



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 11 November 2016

Date: Friday, 11 November 2016
 Time: 2:00pm
 Venue: West 1.1, Keynsham Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS
 Present: JLAF Members: Chris Bloor – Chair of the JLAF (CBI), Mark O’Sullivan – Vice-Chair of the JLAF (MO), Ann Fay (AF), Robert Davies (RD), Peter Gould (PG), Ken Mills (KM), Rennie Dickins (RD), Chris Barrable (CB), Kate Chubb (KC), Robert Killen (RK), Peter Bird (PB), Ken Mills (KM), Bernadette Macey (BM), Keith Weller (KW), Andrew Gough (AG).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley - South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Duncan Venison - Bristol City Council (DV), Graeme Stark - Bath & North East Somerset Council and Interim Secretary to the JLAF (GS)

		Action
A	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	Introductions CBI introduced himself as the Chair. GS explained that Liam Bloundele (JLAF Secretary) had resigned. The JLAF Secretary role would be carried out by Claire Gregory from the next meeting onwards.	
A2	Apologies JLAF Members: Chris Simpson and Peter Abraham	
A3	Chris Bloor’s resignation and election of a new chair CBI informed the JLAF that he was resigning with immediate effect. RD proposed thanks to CBI for his efforts as Chair in what was often a thankless task, and a resolution to this effect was carried <i>nem.con</i> . Expressions of interest were sought from JLAF members for the position of JLAF Chair. None were forthcoming. MO, as Vice-Chair, took the chair for the current meeting. GS remarked that the JLAF Secretary’s role was limited to providing secretarial services to the JLAF such as booking the venue, sending out the meeting papers and taking the minutes; it was for the members themselves to determine what they would like to achieve within the parameters of the Terms of Reference.	
A4	Declarations of interest None.	
A5	Minutes of the last meeting on Friday 1 July 2016. The draft minutes from the Jul 2016 meeting had not yet been circulated to all JLAF Members. GS would circulate them accordingly, and the minutes would remain in draft form only until the March 2017 meeting.	GS

A6	<p>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>It was queried exactly what the role of the JLAF was and should be. Consensus was not reached on this question and it was agreed that this should be the main item at the March 2017 JLAF meeting.</p> <p>A public consultation was currently being carried out in respect of the Joint Spatial Plan; the consultation ended on 19th December 2016, and would be considered under Any Other Business.</p> <p>The Coastal Path was still progressing and CBI was the Ramblers contact for the North Somerset section. NC reported that there had been no major developments since the last meeting, and that Aust Cliff was still a sticking point.</p>	
B	<u>MAIN BUSINESS</u>	
B1	<p>Horwood Forest</p> <p>Horwood Forest had been located in what is now South Gloucestershire and was largely cut down in the 13th century. Lower Woods near Wickwar was the biggest remaining section and this was mostly replanted after WWII. Kingswood had been a royal chase. Horwood Forest had been regularly the site of highway robberies and poaching. The section around Thornbury had been known as the Forest of Alverston. It was proposed that Horwood Forest be revived as a title and used as a means to promote access in the Forest of Avon area. Most of the groundwork had been done for this and the challenge was how to present the routes to the public. KC queried whether the intention was for the routes to be published and stated that DEFRA grants for woodlands had been cut. CBI confirmed that the routes would be published and signposted and RK confirmed that Forestry Commission grants had been reintroduced.</p>	
B2	<p>Managing joint cycle and pedestrian use of the rights of way</p> <p>MO had recently walked the Cotswold Way and found muddy hilly areas where damage seemed to have been caused to the surface by mountain bikes. It was asked what experience there was of management measures which were successful in reconciling such conflicts. NC suggested that the majority of cycle related problems come from Stava racing on tarmacked, dual-use paths, and that this was best managed through signage. DV had not experienced any maintenance problems, and had found that the main problem in Bristol was conflict between users, which could be partially managed through segregating users; PG pointed out that the Bristol Walking Alliance supported this approach. GS said that the main cause of surface damage in B&NES was related to cattle poaching the surface and water erosion. KC felt that more use of a bell would warn pedestrians. AG queried whether there was any evidence of damage, and MO said that he was not aware of any studies to support this. RD highlighted that the solar lighting on the Concorde Way could cause conflict at busy times. DV stated that a budget was needed to install and maintain more prominent lighting, and that education was the key. AF was not aware of problems with horse-riders, and said that conflict tended to be between leisure users and commuters/racers.</p>	
B3	<p>Changes in the keeping of horses, and their implications for bridle paths</p> <p>AF explained that there had been concern about horses being abandoned during the recession but this had not been borne out in the event, and that horse use had increased. Many riders did not ride on PROWs because they did not want to ride on the connecting roads. Many small farms were being split up into smaller “horseculture” plots. KW stated that issues relating to “horseculture” should be addressed at the planning stage, and that</p>	

