



JLAF 16

Draft Minutes of meeting of Friday 07NOV08

Date: Friday, 7th November 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, Roger Fowler, Peter Gould, John Gunnery, Bob Hall, Colette Linehan, Ray Newbigin (JLAF Chairman), Ron Phelps (JLAF Deputy Chairman), Andy Short, Janet Wallis, Robin Winfield (JLAF Vice Chairman)

Also in attendance:

Terry Bullock (Bristol City Council), Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Amanda Grundy (Natural England), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Graeme Stark (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Will Steel (Bath & North East Somerset Council)

One member of the public was also in attendance.

Action

		Action
1	Introductions The Chairman welcomed all present.	
2	Apologies JLAF Members: David Colbourne, Anna Ferguson, Robert Killen, Margaret Wilson, Cllr Chris Cray (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Adam Stratton, Cllr Kevin Quartley (Bristol City Council) and Cllr Chris Jackson (Bristol City Council, Cllr Quartley's substitute) Also: Cllr Charles Gerrish (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Cllr Mark Bradshaw (Bristol City Council), Tina Bath (Mendip AONB Service), Chris Westcott (Natural England), Andrew Whitehead (Bristol City Council), Richard Phillips (North Somerset Council)	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest raised under this item.	
4	Minutes of the last meeting on 4th July 2008 One amendment to the minutes is needed, to move 'Andy Short' from the list of those Present to the list of Apologies. The minutes were then <u>agreed</u> as an accurate record of the meeting. Item 11: It was pointed out the Bristol City Council used the description 'Bristol to Bath cycle path' in a quote where the name is 'Bristol and Bath Railway Path'.	

5	<p>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>The meeting was told that a strategy for Gypsy and Traveller Sites was being prepared by South Gloucestershire Council and a consultation would be held around November 2008 and March 2009. This may be something the JLAF consider for comment at that time.</p>	
6	<p>Bristol City Council Draft Gating Order Policy</p> <p>A copy of the report that went to the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee of 25th July 2008 is in the background papers for this meeting; members were also sent a copy of the Draft Gating Order Policy. Terry Bullock, Traffic Manager, Transport Operations at Bristol City Council addressed this item.</p> <p>Gating Orders were introduced, including the proposed mechanism for making orders and the matters to be taken account of in considering whether to make an order, recognising the cases both for and against making an order. These included the prevalence of crime and antisocial behaviour, the likely affect of gating on this, the impact on lawful use of a route and the practicality of managing the gating, particularly in considering timed gating.</p> <p>The following queries and comments were raised by JLAF Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query: Is gating a solution to crime? Response: It is a temporary solution where the gating (not actually a legal closure of a route) would be reviewed every 12 months. It may be that the individuals causing the crime or antisocial behaviour move elsewhere and it will be appropriate to re-open a route. • Query: What is the design of the gates? Response: There are design guidelines, for instance to prevent climbing of the gates or climbing of adjacent walls. • Query: Are other crime prevention measures considered? Response: Other measures should have been tried before gating orders are used. • Comment: Community Partnerships are an effective way to consult, and involve local people in finding solutions to crime. • Query: What consultation is there? Response: It is important to consult widely before carrying out any orders, not just considering the needs and views of adjacent residents. There is a legal process, similar to traffic regulation orders where relevant interests, including the JLAF are consulted. <p>At Bristol Footpath 163 in Fishponds there are calls for the use of a gating order and the Bristol City Council will consult the JLAF if this is proposed.</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council have a Gating Order Policy that was developed by the Community Safety part of the Council but ensures full consultation with Public Rights of Way. A copy will be supplied to the JLAF and put on the website.</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset are developing a draft Gating Order Policy and the JLAF will be consulted before it's adoption.</p>	<p>S Glos/ Secretary</p> <p>B&NES</p>
7	<p>'Joining up the Spaghetti' – Suggestion 1</p> <p>JLAF members were reminded to submit suggestions for route improvements, upgrades or creations that would help create links to improve the network of Public Rights of Way. Members should mark the 'join' on a map, the Local Authority can then give some idea of feasibility, the JLAF members can gauge the opinion of landowners, then the Local Authority can pursue the matter. The hope is for JLAF to pursue two such routes in each authority at any one time.</p> <p>One idea for a route has been suggested, but because of the difficulties at this site the JLAF will not progress this at this time. Two members suggested further routes to be investigated. More suggestions are requested.</p>	<p>JLAF Members</p>
8	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Implementation</p> <p>Following the publication in the Financial Times of an interview with the Secretary of State for Transport, Geoff Hoon, where transport infrastructure projects were described as being difficult to implement in the short term, the Chairman had drafted a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport to inform him directly of</p>	

