



JLAF22: Background Papers

Some items on the agenda are addressed verbally at the meeting, thus papers for every item on the agenda do not appear here. **Further reading of interest to members can be added to the meeting page of the JLAF website at www.jlaf.org.uk** – contact the secretary if you need assistance with this.

Agenda item B1: Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Implementation B1iii Walking and Cycling Major Funding

In the engagement draft of the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 (JLTP3) was reference to a 'Cycling Major Transport Scheme'. The JLAF have been pressing to rename this a 'Walking and Cycling Major Transport Scheme', to keep it in the Final JLTP3 document, and for the Councils to progress work on it. The following email was sent by the JLAF Chairman to the Councillors who sit on the Joint Transport Executive Committee of the West of England Partnership. This consists of the Senior Councillor responsible for Transport in each Council, and is Chaired by Cllr Charles Gerrish of Bath & North East Somerset Council.

From: Raymond Newbigin
Sent: 25 October 2010 11:10
To: Charles Gerrish (Cllr)
Cc: Cllr. Gary Hopkins; Cllr. Brian Allinson; Cllr. P Bryant; Robin Winfield ; 'Ron Phelps'; Chris Hogg
Subject: Walking & cycling, a Major Transport Scheme in the JLTP3

Dear Cllr. Gerrish,

As you know, The Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) is a statutory body which advises three Councils on Access and Rights of Way as well as encouraging healthy outdoor pursuits. I made a submission to the Joint Transport Executive Committee and, as a result, you appointed me to the Transport Plan Commission.

We believe that the present squeeze on capital expenditure, in what has been described as the "sober decade" by the governor of the Bank of England, could be a good opportunity to mount a Major Transport Scheme for walking and cycling.

We note that the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund states that it wants ".....to change patterns of travel....", ".....The fund will focus on those authorities offering the highest returns..." and ".... the Department will want to ensure best value for money.....". We think that a coherent area such as the West of England should make the case for a Major Transport Scheme for Walking and Cycling, rather than rely solely on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. We think that we, and those that think like us, have the answer to all these points made by the Ministry of Transport.

In this short email we do not aim to set out the detailed economic, social and health benefits which will arise from more walking and cycling, these have been given elsewhere. We aim to only stress the common sense elements and leave the detailed evidence base to others.

Benefit to Cost ratio (BCR). The Department of Transport regard a BCR of 2:1 as "high". The average BCR for walking and cycling projects in the UK is 19:1.

Costs less money. The investment in eleven schemes to 2019 in the present draft of the JLTP3 are budgeted at an average of £41m each. A Major Transport Scheme for walking and cycling will cost a great deal less than this.

Health. Walking and cycling will eliminate the sedentary life style – when did you last see an overweight walker or cyclist?! In urban areas it is often faster to walk or cycle than going by car or public transport and it causes less pollution.

Quick to build the infrastructure We understand that a Major Transport Scheme normally takes between 8 and 18 years to complete. The Cycling City scheme for Bristol and South Gloucestershire will be delivered in well under a third of that time

Builds on work already in progress The Cycling City is a fine start and could easily be extended to other areas using the skills which have already been learnt. The existing Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) sets out how both urban and rural walking and cycling improvements can be made.

Much of the early groundwork for such a Major Transport Scheme for walking and cycling has already been done by the West of England Partnership and the Councils - the JLAF Secretary and Outdoor Access Improvement Officer has compiled projects that could be included in this bid.

Now we need the political impetus to get the scheme drawn up by the Transport Planning Officers.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Newbiggin, Chairman, Joint Local Access Forum

cc. Cllrs. Gary Hopkins, Brian Allison & P Bryant

Agenda item C1: JLAF Response to "South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy"

Following the reporting of this item at a previous JLAF meeting, the following response was sent to South Gloucestershire Council in response to their consultation. A copy of the JLAF's Position Paper on Green Infrastructure and Development was included with this response.

This letter requires ratifying at this meeting.

From: Chris Hogg [mailto:Chris_Hogg@BATHNES.GOV.UK]
Sent: 30 July 2010 17:53
To: Planning LDF
Cc: 'Ray Newbigin (Newbigin@BTinternet.com)'; 'Ron Phelps (ron.phelps@blueyonder.co.uk)'; 'Robin Winfield (robinwinfield@btinternet.com)'
Subject: JLAF Response to the South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy

Below is the text of a letter, also attached to this email as a .PDF document.