	applicants should pay for any gates which were required.	
B4	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</p> <p>Bristol City Council DV stated that there had been no budget changes and that the capital budget remained at £60k. BCC had just employed a trainee taking DV's staff up to 2 full-time equivalents. BCC was however facing cuts, with 1,000 jobs at risk, which might result in one or other of the part time PROW posts being lost. He was currently working on the coastal path with Natural England and North Somerset Council.</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council NC explained that SGC were facing a 10-15% capital cut next year. £110k capital had been spent this year. There was massive developmental pressure in South Gloucestershire, including Emersons Green and Filton Airfield, which required a lot of time for commenting on planning applications and processing diversion orders. The Charfield Railway Crossing order had been sent to the Secretary of State. SGC had scored just above average on the annual NHT survey – NC would provide members with a link to the survey results.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Council GS stated that B&NES had made the PROW Path Warden redundant and that the Administrative Assistant post would not be backfilled in an effort to find a c.£34k in-year cut to the PROW budget. The capital programme had almost been completed and CB praised the works being carried out at Stony Lane in St Catherine's. The Bathwick DMMO was currently with the Secretary of State, the Riverpath DMMO had been confirmed and work was currently under way on the Twerton and Westmoreland wards.</p> <p>KW enquired what BCC's attitude was towards volunteers. DV said they were keen to work with them. They had worked with volunteers in the past and their use had only dropped off because their Liaison Officer had left. DV would check to see if a couple of volunteers would be useful.</p> <p>KM informed the JLAF that Pathwatch was being relaunched and he would forward information for circulation to JLAF members. NC agreed to check with exeGesIS to see what possibilities there were for a national reporting system.</p>	<p>NC</p> <p>KM NC</p>
B5	<p>Gating Orders & Public Space Protection Orders DV informed the JLAF that there was a proposed PSPO relating to Hanover Street in Bristol which would be taken to Cabinet shortly. GS would find further details and circulate to JLAF members.</p>	GS
C	<u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	None	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	<p>Handover to new chair No new permanent Chair was elected and this would be held over until the March 2017 meeting.</p>	
E	<p>Any Other Business: JSS RD stated that the Joint Spatial Strategy was important because it proposed considerable more development. It was suggested that brownfield sites should be used in preference to open countryside and unoccupied properties should be brought back into use. AG stated that improvement of</p>	

	<p>public rights of way must be considered. CBI had gone to the launch event, and explained that it linked to the transport plan, and would result in more concentration on the north Bristol fringe. RK felt it was important that the JLAF respond because there would be more pressure on public rights of way MO proposed forming a group to formulate the JLAF's views, and it was agreed that AG, RD, AF and PG would form the group with MO to coordinate.</p>	
F	<p>The next meeting of the JLAF would be at 2pm on 10 March 2017. AF requested that a discussion about how routes were removed or changed on the List of Streets be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>It was also suggested that prescription walks be added to the agenda. A speaker on the Stroud initiative would be invited to attend the next meeting.</p>	
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