



## JLAF 21

### Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

Date: Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010  
 Time: 2:00pm  
 Venue: The Carter Room, Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU

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

Also in attendance:  
 Rennie Dickins (South Gloucestershire Council), Chris Hogg (JLAF Secretary), Craig Jackson (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Christine Pouncett (Bristol City Council), Richard Thomas (Natural England), James White (West of England Partnership)

**Action**

<b>A</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
<b>A1</b>	<b>Welcome to new members and introductions</b> The Chairman welcomed all present	
<b>A2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> JLAF Members: Cllr Chris Cray (Bath & North East Somerset Council), John Gunnery, Andrew Short  James Blockley (Cotswold Way National Trail), , Andy Whitehead (Bristol City Council)  Members Not Present: Adam Stratton	
<b>A3</b>	<b>Elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Deputy Chair of the JLAF</b>  <b>Terms of Chairmanship</b> 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 2012.  <b>Election for Chairman of the JLAF</b> Ray Newbigin was elected unopposed to be Chairman of the JLAF  <b>Election for Vice Chairman of the JLAF</b> Robin Winfield was elected unopposed to be Vice Chairman of the JLAF  <b>Election for Deputy Chairman of the JLAF</b> Ron Phelps was elected unopposed to be Deputy Chairman of the JLAF	
<b>A4</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b> No declarations were made.	

<p><b>A5</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010.</b></p> <p>At item D4 on page 6 of the minutes, there was an omission. The minutes will be amended to include:</p> <p>"JLAF Member Bill Dawson highlighted the long-running matter of the public right of way at Haycombe Lane near Bath, which he feared will not be resolved before Alan Harbour retired from Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council. It was agreed this would be addressed directly with Kelvin Packer after the meeting." This matter was discussed after the last meeting, but enforcement action has still not taken place, so the item still needs to be actioned.</p> <p>The minutes, with this amendment, were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	<p><b>Kelvin Packer</b></p>
<p><b>A6</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <p>At item D4 on page 6 of the minutes. David Waterstone informed the meeting that the Ramblers Association had been discussing a solution for the erosion of the River Avon bank at Batheaston, following a Buro Happold report commissioned by the Ramblers Association. This solution would cost £35,000 whilst Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council engineers quoted a project for £350,000. The meeting questioned why there was such a difference and whether there is more scope to carry out projects for less expenditure. This has implications for other capital projects, for instance a bridge at Batheaston and the Chew Valley Lake route. Craig Jackson will respond to this query with a note to be distributed with the minutes of this meeting (<i>see below</i>).</p> <p>Note on this matter (Craig Jackson, dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010):</p> <p><i>"The works identified for repair by the Highway Structures Team to a value of £350,000 take into account a long term view on the stability of the River Bank along the closed section of the Public Right of Way. This approach clearly identifies large sections of stabilisation work along the length of the path.</i></p> <p><i>The maximum £35,000 repair cost identified in the Buro Happold report has taken a more short term view in identifying three critical sections requiring emergency repair to allow the footpath to be re-opened.</i></p> <p><i>Buro Happold's report clearly identifies that much of the footpath is in relatively poor condition due to natural erosion and would benefit from a more long term solution for the future protection of the path.</i></p> <p><i>B&amp;NES are currently reviewing the viability of the Buro Happold proposals with a view to undertaking works in the current financial year should they safely allow for the path to be put back into service."</i></p>	<p><b>Craig Jackson</b></p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>MAIN BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>B1</b></p>	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Implementation</b></p> <p><b>i. JLAF OutdoorsWest Working Group</b></p> <p>Chris Hogg outlined the work on the OutdoorsWest website. The projected timescale is for the Councils to be ready to tender in October, with a draft website running by the end of December, ready for a public launch by the end of March 2011. The website will contain information on maintenance, definitive maps and advice for users and landowners, facilities to bring together areas of work across the three Councils (health walks, parks, local nature reserves) and it will allow groups such as the Ramblers' Association to include their led walks on a calendar. There will also be a facility for members of the public to find paths to use easily. A template to display existing and new promoted routes is being developed by the JLAF OutdoorsWest working group.</p>	

