



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

## JLAF 32

### Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 28 February 2014

Date: Friday, 28 February 2014

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Riverside Offices, Temple Street, Keynsham, BS31 1LE

Present: JLAF Members: David Waterstone (JLAF Chairman), Robert Killen (JLAF Vice Chairman), Chris Barrable, Christopher Simpson, Chris Bloor, Peter Gould, John Gunnery, Ann Fay, Cllr Howard Gawler and Bernadette Macey.

Also in attendance: Graeme Stark (Bath & North East Somerset Council and Interim Secretary to the JLAF), Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Duncan Venison (Bristol City Council), David Hodd (Bath & North East Somerset Council) and Rennie Dickins.

#### Action

		Action
<b>A</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
<b>A1</b>	<b>Introductions</b> The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and introduced David Hodd.	
<b>A2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> JLAF Members: Cllr Kevin Quarterly (Bristol City Council) and Jill Britten.	
<b>A3</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b> None.	
<b>A4</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting on 1 November 2013.</b> The minutes were <u>agreed</u> as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<b>A5</b>	<b>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b> Chris Bloor explained that funding had become available for new, modernised signage on the Community Forest Path which is intended to better reflect what the path is all about.	
<b>A6</b>	<b>Chair's update</b> The volunteer schemes are working well and expanding. The management meeting was held on 27 February 2014 and there are plans to undertake more training. Keynsham and Bathford are keen to join the Walkers Are Welcome scheme and OutdoorsWest could form an important part of the project. David Waterstone recently had a very constructive meeting with Cllr Crossley and they visited sites where works had previously been completed.	

<b>B</b>	<b>MAIN BUSINESS</b>	
<b>B1</b>	<p><b>Setting of Bath Landscape Partnership HLF bid</b>  David Hodd gave a presentation on ‘<i>The Setting of the City of Bath Landscape Partnership Application</i>’. A need for a landscape partnership was identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy and a bid can be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for between £100k and £3m. The bid is intended to conserve areas of distinctive landscape and to connect people to the landscape. The Application is to be made by May 2014, the Development Phase will run until October 2015, the Second Round Application is be made by July 2016 and the Delivery Phase can take between 3 and 5 years. Currently developing project proposals. The three work themes are; i) a landscape through time ii) living landscapes and iii) a landscape for the community. David asked for suggestions regarding possible projects to be included.</p> <p>Chris Bloor stated that he would like to see running incorporated in the project, perhaps including Park Run, and raised concerns about the PROWs in Twerton not being recorded on Ordnance Survey Maps.</p> <p>Peter Gould would like public transport to be incorporated so that the countryside doesn’t just become a car park. It was queried whether industrial heritage was included and whether it was worth considering the doctor who was involved in preserving paths footpaths; PG to let DH know the Dr’s name. Rennie Dickins suggested reverse park and rides and a means for people in Bath to get to the countryside on the urban fringes.</p> <p>David Waterstone suggested looking at the radial route in and out of Bath, like the Wansdyke and the Fosseyway, in addition to a circular route around the city.</p> <p>Chris Simpson raised concerns that young people aren’t getting out into the countryside enough and that they wouldn’t reap the benefits of this project.</p> <p>Ann Fay requested improvements to the bridleway network and highlighted a lack of parking for horseboxes.</p> <p>Graeme Stark agreed to circulate David Hodd’s email address to JLAF members.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GS</b></p>
<b>B2</b>	<p><b>Deregulation Bill</b>  Graeme Stark summarised some of the main provisions of the Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting rid of ‘reasonably alleged’ from Section 53(3)(c)(i)</li> <li>• Inspectors can modify orders in respect of administrative errors contained therein</li> <li>• Retention of the 2026 cut-off date</li> <li>• Special orders altering alignment (not be substantially less convenient), width or limitations on PROW to be recorded</li> <li>• Preliminary assessment within 3 month and can reject spurious or poorly founded applications</li> <li>• Schedule 14 appeals and direction to determine will be to the magistrates court</li> <li>• Can only apply for a route once</li> <li>• Authority must serve notice rather than applicant</li> <li>• Ignore irrelevant objections</li> <li>• No newspaper notices</li> </ul> <p>Nicola Chidley added that the right to apply for PPOs was also being reintroduced.</p>	