	<p>spending opportunities outlined in Rights of Way Improvement Plans. The letter stressed that these opportunities could be completed quickly.</p> <p>The letter was agreed by the members of the JLAF and will be sent. The letter mentions 'Walking and Cycling' and it was stressed that the JLAF's remit covers horseriding therefore this should be made clear to ministers. The Chairman of the EAF covered this point in his letter to the Secretary of State for Transport dated 10th November 2008.</p> <p>- Joint ROWIP Business Plan</p> <p>This document was introduced. The document will be produced annually and outlines work on ROWIP implementation based on the ROWIP Statement of Action, with proposals for each financial year. In future, the document will include a review of projects undertaken in previous financial years.</p> <p>- Sign Review</p> <p>A review of signs is being carried out by the Councils as part of the ROWIP Implementation. This review will consider the design, placement and use of new signs, and any need to replace or adapt existing signs. A website has been set up at www.jlaf.org.uk/wayfinding for JLAF members to review a gallery of signs to highlight what they consider as good or bad practice. This site will also show mock-ups of sign designs for comment, for example a bridleway sign with symbols showing a walker and a cycle as well as a horse rider. JLAF members stressed the importance of clear symbols. JLAF Members are to review the website and contact the secretary with their comments.</p> <p>- Publicity and Communications</p> <p>The Councils are working on a joint website for promoting the use of Public Rights of Way. JLAF Members were asked to provide examples of information or features that they would wish to see on such a website, and examples of good websites to be considered in this work. A website specification will be produced during this financial year, with a launch of a website expected in 2009/10.</p> <p>The Councils will also produce information to promote the use of routes by disabled people, including a range of suitable routes. It would be helpful if JLAF members could refer any good examples to the JLAF Secretary.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>JLAF Members</p> <p>JLAF Members</p> <p>JLAF Members</p>
9	ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION & INFORMATION	
a	<p>Correspondence and activities of the JLAF</p> <p>The background papers were reviewed and JLAF Members were encouraged to check the JLAF website between meetings to keep in touch with the activities of the JLAF.</p>	JLAF Members
b	<p>National and Regional LAF Business</p> <p>The meeting papers of the English Access Forum (EAF) were given – these are available on the JLAF website.</p> <p>JLAF Members can apply for a position as a South West England representative on the EAF. Details are in the background papers and if interested, members were advised to contact the Secretary for more information.</p>	JLAF Members, Secretary
c	<p>JLAF Annual Report 2007-2008</p> <p>The report as included in the background papers was agreed by the Members of the JLAF. The Secretary will submit this report to Natural England.</p>	Secretary

<p>d</p>	<p>JLAF Project Progress</p> <p>i. Chew Valley Lake This project, to create a route around Chew Valley Lake was originally raised by JLAF member Margaret Wilson. Robin Winfield has been leading on this for the JLAF. A decision has not been made on a planning application submitted by Sustrans to Bath & North East Somerset Council, for a route around the north of the lake. Natural England were due to meet Sustrans on site to address nature conservation concerns.</p> <p>The Director of Corporate Affairs at Bristol Water, the landowner of the proposed route contacted the JLAF following a letter from the JLAF to the Council. The Chairman of the JLAF has proposed a meeting with the Corporate Director who is broadly supportive of the route but wants to consider the impact on Nature Conservation. The JLAF would be updated on progress at the next meeting.</p> <p>ii. Monarch's Way The section of the Monarch's Way in Avon Meads has not been included in the 08/09 programme of works for Bristol Cycle Demonstration City. Landownership of the route has now been established by the Council. It was highlighted that this route was not originally raised as a Cycle project. The potential of the route to provide a recreational cycle and walking route was recognised and could be suitable for shared use, but it needed to be resolved in its own right as a public rights of way matter.</p> <p>iii. Mead Riding off-road link at Chipping Sodbury A pedestrian and a cycle counter has been installed on this new route to measure use. This will be useful to justify future projects. Officers will continue to consider the possibility of gaining equestrian use of this route. This approach was also indicated by the Public Rights of Way and Commons Committee of South Gloucestershire Council. A diversion of a local route is also being considered so that better circular rides can be created.</p>	
<p>e</p>	<p>Bristol: Cycle Demonstration City</p> <p>JLAF Members Andy Short and Colette Linehan have been attending Cycle Demonstration City meetings and the JLAF agreed that they keep the JLAF informed of this project.</p> <p>A report by Bristol City Council and another by South Gloucestershire Council on this project are available on the JLAF website. Full notes for this item will also be posted on the JLAF website.</p> <p>It was emphasised that a consistent approach to high quality routes should be applied by both Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council as they are major partners in this project. It was also important that the Council works closely with local communities and demonstrates best practice in consultation. The JLAF supported the creation of a 10 year plan for cycle improvements in Bristol to put the Cycle Demonstration project within a longer term context of improvement.</p> <p>The governance for this project was queried, with a question over whether the 'project sponsor' had a remit to decide on matters in both Bristol and South Gloucestershire. This will be investigated.</p>	<p>Andy Short/ Colette Linehan</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary / Cycle City team</p>
<p>f</p>	<p>The Right to Apply</p> <p>The JLAF had previously formed a working group to consider a response to Defra's consultation on this matter. This group was chaired by the Vice Chairman Robin Winfield with Ann Fay, Peter Gould and John Gunnery as members, who submitted a considered response ratified by the JLAF. Defra have now published their response, stating that the Right to Apply cannot now be introduced without primary legislation and that they are not sure when an opportunity to introduce further legislation will</p>	