	<p>Chris Bloor summarised the draft template, as shown in the background papers. There will be two sections to the template. First, a blank template on two sides of A4 paper into which the various elements of a guided route will be slotted. Secondly, the guidance, which outlines specifically what will go into those two pages. This will include summary information, mapping and directions for each route. The guidance also sets out a moderation process. This moderation process will be key to ensuring routes that are published are reliable for users – and a JLAF group will survey previously published and new routes to ensure that the information in the template is accurate and routes are easy to follow on the ground.</p> <p>There was a query about how routes shown on the OutdoorsWest website would be signed on the ground. Options suggested included signing with a number each instruction in the route directions, or signing the route throughout with the OutdoorWest route number. Signs on the ground would need to be reliable, so the template would consider this, considering how the routes would work if some signs were missing.</p> <p>The working group will report back to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>ii. Joint Local Transport Plan JLAF (“JLTP3”) and the ROWIP</b></p> <p>The draft JLTP3 document includes clear links to both North Somerset’s ROWIP and the Joint ROWIP. The ROWIP Statements of Action may be reviewed in the JLTP3, with the possibility of including an implementation report on the ROWIP within the three year Delivery Plans of the new JLTP3.</p>	<b>JLAF Working Group</b>
<b>B2</b>	<p><b>Gating Orders</b></p> <p><b>i. Public Right of Way (PROW) BCC/163 Oldbury Court Road to Vassal Road, Fishponds, Bristol</b></p> <p>The JLAF had sent a response to the consultation on this order before the previous meeting of the JLAF in March. A report was written by Bristol City Council and following this report, a decision was made by the Director of City Development at Bristol City Council to make the Gating Order and close the path. A gate was erected and locked on the path in mid-June. In this instance, the decision did not accord with the advice of the JLAF. The JLAF will continue to respond to each proposed Gating Order and assess the evidence for and against closures on a case by case basis, using the JLAF’s Position Statement on Gating Orders. It is understood that other organisations and individuals are considering legal action relating to this Gating Order.</p> <p><b>ii. Update on current or proposed Gating Orders</b></p> <p>Other than FP163 (see above) the JLAF had not received any new notifications of proposed Gating Orders, nor any updates to existing ones. JLAF members will be emailed where the JLAF is consulted by councils on proposals.</p>	
<b>B3</b>	<p><b>JLAF Project Progress</b></p> <p><b>i. Chew Valley Lake</b></p> <p>The Vice Chairman, Robin Winfield, reported on this matter. He had become increasingly frustrated with the slow progress of this project.</p> <p>The JLAF Chairman and Vice Chairman had met with Adrian Clarke and Alison Sherwin of Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council who agreed that the planning application for part of the route would proceed. A meeting followed between B&amp;NES and Sustrans who are to submit the planning application. Bristol Water has been prompt at responding to JLAF contact, although it has been difficult to get responses promptly from Sustrans and B&amp;NES. It was understood that a planning application will be submitted by mid-July. The JLAF will monitor whether this is done. Budgets are under pressure, and where previously there was a budget for the whole scheme including installation of the paths, a budget had been reserved for the planning application in the current financial year.</p>	<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council with Sustrans</b>

Members made the following points:

- It is sad that such a valuable project is in danger because B&NES and Sustrans have not worked together effectively.
- Local interest in the project remains, and there have been letters in the Chew Valley Gazette reporting on the low use of the few sections of route around the lake. It was suggested in the newspaper that there is low use because these sections do not link together to form continuous safe routes around the lake. The letters also included reports of thorn cuttings on the path, which has already been reported to a highways inspector for action.
- JLAF member Colette Linehan will speak to Adrian Roper at Sustrans about the project.

**Colette  
Linehan**

## **ii. Riverside Paths in Bristol (Monarch's Way and Severn Way Link)**

Christine Pouncett of Bristol City Council reported on this matter.

**Severn Way Link Path.** At Smoke Lane, the path will be cleared once the nesting season has finished. At Crabtree Slipwood, Shirehampton, the National Trust are about to sign a dedication agreement for routes across their land. Fencing will be erected and the path should be open by November.

**Monarchs Way,** near the Showcase Cinema. There are three landowners, A creation agreement has been sent to one landowner to be signed. A licence from Network Rail is unlikely as the path runs under the railway so the section in their ownership will be permissive. Negotiations continue with the third owner.

**River Avon Trail and Monarch's Way** at Conham Towpath, parts of the bank are eroding and the proposal is to stabilise the bank. Officers have commissioned designs for this in sections and will classify into three priorities. The proposed solution is to use willow bundles ("faggots"). It is relatively cheap to do, is sustainable and can be done relatively quickly, but has to be done from a river craft. It is hoped that £60-70,000 of work can be undertaken during this financial year.

JLAF Members said that progress on these sections of path by Bristol City Council is very encouraging.

## **iii. Chipping Sodbury links**

There was no officer update on this item.

## **iv. Lansdown Access Land and Public Footpath Diversion Order**

Ray Newbigin, JLAF Chairman reported on this matter. The Ramblers Association organised an opening ceremony for the newly created path along the top of the access land at Lansdown on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Members of the JLAF, Council Officers and Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery at Bath & North East Somerset Council also attended.

Following the completion of the second Path Order, to divert the Public Right of Way, works are to be completed soon on the new route, pending permission for access by an adjacent landowner for construction of a new bridge. It is expected that the route will be open and usable within a month. Access land notices will be erected on site when the works on public rights of way are complete.

