



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

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

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**Mr Mark Reynolds**  
**Planning Services**  
**Trimbridge House**  
**Trim Street**  
**BATH**  
**BA1 2DP**

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire.**  
**Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Councils are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.**

Tuesday, 23 November 2010

Dear Mr Reynolds,

**Planning Application 10/03624/FUL: Enlargement of existing path to create a route for cyclists and walkers from the dam to the picnic area and the picnic area to Ham Lane**

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF) for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire. The JLAF is a statutory body with members who have a variety of interests, including those of land managers and of walkers, cyclists and equestrian users as well as a Councillor from each of the three Councils. Bath & North East Somerset Council has a statutory obligation to have regard to the JLAF's advice.

I am writing to express the JLAF's advice on the planning application for an improved route at Chew Valley Lake. This follows a resolution strongly supporting the planning application which members approved unanimously at the JLAF meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

The JLAF have been considering this route for over three years and supported a previous planning application at this site 08/00884/FUL.

We hope that Bath & North East Somerset Council with its partners and Bristol Water will continue to construct the remainder of the path around the whole of the Lake in the very near future. Given the importance of the route, and the nature of funding for such projects, we request that if there is any discretion in including a condition the period by which development must commence, this be set at the maximum period possible.

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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**

This route exemplifies sustainable development and meets the requirements of Government Guidance given in PPG 13 and PPG 17. Please also refer to advice given in our Position Statement on Local Development Frameworks that I have enclosed with this letter. The route will provide a resource for local schoolchildren and will bring benefits for health and increase the potential for tourism income.

The JLAF advise that routes should be open to all users wherever possible in order to increase opportunities for Outdoors Access. Together with other requirements of the Equalities Act 2010, opportunities for disabled users should be considered at all times. This accords with the vision of the three Councils' adopted Joint Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

We would be grateful if this advice can be considered at every stage of this application's progress and that you inform us of the result.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Newbigin,  
Chairman of the Joint Local Access Forum for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire.

CC: Robin Winfield, Vice Chairman  
Ron Phelps, Deputy Chairman