



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

## Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Date: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
 Time: 2:00pm  
 Venue: Community Room, Keynsham Library, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS  
 Present: JLAF Members: Mark O’Sullivan – Chair of the JLAF (MOS), Rennie Dickins (RD), Keith Weller (KW), Andrew Gough (AG), John Gunnery (JG), Richard Watson (RW), Ruth Howard (RH), John Darvill (JD), Peter Gould (PG), Chris Bloor (CB), Donald MacIntyre (DM), Kathy Thomas (KT)

Also in attendance: Sarah Jackson Bathscape Project (SJ), Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Duncan Venison – Bristol City Council (DV), Graeme Stark – Bath & North East Somerset Council (GS), Hayley Barker – Bath and North East Somerset Council – Secretary of the JLAF (HB).

### Action

A	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>All members introduced themselves. The Chairman introduced Sarah Jackson from the Bathscape programme, a HLF-funded Landscape Partnership for the setting of Bath.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Ken Mill, Cllr Michael Bell, Peter Bird, Kate Chubb, Robert Davies, Ann Fay, Philip King, Cllr Karen Warrington</p>	
A2	<p><b>New Appointments in the JLAF</b></p> <p>GS explained the recruitment process and reported that the Three Councils had received 8 strong applicants. GS introduced each of the new members. Six new members had been appointed: Donald MacIntyre (Land), John Darvill (Other), Kathy Thomas (User), Philip King (Land), Richard Watson (Other), Ruth Howard (User).</p>	
A3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
A4	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.</b></p> <p>The draft minutes from the March 2017 meeting had been circulated to all JLAF Members and were approved and signed as a true and correct record.</p>	

<b>A6</b>	<p><b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <p>The planned presentation on Prescription Walks had been postponed.</p>	
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>MAIN BUSINESS</u></b></p>	
<b>B1</b>	<p><b>Election of new JLAF Vice Chair and Bathscape Representative</b></p> <p>SJ explained more about the Bathscape project and that the JLAF held a position on their governing board. They were in a development stage after having received funding from the Lottery. Their main aims were to improve access to and understanding of the landscape and natural environment in the area, to improve their long term management, and to revitalise their use for health, recreation and fun.. They were consulting with users, since a whole range of activities was to be encouraged, including cycling. SJ highlighted the Walking Festival 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. More information on the Bathscape Project and forthcoming events would be featured on the BANES website. RD was appointed as the JLAF representative on the Bathscape Board, with RH as a backup.</p> <p>CB proposed DM as Vice-Chair of the JLAF and RH seconded. DM was duly elected as Vice Chair.</p>	
<b>B2+ B3</b>	<p><b>Gating Orders &amp; Public Space Protection Orders: Hanover Street PSPO Draft JSP</b></p> <p>MOS commented that the feedback given was unsatisfactory; it was important to know what notice had been taken of the advice from the JLAF, not just the result of the consultations; PG agreed. There was discussion of the PSPO, on which a variety of views was expressed, but it became clear that the Order would expire after three years and that if Bristol wished to renew at that point there would be another opportunity to advise them.</p> <p>On the JSP, MOS suggested he press for a more detailed response. KW proposed this, with CB seconding.</p>	<b>MOS</b>
<b>B4</b>	<p><b>News from the Public Rights of Way Teams</b></p> <p><b>South Gloucestershire Team:</b></p> <p>The Capital Improvement Programme had started with paths at Yate and Coalpit Heath and Kingswood and Wick, and some surfacing improvements for Oldbury on Severn, Alveston and Rockhampton receiving treatment so far. There was a very tight rein on the capital budget this year, at £115k. Supporting to the volunteer work parties would continue, and these had just completed a section of the Frome Valley Walkway, which would be stile free from Algars Manor Iron Acton to Frampton Cotterell. Funding for gates from the Long Distance Walkers Association, and work parties from the Southwold Ramblers, meant that 10 stiles had been replaced or removed. Landowners had been cooperative with the works and South Gloucestershire hoped that this section of the Frome Valley Walkway would be easier and more enjoyable with no stiles.</p> <p>The SGC Liaison Group met on 28<sup>th</sup> June and topics such as dog walkers</p>	

and allowing horse riders/cyclists on suitable footpaths were discussed. A video record of the Cotswold Way was about to be uploaded to Google Streetview thanks to the Cotswolds Conservation Board. RW informed the JLAF that there would be a report on 'Points West', as this was only the 4<sup>th</sup> trail nationally to achieve this.

The Environment Agency was proposing to raise some of the sea walls along the Coastal Path. There was discussion over concerns that this would affect walkers and interrupt views from the Path. NC commented that their PROW team had an interest and would be engaging with it to protect the right of way. There would be a presentation in Severn Beach Primary School on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 5.30-7.00pm to advertise plans for changes to the coastal path.

The West of England Combined Authority met on 28<sup>th</sup> June and agreed funding for large schemes across the Three Authorities' area, including major works to Bromley Heath Viaduct on the Ring Road. Their next meeting was on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. There was a Mayoral Blog and news from WECA on [www.westofengland-ca.org.uk](http://www.westofengland-ca.org.uk).