JLAF members expressed their appreciation of the work done on the site by Council Officers and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

**B4**

**Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3)  
James White, West of England Partnership**

James White had just come from a meeting of the Joint Transport Executive, where it was agreed that the draft Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3) will go out to consultation during this summer.

James gave a presentation on the JLTP3. The presentation will be on the JLAF website, but included:

- The funding arrangements for Transport and the JLTP3's role in managing spending, including Major Transport Schemes (schemes of greater than £5m spend)
- The five key transport goals that government has set and which guide the priorities and layout of the draft JLTP3: reduce carbon emissions, support economic growth, promote equality of opportunity, contribute to better health, safety and security, and, improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment
- The JLTP3 will be in place for a period from 2011-2026, but will be accompanied by three year Delivery Plans, which, under current circumstances, will reflect the economic and funding climate.

JLAF members raised the following points and made the following suggestions for the JLTP3:

- **Two Wheelers** (Roger Fowler). To include something to address difficulty of using two wheelers, particularly in giving mobility to the young (compared to their use in European cities). The example given is that it was easier to wait and get a car licence, than go through the full expense of getting a motorbike licence.
- **Non car provision in developments** (Colette Linehan). To include a higher than present requirement for non-motorised transport provision in new developments, in the JLTP3 as well as the LDFs.
- **Horse riding benefits** (Ann Fay). To ensure that horse riding is included in the document - it is a source of economic growth, is relevant to road safety works, is good for quality of life/ health, should mention 'new and improved bridleways'
- **Home Zones** (Cllr Malcolm Bridge). To design walking and cycling into all development, enabling the development of more home zones. A discussion followed on the expense of retrofitting home zones, which led to a reference by Colette Linehan to Sustrans' DIY Streets programme.  
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/liveable-neighbourhoods/diy-streets/diy-streets-resources-and-links>
- **Development estimates** (Bill Dawson). Given that the new government have said Regional Spatial Strategies are to be abolished, the amount of new development the draft JLTP3 is based on was queried. James White responded that some of the transport improvements are interdependent with development, so there may need to be reviews to the draft as government policy develops, and changing economic conditions would be reflected in Delivery Plans.
- **Tourism and Economic Benefits of Walking** (David Waterstone). The significance of walking to tourism, economic growth and quality of life was emphasised – the example of the walkers town in Winchcombe was given (and others mostly in northern England) <http://www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com>.
- **Transport into Rural Areas** (Peter Gould). It was stated that public transport should be seen as linking towns to countryside, as well as linking rural dwellers to the towns. For example, the Chew Valley Explorer that after cuts became useless for getting into the countryside. Such considerations were suggested for the Portishead rail line, ensuring timings included outward bound services in the morning with a late afternoon return.
- **Costing of Schemes** (Ray Newbigin). There was reference to high cost schemes, where B&NES had priced a scheme that appeared to be ten times the cost of a Ramblers Association commissioned Buro Happold proposal. In

	<p>summary, lower cost options should be considered which may be best value but not best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>LTP3 with reduced resources</b> (Cllr Trevor Blythe). Given the potential for large cuts in public spending, the question of an alternative 'plan B' to the current approach outlined in the draft JLTP3 was asked. In response, it was believed that the draft JLTP3 approach was in the right direction, but may have to be selectively implemented at an altered rate.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman asked how the JLAF might help with the JLTP3, and specifically a proposed <b>Major Transport Scheme</b> bid for walking and cycling, and who might work on preparing that scheme.</p> <p>The draft JLTP3 will be consulted on soon, with the headline 'let's talk, transport matters' on consultation material, and on the website <a href="http://travelplus.org.uk/">http://travelplus.org.uk/</a>. JLAF members are encouraged to respond as a whole and individually, to add and express support for the draft document. The JLAF will be formally consulted on the draft JLTP3 document. The items in the Minutes of this meeting will also be considered.</p> <p>In terms of a possible Major Transport Scheme for Walking and Cycling, it referred to briefly in the JLTP3 draft as a cycling major scheme. Members should send the JLAF secretary their ideas of projects or schemes that could be included in a bid for a major scheme, to be compiled and sent to James at the West of England Partnership. If members send these to the Secretary they will be collated and forwarded to James.</p>	<p><b>James White</b></p> <p><b>JLAF Members</b></p>
<b>C</b>	<b><u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u></b>	
<b>C1</b>	<p><b>JLAF Response to Natural England letter / consultation on the England Access Forum (EAF)</b></p> <p>The following amendment was made to the draft in the background papers, to replace the draft text on regional coordinators with:</p> <p>"We believe that it is vital that Natural England should make every effort to attract and retain good, well informed and conscientious regional co-ordinators, and maintain continuity in the support that is provided."</p> <p><b><u>The response shown in the background papers with the above amendment, was ratified as the response from the JLAF, and will be submitted as such.</u></b></p>	<p><b>JLAF Secretary</b></p>
<b>D</b>	<b><u>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b>D1</b>	<p><b>Coastal Access</b></p> <p><b>i. Update</b></p> <p>The Deputy Chairman reported on this matter. Following the passing of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, a route around the English Coast with 'spreading room' is planned. With the issuing of the detailed guidance on opening new access, Natural England are working on implementing the new access on the Dorset coast first, to coincide with the watersports venue for the 2012 Olympics being Weymouth. There are questions on how the access for estuaries will be implemented, as it is uncertain from current guidance whether access will extend through the JLAF area. Richard Thomas from Natural England will talk to the Coastal Team about this and report back to the JLAF.</p> <p><b>ii. Consultation on proposed regulations on procedures for representations and objections...</b></p> <p>Given the timescales of this consultation, it was placed on the JLAF website, for member contributions, then the Deputy Chairman drafted a reply and agreed this with the JLAF subgroup, before being submitted explaining that it was not a full JLAF consensus response.</p>	<p><b>Richard Thomas</b></p> <p><b>Chairman</b></p>

