



JLAF 26

Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 2th March 2012

Date: Friday, 2th March, 2012
 Time: 2:00pm
 Venue: The Council Chamber, Keynsham Town Hall, Keynsham. BRISTOL. BS31 1NL

Present: JLAF Members:
 Rachael Whitlock, Cllr Howard Gawler (South Gloucestershire Council), Peter Gould, Colette Lineham, Cllr Nicholas Coombes (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Christopher Simpson, John Gunnery, Chris Barrable, Jill Britten, Chris Bloor, Robert Killen (JLAF Deputy Chairman), David Waterstone (JLAF Chairman).

Also in attendance:
 Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Graeme Stark (Bath & North East Somerset Council), Duncan Venison (Bristol City Council), Ed Plowden (Bristol City Council).

Members of the public, including:
 Rennie Dickins, Andy Stewart, David Howard.

Action

	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman marked the sad passing of Chris Cray who was formally the ward councillor for Westfield, the Chair of B&NES Council's Regulatory (Access) Committee and a member of the Joint Local Access Forum. Chris was a strong supporter of public rights of way and was involved in improving access to the area around Chelscombe Farm near Bath.</p>	
A2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>JLAF Members: Bill Dawson and Michael Youé Other apologies: Rob Leek and Chris Hogg.</p>	
A3	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>No declarations were made.</p>	
A4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting on 4th November 2011.</p> <p>The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following alterations to item B4. The second paragraph shall be amended to read; <i>"Plumbers' Trench is a route that has been identified by local riders, and users of the local riding stable as a potential link to avoid the busy B4060 road that has been alluded to as being used as a route by horse and cart historically. There is contention over the status of the route and whether riders have a right to regain access to this route."</i> In the fourth paragraph the words <i>"as a bridleway"</i> will be replaced with <i>"for current equestrians"</i>.</p>	

A6	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda None.	
B	MAIN BUSINESS	
B1	<p>Bristol Cycling City presentation by Ed Plowden</p> <p>Bristol Cycling City was intended to get more people cycling through a combination of 'hard' and 'soft' measures. The works included building new infrastructure, providing 'Bikeability' training to 17k children, improving the surroundings, signage and cycle-parking. A two week cycle festival and a new website were also launched.</p> <p>Research showed that cyclists and non-cyclists viewed cycling very differently to one another. In recently years cycling has increased in Bristol, despite a national reduction in cycling.</p> <p>There is now a £25m Local Sustainable Transport Fund available and resources are being concentrated on the most used commuter routes in the West of England.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding shared use route and whether there was sufficient information on site about where routes' distances and destinations.</p>	
B2	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Nicola Chidley addressed this item. The new team structure is to be implemented by the end of March and no further job cuts are planned. The Capital budget has been increased to £90k for next year, to allow the backlog of capital projects to be implemented, and the new ordering system is working very well. Work is on-going on the Yate-Mangotsfield Link.</p> <p>Move to Proactive Parish inspections systems and works to streamline the process with the supported of management. In discussions with the Ramblers' Association, whose new working parties have been very positive, and supports the way that the Cotswolds Wardens continue to work. Using the OutdoorsWest website as a tool for the proactive working. Natural England are running a scheme to photograph promoted walks and upload them to their Phototrails website.</p> <p>SGC came highest in the SWHSIG PROW satisfaction survey across SW authorities and top 3 nationally. Access Land Trails at Hawkesbury and Warmley are soon to be published. Network Rail have applied for a diversion at Charfield which is now being processed. Aiming to greatly simplify all processes including the rather lengthy Annual report so this year will be an A4 page worth for the Liaison Group and others.</p> <p>BVPI survey outturn declared this year of 76.95% an increase of 4%. We are hoping that with the improved working methods we are looking to achieve at least 80% next year.</p> <p>There have been no gating order applications.</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset Council</p> <p>Graeme Stark addressed this item. A consultation on a restructure is expected shortly; there are expected to be further budget cuts and redundancies within the PROW team.</p>	