	<p>arise. The Vice Chairman wished to thank the members of this working group and added that this change in legislation appeared to be a 'dead duck'. Full notes on this item will be added to the JLAF website.</p>	
g	<p>Lansdown Access Land JLAF Officers have been considering this matter since the last meeting and the following resolution was agreed:</p> <p>The JLAF Officers reported that they have had detailed discussions with B&NES Officers and they have put forward ideas for solving the impasse with the landowner. The Chairman of the JLAF has written to the Cabinet Member who is content that the matter be explored in depth. The JLAF agreed with the actions taken by the JLAF Officers, asked them to continue to pursue the matter and report back to the next meeting.</p>	
h	<p>Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups</p> <p>The background papers contain details of these meetings. The JLAF wished to express their wishes to Jenny King, Bath Definitive Map Project Officer who is now on Maternity Leave.</p>	
10	<p>JLAF Website Demonstration</p> <p>The Chairman emphasised that JLAF members – all of whom have internet access – should regularly check the JLAF website as information is added to it regularly, and members can gain a good understanding of subjects of the JLAF's interest. Members of other LAFs use the JLAF website and it is a resource for JLAF members.</p> <p>The Secretary demonstrated the JLAF website, particularly where information on the work of the JLAF is published. Comments and suggestions were invited and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the front page of the JLAF website so that it was easy to see whether new information had been added. This could include a table of the five most recent additions • Add an item to the main menu pointing straight to 'news' or a similar page • Alter the website so that visited links are coloured differently to unread links. • Add a search facility to the website • Publish numbers of users of the website • Send emails to JLAF members when a number of items or important items are added to the website. <p>The secretary outlined some possibilities for linking the JLAF website to a new joint PROW website, and invited ongoing suggestions from JLAF members.</p> <p>JLAF members appointed in 2008 agreed to supply a two sentence summary of themselves for use on the membership page of the JLAF website.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>New JLAF Members</p>
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Natural England Draft Access Policy</p> <p>This was handed out to JLAF members who were invited to send in comments to the Secretary as soon as possible. The JLAF will submit their comments to the SW England LAF Coordinator who will submit a compiled response from the South West England LAFs. The policy is on the JLAF website, any JLAF and SW LAF responses will also be published on the website.</p> <p>Aggregates Levy funds</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset is working with the Open Spaces Society and local volunteers to investigate using this fund for PROW improvements in the area. A pilot is being developed in the Radstock area.</p>	<p>Chairman Secretary</p>

	<p>Housing developments in the Green Belt</p> <p>A member queried whether the JLAF should have a stance on whether large scale development should take place on the green belt. Following discussion on this matter, it was established that the JLAF should advise that development standards should provide for improvements to access, though not have a view on whether this scale of development should occur or not. The JLAF has a position statement on LDFs and JLAF members were advised to revisit this document and comment on whether it addresses this point.</p>	JLAF Members
	<p>The next meeting 2:00pm on the 6th March 2009 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU</p> <p>Proposed Agenda Items ROWIP Publicity and Communications Cotswold Way and National Trails Review</p> <p>Subsequent Meeting Dates See background papers or JLAF website.</p>	
12	Close	