Dear Mr Jackson,

South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy Pre-submission Publication Draft March 2010

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) has a statutory role in advising the Council on matters relating to access to the outdoors for residents and visitors. In this respect we are particularly interested in the Draft Core Strategy's treatment of the many facets of Green Infrastructure especially green corridors and connectivity between urban and rural areas. We are also particularly concerned that walking and cycling should be given priority in transport planning matters. In broad terms we welcome the emphasis on these issues in the Draft Strategy believing that if implemented they will do much to improve the health and quality of life of residents.

The JLAF notes that the Draft Core Strategy is to "to be read as a whole" and will not, therefore, criticise occasional omissions. However, we think there is a measure of unevenness regarding the roles of the rural economy and tourism. Virtually the whole of South Gloucestershire has much to offer local residents and tourists whose visits can boost the rural economy in particular. Vice versa a healthy rural economy makes the area more attractive to the visitor. For example equestrianism is already a significant employer but much more could be done to develop the infrastructure of bridleways and trails. While much of this can be teased out of the Draft Core Strategy we would welcome a clear development of the relationship between tourism, walking, cycling, equestrianism and the rural economy and how this will be fostered by planning strategies.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Newbigin, Chairman of the JLAF.

cc. Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman

Agenda item C2: JLAF Response to “Natural environment: an invitation to shape the nature of England”

Defra are consulting in advance of a new White Paper on the natural environment planned for spring 2011. This major consultation had a deadline of 30th October, before this meeting, so JLAF Members were invited to submit their responses to the JLAF Secretary to be compiled into a JLAF response. This has now been sent to Defra.

This response requires ratification at this meeting.

By email to: naturalenvironment@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

**Natural Environment White Paper Team,
Area 3D, Nobel House,
17 Smith Square,
London SW1P 3JR**

Thursday, 28th October 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

“An invitation to shape the nature of England”

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) has a statutory role in advising the Council on matters relating to access to the outdoors. For many, the motivation to take exercise by walking, cycling or horse riding is the chance to get ‘fresh air’ and relaxation in the natural environment. The quality of the natural environment is therefore highly important to the benefits that increased activity can bring, including to mental and physical health, spending in the local economy, and impacts on congestion and carbon emissions.

The principal point the JLAF wishes to make in this response is that in documents relating to this consultation, there appears to be little consideration of the role of people in the natural environment and the role of access.

In preparing this response, members of the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) reported their interests in the subject of this consultation. Those interests related to the value of both land and the landscape, for nature conservation, for food production, as an historical environment and for recreation. These values are important in cities and towns, rural areas and remote countryside.

In many cases these values compete with other resource pressures, for housing, development, transport and industry, and often suffer accordingly. It is important, therefore, to properly value the natural environment and the whole range of benefits it brings, from the importance of maintaining soil quality, to savings in the NHS from the beneficial impact of increased activity on heart and lung disease, diabetes and mental health, to the effect of transport interventions on carbon emissions.

The recent development of policies using definitions of Green Infrastructure are helpful to demonstrate the multifaceted value of the natural environment, but it must be clear that Green Infrastructure cannot always be a combination of all natural resources, for instance the value of 'peace and quiet' is difficult to resolve by green space provision in transport corridors. A Green Infrastructure approach should not be used to reduce the current provision of green assets.

It is appreciated that assessing a monetary value for these Green Infrastructure assets will be useful, and is a discipline that is important to develop, but it is also important to consider intangible values that are difficult to measure, including *the tonic effect – physical and mental – of wandering about in the open air*, and the preservation of landscape, allowing it to grow and develop *whilst retaining its features and characteristics*.

As the Joint Local Access Forum, we wish to highlight the importance of two particular resources:

As a physical resource, the public rights of way network provides access throughout towns and countryside, and the maintenance, improvement and increased use of this network enables greater benefits, as shown through recent studies assessing Value for Money in Walking and Cycling interventions in the UK, which result in an average 19:1 Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR)¹.

