



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

JLAF 20

Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 5th March 2010

Date: Friday, 5th March 2010
 Time: 2:00pm
 Venue: The Carter Room, Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU

Present: JLAF Members:
 Chris Bloor, Cllr Malcolm Bridge (South Gloucestershire Council), Jill Britten, Bill Dawson, Ann Fay, Roger Fowler, Peter Gould, Robert Killen, Bernadette Macey, Ray Newbigin (JLAF Chairman), Ron Phelps (JLAF Deputy Chairman), Robin Winfield (JLAF Vice Chairman), Margaret Wilson.

Also in attendance:
 Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Andrew Lane (South Gloucestershire Council), Kelvin Packer (Bath & North East Somerset Council),.

Action

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A	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	Welcome to new members and introductions The Chairman welcomed all present An extra item ' B6. Ordnance Survey Free ' has been added to the agenda.	
A2	Apologies JLAF Members: Cllr Chris Cray (Bath & North East Somerset Council), John Gunnery, Cllr Tim Kent (Bristol City Council), Colette Linehan, Andy Short, David Waterstone. James Blockley (Cotswold Way National Trail), Richard Thomas (Natural England), Andy Whitehead (Bristol City Council) Members Not Present: Adam Stratton Resignations: Janine Averis and Anna Ferguson had tendered their resignations in advance of the meeting.	
A3	Declarations of interest No declarations were made.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting on 6th November 2009. The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.	
A5	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda No matters were raised under this item.	

B	MAIN BUSINESS	
B1	<p>Green Infrastructure and Development Andrew Lane, South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Andrew works in the Spatial Planning Team at South Gloucestershire Council, leading the green spaces officer working group, preparing the Green Infrastructure Strategy and assisting with the production of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Andrew covered these main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Gloucestershire Council has recently published its pre-submission publication draft of the Core Strategy – the document that will set out the framework for development in South Gloucestershire. Other Councils are going through a similar Core Strategy process. - There are various definitions of Green Infrastructure (GI), including this, used in the Core Strategy: “a multi-functional network of high quality open space assets that can work together to support sustainable communities and enhance quality of life.” - GI recognises that land can be used for more than one purpose, including public access, nature conservation, landscape, flood prevention, formal and informal recreation, and carbon sinks. - South Gloucestershire Council include a policy on GI Networks (Policy CS2) recognising their importance for creating a high quality access network: “The integrity, multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network will be protected and enhanced. Opportunities to connect with and extend the strategic network will be taken.” - There are many references in the Core Strategy to Public Rights of Way and Access Land, for example: “existing features of landscape, nature conservation, heritage or amenity value and public rights of way, are safeguarded and enhanced through incorporation into development”. - Other Policies, particularly Open Space Standards (Policy CS24), Design (Policy CS1), and Improving Accessibility (Policy CS8) are particularly relevant to Public Access. South Gloucestershire Council will develop a specific Green Infrastructure Policy. These are linked to the planning process, to be considered in new development and the planning of new neighbourhoods. - There are also opportunities for large scale projects in the district, such as an interlinked country park on the east edge of the Bristol urban area, and the enhancement of a wetland environment along the River Severn. Both of these should incorporate new outdoors access. - Natural England is arranging a West of England Green Infrastructure event on the 31st March where organisations who manage and implement Green Infrastructure such as the Councils, wildlife trusts will coordinate GI projects across the region. <p>The presentation will be made available on the JLAF website, together with a link to the South Gloucestershire Council’s Core Strategy.</p> <p>A discussion on development and access in the area followed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important that Green Spaces are designed properly and are well maintained. - All forms of outdoors access should be included – the policies do not sufficiently include equestrians and networks of routes suitable for them. - It is vital that different Councils and organisations work together on Green Infrastructure projects so that they actually happen, both across geographical boundaries, but where more than one organisation has an interest. A positive example of this is the Two Tunnels route in Bath, a disappointing example is the Chew Valley trail. - It was pointed out that poor developments have occurred in the past where there have been policies that apparently required good quality development. It is essential that this does not happen, so the Core Strategy needs to be 	Secretary

