



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

## Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 1 July 2016

Date: Friday, 1 July 2016

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Community Room, Keynsham Library, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS

Present: JLAF Members: Chris Bloor – Chair of the JLAF (CBI), Andrew Gough (AG), Keith Weller (KW), Bernadette Macey (BM), Peter Gould (PG), Peter Bird (PB), Ann Fay (AF), Chris Simpson (CS), John Gunnery (JG), Robert Davies (RD), Robert Killen (RK),

Also in attendance: Anita Robertson - South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Christine Pouncett - Bristol City Council (DV), Andrew Chester (Natural England), Graeme Stark (GS).

### Action

A	<u>INTRODUCTIONS</u>	
A1	<p><b>Introductions</b> All present introduced themselves for the benefit of RD who has not been able to be present at recent JLAF meetings. GS explained that he was deputising for the JLAF Secretary Liam Bloundele.</p>	
A2	<p><b>Apologies</b> Chris Barrable, Mark O’Sullivan – Vice Chair of the JLAF, Rennie Dickens, Ken Mill, Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council, Duncan Venison – Bristol City Council, Liam Bloundele – Bath and North East Somerset Council</p>	
A3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> CS declared a potentially prejudicial interest in West of England Joint Spatial Plan as his land is included in the Plan.</p>	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p><b>Natural England – Coastal Path</b> Presentation given by Andrew Chester from Natural England (NE). AC gave a presentation to the JLAF two years ago about the Coastal Path when they were considering access proposals under the Coastal Access Act. There’s an opportunity to bring benefits to the West of England but there are also difficulties. NE are beginning to close in on plans to be put to the Secretary of State and they are again seeking the JLAF’s views. The proposed route is divided up into 10 areas; three in the JLAFs area covering 80km of coast. The route connects the existing Coast Path at Breen with the Welsh Coastal Path. This will be the longest continual walking route in the world when completed. At Avonmouth the path leaves the coast due to the docks. There are currently lots of gaps which creates difficulties. Wildfowl, wading birds and nature conservation are important considerations and the wildlife and access duties must both be met. This year’s funding has been secured.</p> <p>AF asked why there isn’t provision for horsesriders. AC said that this was a matter for Parliament but NE did lobby for equestrian provision and little</p>	

	<p>provision was made. AR explained that there was concern about erosion and there was a desire not to increase future maintenance liability. AC stated that requests need to be specific and not just general requests for 'more access'. NE are still negotiating access near Aust. Everything seaward of the line will have access rights (apart from mudflats, gardens etc.). NE have learn a lot about conservation on the Severn Estuary as a result of the research that's been carried out as part of the Coastal Path. Different options are currently being considered for the section near the Severn Bridge as there are both security and budgetary concerns about both current options. Discussions are ongoing with the landowner.</p> <p>PB queried that WEBS is. This is a survey of wading birds. AG asked whether the public will continue to be allowed to swim near the mud flats. AC explained that the public won't be banned near Severn Beach but they won't have the express right to do so under the Coastal Access legislation. There are also difficulties with the route at New Pill Gap. The footways have been improved along the A403 so aid cyclists access the power station. A link from Avonmouth to the Coastal Path will be created.</p> <p>CBI stated that the JLAF doesn't have any advice for NE. CS asked NE to remember that access rights restrict farmers' ability to graze cattle due to safety concerns. AG asked whether landowners get compensation; AC stated that there is neither legislative nor budgetary provision for compensation but NE can help in other ways. NE hopes to publish proposals by Christmas and to open this section of Coast Path within 18 months of those proposals being signed off. CBI thanked AC and AC welcomed comments at <a href="mailto:westcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk">westcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk</a></p>	
<b>A</b>	<b><u>INTRODUCTIONS continued</u></b>	
<b>A4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting on 11 March 2016.</b> The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the correction of the date in the header and alteration of item E to read; <i>"They want money as there is an overwhelming number of runners, we should support the runners."</i></p>	
<b>A5</b>	<p><b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b> CBI will be attending a meeting next week about the Bathscape project.</p> <p>KW raised the issue of the Little Stoke parkrun. Nicola Chidley is finding out who is dealing with the issue at SGC. It was queried whether SGC could provide a grant to allow parkrun to continue in its current location. AR explained that there would have to be extraordinary use and this may involve court proceedings. The JLAF have written to set out its position on the issue. CS stated that officer concerned dealing with this would be able to provide the facts of the case.</p>	
<b>B</b>	<b><u>MAIN BUSINESS continued</u></b>	
<b>B2</b>	<p><b>Increasing Effectiveness – LAF Review Form</b> CBI noted that there is a problem within the JLAF that the Chair leads everything and this contrasts with how to Parks Forum in Bristol is run, where all in individual members come to the meeting to discuss what they have been doing. In North Somerset the PROW Liaison Group and the LAF have effectively been merged, so both groups know what it going on. CBI stated that the JLAF could have sub-groups, like the OutdoorsWest group. They can involve non-JLAF members and identify things in their local area. CS questioned who a land management group would work in practice. Rk</p>	