<p><b>D2</b></p>	<p><b>West of England, Transport Plan Commission on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and Joint Transport Executive on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010</b></p> <p>The JLAF have a seat on the West of England Transport Plan Commission, which involves stakeholders such as FirstBus, health authorities, the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) and the Councils in transport policy. The Chairman attended meetings on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and the 15<sup>th</sup> June. He commented on early drafts of the JLTP3 to state the case for walking, cycling and horse riding and to promote the JLAF.</p> <p>The Joint Transport Executive meeting was reported under item B4.</p>	
<p><b>D3</b></p>	<p><b>South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy</b></p> <p>The secretary reported that, following the presentation to the JLAF meeting in March, the draft document is available for consultation until Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup> August. JLAF members were encouraged to send their comments to the secretary, which will be compiled to make a JLAF response. This response will be reported to the JLAF meeting in November.</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>D4</b></p>	<p><b>News from the PROW teams</b></p> <p>Summaries of the current effects of the cuts in government spending were the main subjects addressed under this item. Local Transport Plan funding has been cut by approximately 24% in each council. Some of Public Rights of Way capital work is funded by the Local Transport Plan government settlement.</p> <p>In South Gloucestershire, officers have been asked to identify core business functions as part of a review. It was suggested that there may be a move from best practice to best value.</p> <p>In Bath &amp; North East Somerset, staff levels dropped by 35% following cuts made in the 2009/10 financial year. The Public Rights of Way team has now been merged with the Highways Maintenance team managed by Craig Jackson. The cuts in year 2009/10 should protect resources in this financial year. The Chairman suggested that, given the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group in Bath &amp; North East Somerset has been cancelled over the past year, it could be run with two instead of three meetings a year, in proportion to the cuts in staffing time.</p> <p>In Bristol, there is a review of management, and it is currently proposed to merge three teams to create a single Traffic Management team. This has implications for the management of the public rights of way team.</p> <p>JLAF members highlighted the capacity of the public rights of way teams to respond to current items of work, and the importance of public rights of way and their use as stated in government and council policies.</p>	<p><b>Craig Jackson</b></p>
<p><b>D5</b></p>	<p><b>Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups</b></p> <p>The members reviewed the agendas in the background papers. The date of the next Public Rights of Way Liaison Group in Bristol is the 9<sup>th</sup> September.</p>	
<p><b>E</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>A Potential Pilgrim Trail of St Andrew</b></p> <p>Chris Bloor is working on developing a promoted route to link St Andrew's Scout Hut on Bishport Avenue and St Andrew's Church in Chew Magna, with a return route to St Andrew's Church in Hartcliffe. This would link the relatively deprived area of Hartcliffe/Withywood to Dundry Slopes, Dundry Hill and the Chew Valley. Chris outlined this project, including how it links to public transport. Chris has written an interesting paper on this project, which is available on the JLAF website.</p>	

	<p><b>JLAF and South Gloucestershire Council Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Malcolm Bridge had been asked by the committee to pass on their thanks for the work of the JLAF, and they particularly appreciate being kept informed by receiving the JLAF minutes in their committee papers.</p>	
<b>F</b>	<p><b>The next meeting JLAF22 at 2pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 2AU</b></p> <p><b>Possible Agenda Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JLAF Members requested an item on the use of volunteers on Public Rights of Way, particularly on the potential of improving public rights of way through the co-ordination of more volunteers.</li> <li>• Presentation by the Bristol Cycling City team</li> </ul> <p><b>Subsequent Meeting Dates</b> See background papers or JLAF website.</p>	
	<b>Close</b>	