



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 6 March 2015

Date: Friday, 6 March 2015

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members: Peter Bird (PB), Ken Mill (KM), Ann Fay (AF), Robert Killen (RK), Peter Gould (PG), Mark O'Sullivan (MO), Bernadette Macey (BM), Chris Simpson (CS), Andrew Gough (AG), Cllr Charlie Bolton (CBo), Keith Weller (KW), Rennie Dickins (RD), Councillor Howard Gawler (HG), Colette Linehan (CL), Cllr Douglas Nicol - Chair of the JLAF (DN), Chris Bloor – Vice-Chair of the JLAF (CBI)

Also in attendance: John Sneddon (South Gloucestershire Council (JS), Duncan Venison (Bristol City Council), Graeme Stark - Bath & North East Somerset Council and Interim Secretary to the JLAF (GS).

Action

| A | INTRODUCTIONS | |
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| A1 | <p>Introductions The Chair (DN) and Vice-Chair (CB) were not present for the start of the meeting and it was unanimously agreed that GS and RK would assume the roles until DN and CB arrived.</p> | |
| A2 | <p>Apologies JLAF Members: John Gunnery and Peter Bird Others: Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council)</p> | |
| A3 | <p>Declarations of interest None.</p> | |
| A4 | <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 7 November 2014. The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> | |
| A5 | <p>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda GS circulated the JLAF's press release regarding Neospora to all local newspapers. The Access Land review has been pushed back to 2019/2020 by Natural England. DN and CB arrived and took over the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair roles.</p> | |
| B | <p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> | |
| B1 | <p>Urban Routes JS provided a presentation for the JLAF members. Urban routes are considered in the context of the legislative framework, National Planning Policy Framework, the funding framework, and the Transport Policy Framework. The Joint Rights of Way Improvement Plan links into the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 and Local Plan's and Local Plans and Core Strategies are relevant too. There is already a network of Active Travel Routes around South Gloucestershire with 64% of trips being made by car, 22% by foot and 13% by bike. But 65% of journeys <1 mile made on foot</p> | |

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| | <p>and virtually all journeys involve walking to some extent. Design guidance is issued for all new transport links to best meet the needs of users. www.TravelWest.info/walk and www.walkit.com provide online resources for urban walkers. South Gloucestershire's Local Transport Capital Programme provides £64million in funding with £19m on cycling. There are plans for a Cycle Trunk Route which runs through three major development sites including Filton Airfield and Lyde Road development.</p> <p>JS was asked how prescriptive the requirement for the Cycle Trunk Route would be. JS stated that there is some flexibility in the proposals and it wouldn't be an absolute requirement for a developer to provide the link but the sustainability of a development it will be a material consideration for the Council's Development Control Committee when considering whether to grant planning permission.</p> <p>CBI pointed out that the location of the bridge over the ring road has altered and is not as convenient as the previous proposed location. AF requested that horseriders be allowed to use any new cycling route as they don't need any design alterations to a route, they would just like permission to use the routes.</p> <p>JS was thanked for his informative presentation.</p> | |
| B2 | <p>Recruitment</p> <p>GS stated that the JLAF would be recruiting new members. Landowners are currently underrepresented on the JLAF and existing members were encouraged to actively identify potential new members. CBI said that he knew of a member of the public that would make an excellent member but they would not be able to commit until September.</p> | |
| B3a | <p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Nicola Chidley was unable to attend but provided a written update of developments in South Gloucestershire. The current council wide review has left the PROW Team relatively untouched. All councils are looking at overall council savings; the SGC's savings for next year are large and although the PROW revenue budget will remain unchanged, the capital budget will be reduced by 10%. Priorities for the year ahead are supporting the volunteer work parties and carrying out surveys. Also working with Natural England on the National Coast Path. A PROW Liaison Group was held on 25 February and there are four DMMO applications for the PROW Sub Committee to consider. There are many large developments across SGC including the mainline electrification, Filton Airfield and Cribbs and this is taking up a lot of officer time working with the planners.</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p> <p>There are currently 2 part-time staff doing two full time positions; BCC considering creating a graduate post to cover the shortfall. Revenue and capital remain unchanged for next year. The liaison group is going strong and there is another meeting coming up. The new Metrobus scheme is affecting public rights of way and therefore taking up officer time. BCC are actively looking to protect and improve the rights of way network through the planning process.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Council</p> | |

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| | The revenue budget will remain unchanged in 2015/16 but the capital budget is being reduced by 24% which will significantly impact on the schemes which can be delivered. Next year's capital scheme will involve rebuilding Pipehouse Lane and reinstating the river path in Freshford. The Pipehouse Lane scheme will involve both drainage to address the springs along the line of the lane, and large stone which will be more resilient during heavy fall. The Inspector has recently declined to confirm the Manor Farm and The Tumps DMMO and the Inspector has not issued his report yet in connection with the High Littleton TVG. | |
| B4 | Gating order The JLAF has not been notified of any Gating Order applications. | |
| C | <u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u> | |
| C1 | Cotswold Conservation Board's Draft Position Statement regarding Public Rights of Way KW's response was circulated to JLAF members and no further comments were made so the response was submitted. KM proposed the item for ratification and CL seconded the item; the JLAF voted unanimously to ratify the response. | |
| C2 | Temple Quarter Regeneration MO's response was circulated to JLAF members and no further comments were made so the response was submitted. MO proposed the item for ratification and RK seconded the item; the JLAF voted unanimously to ratify the response. | |
| D | <u>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</u> | |
| D1 | West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) – update CBI reported that there have not been any developments with regard to the WENP since the last JLAF meeting. | |
| D2 | LAF National Report Natural England's annual report on LAFs nationally has been published and is available on the JLAF website. | |
| D3 | England Coast Path Natural England has started work on the section of the coast path which runs through the JLAF's area. Information is available on the JLAF website and any JLAF member can get involved by contacting Natural England. | |
| E | Any Other Business KM wanted to make the JLAF and the three councils aware of the Ramblers 'Big Pathwatch' where paths would be surveyed on a national scale by Ramblers members. KM was keen that this should not be used to present the JLAF area's network in an unfair light. | |
| E | The next meeting of the JLAF will be at 2pm on 3 July 2015. KW suggested that the JLAF might like to discuss mountain biking routes at the next meeting and that off-road cyclists should be encouraged to join the JLAF during the upcoming recruitment. MO stated that he felt that the presentation on urban routes focused on routes in new urban areas freshly developed from greenfield, whereas the original request for a presentation had focused primarily on the preservation and development of routes in established urban areas. MO requested a further presentation on the subject of the original request, which was agreed to. | |

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| F | Close | |
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