	<p>felt that the JLAF should deal with issues of a strategic nature and the Liaison Groups must continue to deal with the minutiae. PB stated that Liaison Groups have no power to compel anyone to act and it was suggested that legal bodies would be run via the JLAF. KW stated that JLAF members can already feedback from other groups within the existing structure. PG endorsed this view and said the existing links provide the best way of dealing with issues. CBI reiterated that the JLAF is supposed to give advice. RD stated that Parish Councils are often unaware of the JLAF's existence and felt with Parish Cluster meetings might provide a link. AR explained that a recent restructure has helped to form links within SGC. KW said that the JLAF provides useful information on topics and points of view which otherwise might not be heard e.g. agriculture.</p>	
<b>B3</b>	<p><b>West of England Joint Spatial Plan</b></p> <p>RD felt what the Joint Spatial Plan was very important because it provided for an additional 30,000 houses on top of those already identified in the Local Plan. The development of greenfield sites impacts on PROWs attractiveness and amenity. The JLAF needs to get a handle on the impact of these proposals. PB felt that the transport plans for the three authorities needs to be joined up to reduce the reliance on cars. RB stated that there is a CRFC talk at Flax Bourton Village hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The spatial plan is currently out for consultation. RK suggests that this should be added to the agenda of the next meeting at there is not sufficient time to discuss the plan at this meeting. PB, RD and CBI to discuss how to engage with the Joint Spatial Plan.</p>	<p>PB, RD and CBI</p>
<b>B5</b>	<p><b>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</b></p> <p><b>South Gloucestershire Council</b> SGC have not had any staffing changes but they are working towards trying to retain the part-time technician to work on the Coastal Path and the impact of the Dereg Act. Budget levels remain the same as last year. Streetcare Operations are currently working through the list of capital works. Works have been completed at Frome Valley Walkway in Yate, Monarch Way in Bitton and the Dramway in Westerleigh. The vegetation cutting schedule if being carried out; the first part is almost complete. The Volunteer Workparties are continuing to complete works. There was recently a Volunteer Celebration Event at Winterbourne Barn and the training programme is being expanded.</p> <p><b>Bristol City Council</b> Budget and staff will remain the same in 16/17. Interviews with shortly be taking place for the long term vacancy and the team will then be back up to full strength (2 FTEs). A lot of work is currently being done in connection with Network Rail and the Metrobus scheme plans.</p> <p><b>Bath and North East Somerset Council</b> John Robertson, the Path Warden, will be taking voluntary redundancy at the end of September. There are public inquiries scheduled for the Withered Beds TVG and Fox Hill DMMO applications. Work is continuing with an application to stop up highways around Avon Valley Farm. The capital programme is progressing well; the majority of schemes have already been completed and there is only one more scheme to be awarded. It is appearing increasingly likely that the Dereg Act won't be implemented in the short to medium-term due to lack of resources within DEFRA and parliamentary time. In the Bath DMS Project the River and Towpath DMMO has just been confirmed by the Secretary of State and the opposed parts of</p>	

	the Bathwick DMMO will be determined via Written Reps. Work has started on the Twerton Ward and this is likely to record c.80 paths. S106 funding has been received for works in Paulton and Keynsham.	
<b>B6</b>	<b>Gating order &amp; Public Space Protection Orders</b> The JLAF has not been notified of any Gating Order or PSPO applications.	
<b>C</b>	<b>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan</b> CBI to circulate response by email. If no one has any objection to the response then it will be deemed to have been ratified.	CBI
<b>C2</b>	<b>Bathscape Partnership Agreement</b> CBI to circulate response by email. If no one has any objection to the response then it will be deemed to have been ratified.	CBI
<b>D</b>	<b>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>D1</b>	<b>WENP 2016 Annual Conference</b> CBL went to an equalities meeting at the Zoo with a range of interesting speakers including Bill Oddie.	
<b>D2</b>	<b>Coastal Access</b> Coastal Access was covered under item B1	
<b>E</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> None.	
<b>F</b>	<b>The next meeting of the JLAF will be at 2pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.</b> It was proposed that the West of England Joint Spatial Plan should be added to the agenda so that it can be fully considered.	
	<b>Close</b>	