



JLAF 31

Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 1 November 2013

Date: Friday, 1 November 2013

Time: 2:00pm

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

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

Also in attendance: Graeme Stark (Bath & North East Somerset Council and Interim Secretary to the JLAF), Nicola Chidley (South Gloucestershire Council), Mark Parry (South Gloucestershire Council), Duncan Venison (Bristol City Council) and Jon Usher (Sustrans).

		Action
A	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	Introductions The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and introduced Jon Usher.	
A2	Apologies JLAF Members: Cllr Kevin Quarterly (Bristol City Council), Jill Britten, Chris Barrable, Cllr Douglas Nicol (Bath and North East Somerset Council), Other apologies: Matthew Pearce (South Gloucestershire Council)	
A3	Declarations of interest None.	
A4	Minutes of the last meeting on 5 July 2013. The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting.	
A5	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda CB met with Claire Loman (BCC) and John Grimshaw (Sustrans) regarding connecting green spaces and planting trees on connecting routes. CB has not heard any further news on this scheme and CL agreed to find out what progress has been made. PG stated that there was no need for the JLAF to get involved with any of the current gating orders.	Colette Lineham
A6	Chair's update Bath University has informed DW that they do not intend to proceed with the study into the economic benefit of Walkers Are Welcome and public rights of way. DW expressed his disappointment and indicated that the University may be looking at alternative proposals.	

B	MAIN BUSINESS	
B1	<p>Sustrans Jon Usher (Area Manager for West of England) from Sustrans provided a presentation on Sustrans and cycling. Sustrans was started in the late '70s and is a charity set up to improve walking and cycling. The Bristol and Bath Railway Path was the first and still the most popular shared use route in the country. Sustrans have 80 volunteers in the JLAF area and work with 'Bike It' officers to increase cycle use. Also working on Connect2 projects which have created 84 new routes from £50m of lottery funding, including Two Tunnels and Flax Burton routes. Sustrans have 40,000 supports and receive grant funding from the Department for Transport. Currently working on an £11m cycle safety fund to make improvements to the A38 in the centre of Bristol and in Filton and also working on B&NES Council's cycling strategy.</p> <p>DW asked what problems have been encountered along the way. JU stated that fund, both the amount and the certainty of future funding, were the principle problems which Sustrans faced and still face. Sustrans have joined forces with the CTC and British Cycling and this unified voice has helped to improve funding from central government. There is an on-going issue with managing conflict between users including people participating in stravas on cycle routes.</p> <p>SU stressed the health benefits which are associated with keeping people active and there are also significant economic benefits to investing in walking and cycling. The World Health Organisation have a Health Economic Assessment Tool (http://www.healthwalkingcycling.org/) which the JLAF might find helpful. DW thanked JU for his presentation and his time.</p>	
B2	<p>Wither JLAF? DW introduced his paper on 'Wither JLAF?' and the JLAF's potential challenges and solutions. CS stated that he was happy to talk to farmers where there are specific issues. AF has set up a group asking horseriders for suggestions of missing links in the network which could be addressed; disappointing response and most response relate to the dangers of riding on the roads. JG stated that farmers need to be flexible in these uncertain times and he therefore favours permissive routes and toll rides.</p> <p>RK identified supporting user groups and the three Councils, health and wellbeing and the strategic role including working with the West of England Nature Partnership as being the key areas for the JLAF. CB was keen to promote the Community Forest Path more and it was discussed whether this could link into Walkers Are Welcome. Planning gain was identified as another area where the JLAF could get involved and NC highlighted the current consultation regarding Cribbs/Pathway development (www.southlqos.gov.uk/bribbspathwayNN); CB offered to respond to the consultation and report back.</p> <p>GS highlighting some of the changes which will occur under the new JALF arrangements. A buffet lunch would no longer be provided before JLAF meetings but it was agreed that the meeting room would still be available for informal discussion prior to meetings. JLAF webpages would be moved into B&NES Council's website and GS would email a link to this webpage to all JLAF members. Agenda and background papers would be sent out via email in future except where there is a particularly large document within the background papers and JLAF members could then request a hard copy. Expense claims are to be sent to GS in future. JLAF members would be informed of consultations as and when they arise so that JLAF members can respond on behalf of the JLAF.</p>	<p>Chris Bloor</p> <p>Graeme Stark</p>

B3	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset Council</p> <p>Graeme Stark addressed this item. The new staffing structure has been implemented and Chris Hogg has now left B&NES Council. The Manor Farm DMMO and Bath Recreation Ground TVG cases are still progressing</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Nicola Chidley addressed this item. There are large housing developments being proposed near Yate and improvements are being sought through the planning process. Core strategy and Green Infrastructure SPD are currently out for consultation. MP stated that work was progressing with the Keynsham Greenway route. DMMO applications are on hold due to a restructure/loss of officer resource.</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p> <p>Duncan Venison addressed this item. No changes in the team structure; however, all three officers could be retiring in the not too distant future. £60k capital budget has allowed long standing issues to be addressed. Innovative solution found to issue of private vehicular route with public footpath rights; a 1m wide curbed route which allows cars to be driven down the route without actually driving on the 1m strip.</p>	
B3	<p>Proposed Gating Orders:</p> <p>None.</p>	
C	<u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u>	
C1	<p>JLAF Responses to South Gloucestershire Council's Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document:</p> <p>Agreed unanimously.</p>	
D	<u>ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION</u>	
D1	<p>West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) – update</p> <p>RK, DW and Chris Hogg met with the Chair (Bevis Watts) and attended steering group meeting. The WENP is comprised on a wide range of organisations and therefore represents an important strategic link to potential partners, many of whom have similar aims to the JLAF. The WENP also provides a potential source of funding for both JLAF projects and wider outdoors access projects. The funding opportunities and links to other organisations means it will be well worth sustaining and cultivating the links between the JALF and the WENP.</p>	
D2	<p>LAF News Q.2 2013-14</p> <p>New newsletter from Natural England; will be circulated by email in future.</p>	
D3	<p>OutdoorsWest update</p> <p>The three Councils are currently looking for other groups to take on and run the website.</p>	
D4	<p>Chew Valley Lake – update</p> <p>No news available</p>	
E	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>HG has contacted prospective parish councils. Not a huge response received but Keynsham Town Council were particularly enthusiastic and responses have also been received from Midsomer Norton, Thornbury, Wickwar and Yate.</p>	
E	The next meeting JLAF32 at 2pm on the 28 February 2014, Keynsham	
F	Close	