	<p>A new system is being trialled for processing Public Path Orders, whereby agents working on behalf of applicants carry out all the non-statutory part of the process and the Authority does only the statutory parts of the process. B&NES is set to make two restricted byway creation orders to create routes for cyclists in Whitchurch and Claverton Down and a diversion order at Woollard has been confirmed by the Secretary of State. DMMOs have recently been confirmed to record three footpaths in Englishcombe, Keynsham and Saltford.</p> <p>The 2012-13 capital programme has been formulated and is currently out for consultation.</p> <p>There have been no gating order applications.</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p> <p>Duncan Venison addressed this item. There has been no change within the team's structure. Although the budget was depleted over the past year they have still been able to deliver a large number of protects including the Lockleaze footpath link and the Severn Way link works. The team has recently received some very positive news for the coming financial year and it appears that their operational budget is set to almost double over the coming year.</p> <p>The Groundworks volunteers are no longer available but it was highlighted that Sustrans also have volunteers who may be available for certain tasks.</p> <p>It has been proposed that a Gating Order should be made for Brook Lane in Montpelier. The lane is a dead-end and therefore does not provide a useful link in the network. Peter Gould and Nicholas Coombes suggested that there was no need to oppose the gating order and this was accepted by all other members.</p>	
B3	<p>JLAF Project Progress</p> <p>i. Chew Valley Lake</p> <p>Cllr Coombes informed the JLAF that a planning application has been submitted for Chew Valley Lake and that the project is progressing to schedule.</p> <p>ii. River Avon riverside routes, both in Bristol and Batheaston</p> <p>The scheme is still progressing but there are no major developments. Ed Plowden stated that he would endeavour to provide the JLAF with information about a proposed Bristol to Keynsham link</p> <p>iii. Bridleway links at Frampton Cotterell</p> <p>The landowners are currently being identified so that the project can be pushed forward.</p>	Ed Plowden
B4	<p>Castle Bridleway Group</p> <p>David Howard addressed this item. They are a small group looking to improve access to common land in Wickwar. A Commons Council was created to manage the land but has fallen to the wayside. The group intend to make a DMMO application but would like some guidance regarding the correct interpretation of the Commons Act 1899 in relation to the claimed routes. DH asked if JLAF would write to the councils enquiring of their position. DW agreed to look into the matter further and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>DW raised the issue of whether the JLAF should have a Business Plan going forward.</p>	David Waterstone

B5	OutdoorsWest, website, content and publicity Chris Bloor expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress recently on the OutdoorsWest website. Graeme Stark explained that this has been due to staff absences.	
C	<u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	Proposed Fencing of Bannerdown Common The Trustees of Bathampton Common want to enter into an HLS environmental scheme and the grazing of cattle is being proposed as a means of controlling scrub. It was agreed that the fences couldn't be sited in such a way as to avoid the rights of way. Perhaps its greatest importance as a local amenity was as a dog walking site. This activity should be protected as far as possible. But the other side of this coin was that the parish council should be asked to post notices near the car park reminding dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after their pets and to provide bins to encourage this. It was agreed that the JLAF would support the proposed fencing and that the Chris would reply to the consultation accordingly	Chair
D	Any Other Business The Chair said that he had remarked that the notes issued to Chairs concerning the running of LAFs encouraged them to develop business plans and this seemed to him to be a good way of giving our activities a greater sense of direction than had been evident hitherto. He suggested that we should have this idea on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting and he hoped members would come with ideas for making our work more proactive. Meanwhile work was proceeding with Avon Ramblers' Volunteer Wardens. The Ramblers' Association have been keen to 'do their bit' during the financially challenging times and have set up a volunteer programme. They are modelled on the Cotswold Wardens and will be well trained and equipped. They hope to start in April 2012. The Chair asked whether the JLAF would be interested in looking into the feasibility of a 'Walkers Are Welcome' scheme locally; there was generally a positive response to the suggestion. At the request of BCC, the issue of cross-border working and delegations under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 was raised. Officers from all three authorities agreed to work together to put measures in place to allow this kind of working. The Vice-Chair highlighted the CLA's recent report on proposed changes to rights of way legislation. He felt that the report contained many positive suggestions; this was seconded by John Gunnery but opposed by Chris Bloor.	
G	The next full JLAF meeting JLAF27 at 2pm on the 6th July 2012 at	
	Close	