¹Davies, Dr A; "Value for Money: An Economic Assessment of Investment in Walking and Cycling"; NHS Bristol & Bristol City Council; May 2010.

As a human resource, the consultation documents refer to the role of 'Civil Society' and the Natural Environment. As a statutory body of volunteers, we have experience in working with local and national government, businesses (including farming) and communities. Local programmes such as the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens service are very successful, established in 1968 and with 340 full time members². However, it must be noted that such voluntary programmes need long term sustained support and financial resources to be viable, particularly in order to attract and retain volunteers. Another local example, the Forest of Avon, has had to scale back its activities as a result of reduced financial resources.

² <http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/?page=cotswoldwardens>

Given the scope and design of this consultation, it is not possible to address all of the important aspects of the natural environment. This response therefore is restricted to those subjects most relevant to the statutory remit of the Joint Local Access Forum.

Yours sincerely,

[submitted by email from secretary@jlaf.org.uk]

Ray Newbiggin, Chairman of the JLAF.

cc. Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman

Agenda item D1: JLAF Activities

JLAF Officers and other members attend events and meetings of interest to the JLAF. This will be a verbal update on these events.

Agenda item D2 News from the PROW teams

This will be a verbal update from Council Officers covering the work of each council.

Agenda item D3: Public Rights of Way Liaison Group Agendas

There follows a copy of the Agenda for the most recent meeting of each of the three Public Rights of Way Liaison Groups, together with the date of the next meeting. These meetings are not statutory as the JLAF is, and meetings are not held in public. If you would like further information, contact the JLAF secretary in the first instance.

Bath & North East Somerset Council Public Rights of Way Liaison Group (PROWLG) The most recent meeting was on Wednesday 17th June 2009

South Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way Liaison Group (PROWLG) Thursday 29th July 2010 Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Notes of last meeting 22nd April 2010 and matters arising
3. JLAF Report
4. 2009/10 Annual Report
5. Priority Forms and issue progress
6. CAMS resolved feedback
7. LG Priorities from User Groups perspective
8. Any Other Business

The next meeting – 17/11/10

Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way Liaison Group (PROWLG)

Thursday 9th September 2010

Agenda

1. Bristol City FC new stadium site, Ashton Vale – further informal consultation on proposed changes to footpaths
2. Minutes from PROWLG meeting of 10/06/10
3. PROW Update
 - a. Informal consultation on proposed development/Public Path Orders in pipeline:
 - i. PROW 236 Blackberry Hill
 - ii. PROW 299 Tankards Close
 - iii. PROW 80, Romney Avenue
 - b. 26 July report to PROW & Greens Committee - update
4. Matters raised by members:
 - a. PROW 53, Dorian Road to Monks Park Avenue (JB & BM)
 - b. Bristol's Walking Strategy & PROW (CB & PG)
 - c. PROW Performance indicators (CB)
 - d. Percentage of Bristol's footpaths that are signposted (CB)
 - e. Condition of cross boundary paths (CB)
 - f. Lawrence Weston Moor (CB)
 - g. Impact of Alleygating on crime statistics – who collates statistics and how are they disseminated (PG)
5. JLAF Update
6. Any other business

The next meeting – Thursday 9/12/10

Agenda item F: The next meeting JLAF23 (in Bath & North East Somerset on the 4th March 2011)

Proposed Agenda Items

The following items are proposed for the meeting on the 4th March 2011:

- Presentation by the Peter Ashcroft, Physical Activity Regional Lead, Public Health Team, Department of Health South West

Subsequent Meeting Dates

The following are dates for full meetings of the JLAF, following a pattern of once every 4 months, on the first Friday of the month. Also shown are the deadlines for JLAF members to submit agenda items to the Secretary, and for papers to be published.

Event/Meeting	Date	Location
JLAF23 Agenda items submitted by	FR 04FEB11	
JLAF23 Agenda and Papers Available	FR 18FEB11	
JLAF23 Main Meeting	FR 04MAR11	Fry Club, Somerdale, Keynsham
JLAF23 Draft Minutes Published	FR 18FEB11	

JLAF24 Main Meeting	FR 01JUL11	
JLAF25 Main Meeting	FR 04NOV11	