<p>B4</p>	<p>JLAF Project Progress</p> <p>i. Chew Valley Lake</p> <p>The Vice Chairman, Robin Winfield, reported on this matter. He started by saying he was very disappointed with progress.</p> <p>At the last JLAF meeting in November, all Habitat Surveys for the proposed sections of routes at Chew Valley Lake had been completed. Since then, there has been very little (notable) progress, and the planning applications for the scheme still have not been submitted.</p> <p>The responsibility for submitting the planning applications lies between Bath & North East Somerset Council and Sustrans, and further correspondence with Bristol Water shows that they are still supportive, with some necessary assurances. Robin Winfield has met with B&NES officers and now a meeting is being arranged with Adrian Clarke (Transportation Manager) and the JLAF Chairmen.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman summarised the situation, stating that a lack of action is clearly at risk of jeopardising a project which has already been in discussion and planning for 14 years.</p> <p>Members made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A route around Chew Valley Lake is exactly the project that should be constructed, as it provides disabled access, access to nature, links between communities and to schools, and an economic leisure and tourism asset. - This project appears to be no further forward and more at risk than 18 months ago. - Lack of co-ordination between organisations seems to be a long term problem of this project. - There is a significant local interest for this project to succeed. <p>ii. Riverside Paths in Bristol (Monarch's Way and Severn Way Link)</p> <p>Negotiations between Bristol City Council and landowners are continuing for the Monarch's Way section. Discussions between the Council and National Rail are continuing regarding requirements for the path at Sea Mills. Progress on these paths is slow, but still encouraging.</p> <p>iii. Chipping Sodbury links</p> <p>There was no officer update on this item.</p> <p>iv. Lansdown Access Land and Public Footpath Diversion Order</p> <p>Ray Newbigin, JLAF Chairman reported on this matter. Following the completion of a Creation Order, a Public Footpath is now open along the top of the Access Land site. The Council and volunteers from the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have completed physical works necessary to open up the path to users. A Diversion Order has been made to create a new path away from the farm buildings, and to close the path close to the farm buildings. If this does not attract objections or appeals it will come into force on June 18th.</p> <p>Members expressed their appreciation of the work done on the site by Graeme Stark and other officers.</p>	<p>Bath & North East Somerset Council with Sustrans</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p>
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B5	<p>Bannerdown Access Land – Higher Level Stewardship and Fencing of Registered Common Land – correspondence.</p> <p>The letter in the background papers was considered concerning the fencing of a Registered Common and Access Land at Bannerdown near Bath, in order to promote nature conservation through grazing.</p> <p>Experience of the success of this on a site in Herefordshire was cited, but that the necessary processes to install cattle grids was very long-winded.</p> <p>The JLAF agreed in principle with this proposal, subject to maintaining good access on the site. The JLAF requests more detail from the applicants at a later stage in the application process.</p>	
B6	<p>Ordnance Survey Free</p> <p>There is a consultation from the Department for Communities and Local Government concerning the release of Ordnance Survey digital mapping for free use of the public, which the JLAF has had sight of at short notice.</p> <p>Ron Phelps and Chris Hogg had drafted a response for the JLAF, and members are asked to review it on the JLAF website, passing any comments to the Secretary by the 10th March for inclusion in the submission.</p>	Members, Secretary
C	<u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	<p>JLAF Response to Coastal Access Scheme Consultation</p> <p>The JLAF working group chaired by Ron Phelps, and with Chris Bloor, Bill Dawson and Robert Killen as members compiled an agreed response to this consultation via email because of a meeting cancellation during bad weather. The Chairman thanked all the members for their hard work.</p> <p><u>The response shown in the background papers was ratified as the response from the JLAF.</u></p> <p>There are still questions on the likely extent of Coastal Access on the River Severn Estuary, and following stages of the process will consider the implementation of Coastal Access in localities. This working group will remain in abeyance until Natural England consult on implementation in the JLAF area.</p>	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	<p>West of England, Joint Transport Executive on 4th February: Local Transport Plan (LTP) and ROWIP integration</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the question he asked at the meeting of the Joint Transport Executive. This and the West of England's encouraging response is in the background papers. It was stated that equestrian use should also be mentioned where appropriate.</p> <p>The Chairman has been invited to sit on the Transport Plan Commission, next meeting on the 29th March, whose members are involved in the development of the third Joint Local Transport Plan. The Chairman will emphasize that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan should be referred to in all five key goals in the Local Transport Plan.</p>	Chairman

D7	<p>Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups</p> <p>The members reviewed the agendas in the background papers.</p>	
E	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Bristol Walking Strategy At short notice, the Deputy Chairman Ron Phelps attended an event on this Strategy. The focus of the event was encouraging, and there should be a strategy document available for viewing within two months.</p> <p>Two Tunnels Route, Bath Work on the £1.9m path to link Bath to the Midford Valley via two tunnels starts on site on Monday, the 8th March.</p>	
F	<p>The next meeting JLAF21 at 2pm on the 2nd July 2010 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU</p> <p>Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Deputy Chairman.</p> <p>Possible Agenda Items Presentation by the Bristol Cycling City team Local Transport Plan</p> <p>Subsequent Meeting Dates See background papers or JLAF website.</p>	
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