A new Policies Sites and Places Plan would include protection for Active Travel Routes, including all rights of way.

#### **Bath and North East Somerset Team:**

GS reported that there had been no changes in structure or funding in BANES recently.

There had been two reports of cattle attacks recently, one of which had been in the press, but the team had no details other than that it had been in Chew Valley and concerned a woman with a dog; any information would be welcomed by GS. KW highlighted that there was a dog walking code published by the Ramblers. It was suggested that JLAF members might publicise this further. GS pointed out that there was information available on the BANES website on dog walking.

The Capital Programme would be composed of smaller projects, mainly maintenance of surface and drainage. GS hoped to have these completed by the end of September. There would be a consultation soon on a new Public Right of Way near the Taylor Wimpey K2A site, though there were concerns about motorcyclists who might use the path illegally.

Under the Bath definitive map project 76 new footpaths would be recorded in Twerton and a further 17 in Westmoreland.

KT complained that footpaths were not being reinstated after fields have been ploughed or seeded. GS asked that if anyone came across this happening they report it to their PROW team so they could enforce the reinstatement with landowners.

#### **Bristol Team:**

DV reported that they had not had any changes to staff, but their capital budget had been reduced further to £40,000, which would be used to focus on minor works such as surfacing and on footpaths with regular use. They had also received some S106 funding which could only be used on paths specified in the agreement. They had recently completed some remedial works on the Severn Way and were looking at a footbridge linking two

**DV**

	<p>footpaths near Coombes Western Road.</p> <p>The Green Cast iron bridge on Kings Western Lane had been closed after a lorry crash. The Structures Team hoped to repair it next year but had been delayed by funding shortage. RD commented that people were actually still using the bridge despite it being closed off, and asked if it would be possible to continue use by foot by raising the headroom of the scaffolding to avoid people weaving through as they were currently. DV said he would ask the Structures Team.</p>	
<b>B5</b>	<p><b>North Somerset LAF</b></p> <p>The representative from the North Somerset LAF had been unable to come to the meeting.</p>	
<b>B6</b>	<p><b>Work Programme for the JLAF</b></p> <p>MOS had put together a preliminary paper on a Forward Work Programme for the JLAF which had been circulated to members ready for discussion. MOS commented that the JLAF had managed some good progress on internal discussions but less on offering advice externally. Tourism and Health both held opportunities for the JLAF. MOS invited discussion on the issues presented and suggested that a small group of people could come together to draw up a more formal programme.</p> <p>AG suggested addressing the issue of overcoming the barriers placed by motorways and railways, for example in Bradley Stoke. RH commented that the suggestions presented were sensible, and was supportive of the idea of a work programme. She wanted to make sure the JLAF worked with Local Nature Partnerships so as to engage with their memberships as well, and CB agreed. KW suggested contacting Robert Killen as a previous member of the JLAF who was part of this group. RH also raised the idea of considering driverless cars, on which with trials were being developed in Bristol.</p> <p>RD suggested that scrutiny was the most important aspect to look at as Councils are the ones most able to affect PROWs. He commented that it was better to focus on maintenance than introducing more rights of way.</p> <p>KW commented that lots of other groups already looked at the themes presented but there was perhaps a lack of joined up thinking between the groups. It should be possible for the JLAF to help collate feedback from these groups rather than create another source of ideas.</p> <p>MOS asked for volunteers for a group to put together ideas for further discussion. JD, RH, KT, DM and MOS agreed to meet separately and report back to the JLAF in November.</p>	<p><b>JD, RH, KT, DM and MOS</b></p>
<b>D</b>	<b><u>ITEMS TO REPORT / FOR INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b>D1</b>	<p><b>Rights Of Way Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>GS reported that the Three Authorities were in the process of creating a draft ROWIP and would be consulting on it shortly. They were looking to publish it before the next meeting in November, so MOS highlighted the</p>	

	<p>need for the JLAF to feedback in the interim. KW suggested members have a discussion via email and ask MOS to draft a response which would be circulated for approval before submitting. RW recommended not being too bleak with feedback even though the Councils were under finance constraints.</p>	
<b>E</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>RW gave a brief report on the National Conference he had attended on behalf of the JLAF. There had been a number of helpful discussions and ideas (for example, in Herefordshire, detailed reports on the network were being considered by a committee, freeing up the main group for more strategic work). He would send a copy of the presentations to be distributed with the minutes.</p> <p>KW also reported that Ramblers Head Office were looking at temporary diversions of Rights of Way.</p>	
<b>F</b>	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the JLAF would be at 2pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 in the Community Room at Keynsham Library. Issues to be considered for the agenda would include the work programme, prescription walks, what might be learned from the North Somerset JLAF and from the annual conference, and driverless cars.</p>	
<b>G</b>	<p><b>Proposed Spring JLAF meeting</b></p> <p>The Spring meeting would be at 2pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 in the Community Room at Keynsham Library.</p>	
	<p><b>Close 16.20pm</b></p>	