



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Chris Hogg, Secretary to the JLAF
Floor 2 South, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, BRISTOL. BS31 1LA.

Telephone: 01225 394161
Facsimile: 01225 394205
Email: secretary@jlaf.org.uk
<http://www.jlaf.org.uk>

Ray Newbigin, Chairman, Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman

Reference: S:\Prow\JLAF\JLAF Meetings,Business\JLAF16 upto JLAF17\2008-11-07 JLAF to Secretary of State for Transport 7 Nov 08.doc

Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

7 November 2008

Dear Secretary of State,

We read with interest your interview with the Financial Times, printed on the 30th of October, where you are reported as being “keen to see what we can accelerate” in order to help the chancellor’s Keynesian approach of increasing public works.

The Local Transport Plans provide you with some ready help because they all contain sections on developing Public Rights of Way and in particular for improving cycling and walking. The Rights of Way Improvement Plans, which are part of the LTP, **are ready to be implemented now.**

This Joint Local Access Forum suggests that you give some money to Natural England so that they can allocate it to Local Authorities to spend within two years. These relatively small amounts can be channelled into improving Public Rights of Way, which will encourage their use and will put money into the pockets of people who will quickly put it back into circulation.

Yours sincerely

Ray Newbigin, Chairman, Joint Local Access Forum

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

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The JLAF is a statutory body established by the three councils shown below, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land in the area of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. Its views do not necessarily represent those of the three councils.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**South Gloucestershire
Council**