<b>B3</b>	<p><b>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</b></p> <p><b>South Gloucestershire Council</b></p> <p>Nicola Chidley addressed this item. There are a number of large developments at Yate, Emerson Green, Stoke Gifford and Chipping Sodbury which affect PROW links. The issues of dogs in the countryside, which was first raised by the South Gloucestershire liaison group and gone through and JLAF and successfully resulted in changes to national guidance.</p> <p><b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b></p> <p>Graeme Stark addressed this item. Sheila Petherbridge and Cheryl Hannan are now the maintenance officers for B&amp;NES and GS agreed to circulate their areas of responsibility to JLAF members. The 2014/15 capital programme has been finalised and further details are available on request.</p> <p><b>Bristol City Council</b></p> <p>Duncan Venison addressed this item. This year's budget has mostly been spent and next year's capital budget will remain at £65k. Christine Pouncett is taking phased retirement and Christopher Orlik is leaving to pursue other projects. This leaves the team almost one FTE down and there are plans to get in a trainee.</p>	<b>GS</b>
<b>B4</b>	<p><b>Proposed Gating Orders:</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>C</b>	<b>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<p><b>South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan</b></p> <p>David Waterstone stated that the Local Plan appeared to be make sensible proposals and that there was no need to provide a formal response.</p>	
<b>D</b>	<b>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>D1</b>	<p><b>West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) – update</b></p> <p>Robert Killen stated that at the recent LAF conference LAFs were encouraged to work more closely with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Nature Partnerships, although it was unclear what they could contribute towards access. Someone from the WENP will speak to the next JLAF. The conference included workshops on LAF's relationships with LEPs and LNPs, access for all and dogs in the countryside and the Ramblers' Association's Paths in Crisis report was discussed.</p> <p>West Of England Nature Partnership: Robert Killen has continued to liaise with the WENP. He and David Waterstone recently attended the WENP conference in Bath. He felt that this had been helpful but was not absolutely sure of the benefits for JLAF from WENP. However, WENP will be a source of funding in the future for larger projects and there may be some benefit for Public Rights of Way. A representative from WENP is to speak at the next meeting. Chris Bloor asked if this was a new organisation replacing a similar organisation. This was confirmed. It was noted that the WENP has some momentum.</p>	
<b>D2</b>	<p><b>JLAF Recruitment</b></p> <p>The current memberships of Robert Killen, Chris Barrable, Peter Gould, Colette Linehan, Christopher Simpson and Michael Youe all expire in July 2014. It will be assumed that they are all happy for their previous</p>	

	application forms to be reconsidered to save having to complete the forms again. Members were asked to think whether they know anyone who would make a good new JLAF member.	
<b>D3</b>	<b>Housekeeping update</b> This was the first meeting where paperwork was sent out electronically; members are asked to feedback any issues to Graeme Stark. The next meeting will be the last in Riverside and the November meeting will be held in the new building. The JLAF website has now been closed down and information transferred to <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/public-rights-way/local-access-forum">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/public-rights-way/local-access-forum</a>	
<b>D4</b>	<b>OutdoorsWest update</b> Graeme Stark stated that the contractors are going to remove the problematic Route Database from the website and resolve all the other outstanding issues. This will allow the three authorities to then consider the long term future of the website.	
<b>E</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> Chris Bloor displayed the proposed new signage for the Community Forest Walk as discussed under agenda item A5	
<b>E</b>	<b>The next meeting JLAF33 at 2pm on the 4 July 2014, Keynsham</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>Close</b>	