three groups marked with an *asterisk are of particular interest to the JLAF, identified as a "key partner and stakeholders/funders" for relevant actions in the ROWIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management Standards</li> <li>• Public Path Order Policy*</li> <li>• Definitive Map Work</li> <li>• Review of Signs*</li> <li>• Publicity and Communications*</li> <li>• Planning liaison / PROW and Development</li> </ul> <p>The JLAF's consideration of a Public Path Order Policy is scheduled for this meeting. At</p>	



	<p>for use by horses. The Chairman will write a letter on behalf of the JLAF to support the resolution of this problem using Cycle Demonstration City Funding.</p> <p>Nicola Chidley asked JLAF members to submit ideas for suitable circular walks off the Monarchs Way in South Gloucestershire for a proposed guide.</p>	<p><b>JLAF Member JLAF Chairman JLAF Members</b></p>
	<b><u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION &amp; INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b>13a</b>	<p><b>Correspondence and activities of the JLAF</b> The Chairman reviewed the work of the JLAF since the last meeting, as shown in the background papers.</p> <p>JLAF Members were asked to review the JLAF website on a regular basis</p>	<p><b>JLAF Members</b></p>
<b>13b</b>	<p><b>Regional and National LAF Business</b> The papers of the first England Access Forum were reviewed by the meeting.</p> <p>A comment was made that such a body could be a useful link between LAFs and the government and that this could facilitate an important two-way flow of information and better implementation of policies and projects nationally. Such a body should be key to securing reasonable resources for access. The JLAF members stated that the loss of Hilary Winter's post as South West England LAF coordinator was very regrettable and this valuable post should be reinstated.</p> <p>Following item 8 of the EAF minutes, the Secretary will put the national LAF handbook somewhere more prominent on the JLAF website.</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p>
<b>13c</b>	<p><b>Growth Points and Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The addendum to the Position Statement of the JLAF on Local Development Frameworks was ratified by the JLAF with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'not an option' should be revised to say 'essential' to make the statement clearer.</li> <li>• Green Corridors should be more carefully defined in the statement.</li> </ul>	
<b>13d</b>	<p><b>South Gloucestershire Local Development Framework (LDF)</b></p> <p>The submission of the JLAF to South Gloucestershire Council on Local Development Frameworks was ratified by the JLAF. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That green infrastructure, such as green fingers into and around developments were essential</li> <li>• Routes away from roads, particularly for children to use, were essential – and the use and availability of them should be effectively publicised.</li> <li>• Routes should be properly recorded on the Definitive Map, as is being done for the Bath Definitive Map Project.</li> </ul>	
<b>13e</b>	<p><b>Coastal Access</b></p> <p>The response to this consultation in the background papers was ratified by the JLAF.</p> <p>The members thanked Robert Killen, Bob Hall and Bill Blyth for their contribution to the response and to Ron Phelps for co-ordinating this working group and consensus response to a difficult subject.</p>	
<b>13f</b>	<p><b>Lansdown Access Land</b></p> <p>The letter from Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council about this subject was considered. The Chairman proposed a working group of the Chairman Ray Newbigin (other interests) the Vice Chairman Robin Winfield (landowning interests) and the Deputy</p>	

	Chairman (user interests) to consider the JLAF response to this letter and the current situation at the area of Access Land at Lansdown. This was agreed by the JLAF.	<b>Chairmen</b>
<b>13g</b>	<p><b>JLAF Project Progress</b></p> <p><b>i. Chew Valley Lake</b> Will Steel briefed the JLAF on this matter. A planning application for the route at Chew Valley Lake had been submitted and was due to be determined after 8<sup>th</sup> July. Comments on this application can be viewed on the Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council Planning website under application reference 08/00884/FUL. The main issues raised in these comments were about provision for horse riding and the safety of part of the route.</p> <p><b>ii. Monarch's Way</b> This was addressed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p><b>iii. Mead Riding off-road link at Chipping Sodbury</b> Nicola Chidley gave a short presentation on this completed scheme to provide a route for walkers and cyclists parallel to Wickwar Road in Chipping Sodbury. Provision for horse riders was not agreed with the landowners. This project was raised at the Chipping Sodbury ROWIP meeting as well as elsewhere. A stone grit pedestrian/ cycle path was installed along the edge of the Mead Riding, a crossing installed on Wickwar Road, the speed limit lowered from 60mph to 40 mph and a path was marked across the adjacent car park. The total cost of this work was £160 000.</p>	
<b>13h</b>	<p><b>Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups</b> This item, included in the background papers was introduced and there were no queries raised.</p>	
<b>14</b>	<p><b>JLAF Website Demo</b> The Secretary gave a summary of the navigation and contents of the JLAF website. The meetings page will be reorganised to reduce its length, by archiving details of previous meetings. A prominent link to Natural England's 'Handbook for LAF Members' will be added to the site. The Chairman urged JLAF Members to visit the website on a regular basis to browse information that is added.</p>	<b>Secretary Members</b>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Training for JLAF Members</b> JLAF members were invited to contact the secretary if they wished to have any training in areas of the JLAF's work.</p>	<b>Members</b>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Greater Bristol appointed UK's first cycling city</b> Bristol City Council with South Gloucestershire Council have won £11.4 million from Cycle England to be matched to create a total of £22.8 million over 30 months for infrastructure and other projects to increase cycling. The JLAF congratulated the Councils on this achievement. It was pointed out that these improvements should also bring an improvement for pedestrians, and that resources should not be diverted from current areas of work to the cycling city projects.</p> <p><b>Growth Point</b> Significant housing and associated development is planned for the 'West of England' area – the 'West of England Growth Point'. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Deputy Chairman and any other JLAF members have been invited to a joint North Somerset LAF / JLAF morning event on the Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> July, involving North Somerset Council, Natural England and the Forest of Avon. This will be principally concerned with the South West Bristol extension near Long Ashton, but in principle will apply to other developments in the area.</p> <p><b>North Somerset LAF</b> The Chairman reported that an invite had been received to attend North Somerset LAF meeting on the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> July. One item on the agenda is to discuss the subject</p>	<b>Members</b>

	of merging the JLAF with the North Somerset LAF.	
	<p><b>The next meeting 2:00pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Agenda Items</b> ROWIP Sign Review ROWIP Publicity and Communications JLAF Annual Report 2007-2008</p> <p><b>Subsequent Meeting Dates</b> See background papers or JLAF website.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Close</b>	