



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

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

Approved Minutes of meeting, Friday 6th July 2018

Date: Friday, 6th July 2018

Time: 2:00pm

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

Present: JLAF Members: Kathy Thomas (Chair of the JLAF) (KT), Donald MacIntyre (Vice-Chair of the JLAF) (DM), Cllr Liz Richardson (LR), Rennie Dickins (RD_i), Ken Mill (KM), Chris Simpson (CS), Peter Bird (PB), Ann Fay (AF), Robert Davies (RD_a), Peter Gould (PG), Andrew Gough (AG), Chris Bloor (CB).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley – South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Duncan Venison – Bristol City Council (TB), Graeme Stark – Bath & North East Somerset Council and Secretary of the JLAF (GS).

		Action
A	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
A1	Introductions KT welcomed JLAF members to the meeting.	
A2	New Members GS said that AF, CB and RB have been reappointed as JLAF members for a further three year period. Only two new applications were received and one of these applicants subsequently turned down the offer of membership due to a change in their circumstances; the JLAF therefore still has one vacancy. The new member is Kevin Draper but he doesn't appear to have been able to make the meeting; Kevin is a trail rider and a local rep for the TRF.	
A3	Apologies Keith Weller and Cllr Michael Bell	
A4	Declarations of interest None.	
A5	Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th March 2018 The draft minutes from the November 2017 meeting had been circulated to all JLAF Members. GS explained that prior to the meeting Keith Weller noted that his apologies at the last meeting had not been minuted. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and correct record subject to the addition of Keith Weller's apologies.	

<p>A6</p>	<p>Matters arising from 26th March 2018 meeting not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>KM had intended to raise two items but he said that these now appear to be covered by SGC's report under item C1.</p> <p>CS highlighted that the exceptionally dry weather is likely to lead to farmers erecting electric fences across rights of way to keep livestock off certain ground.</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p><u>MAIN BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>B1</p>	<p>ROWIP</p> <p>NC addressed this item and explained the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has been reviewed by the three authorities and that it is currently out for consultation until the end of August. The sections on development, health and accessibility have seen the most significant updates and the draft ROWIP will be further reviewed based on the consultation responses received. The Action Plan themes have been retained; these give opportunities to be ambitious if resources are available and are intended to be broad to allow opportunities when they arise.</p> <p>KT highlighted that recreation and utility walkers are quite different and queried if both groups are covered; NC agreed that they had different needs and that the ROWIP covers this distinction. DM stated that the PROW network is a random network based on previous need and felt that there were opportunities to change the structure of the network. AG said that the network was previously joined up by roads which have since become much busier and therefore less accessible to non-motorised users. NC said that verges can provide these links but a reduction in resources means that they are not cut as often as previously. DV pointed towards the JLTP4 including provision for substantial funding for cycling and walking routes to join up PROWs; the JLTP4 consultation starts on 15th October.</p> <p>RD felt it was unfortunate that North Somerset Council declined to be part of the ROWIP. PB stated that interconnections between developments is essential but isn't happening; GS stated that the Councils do seek connections as part of the s106 progress and, as an example, three creation orders are being processed as part of the K2 development. CB felt that PROWs aren't the only important routes and that parks and other green infrastructure should also be covered. These aren't included in the ROWIP; the ROWIP does reference other policies that deal with these routes but they are outside the statutory scope of the ROWIP itself. Para 1.4 should link the ROWIP to the JLTP4. DV stated that the discussions around developments (such as the current development in Lockleaze) are all around the topic of sustainable transport. KM said that the ROW Sub-Committee could look at joining up infrastructure. AG asked what can be done to encourage more creation order but CS felt that creation orders would adversely affect farmers.</p> <p>PB asked for Figure 10 to show cycling routes. AG asked for new links over railways and motorways. CB asked if reference to footways could be included in Other Interests. KT asked JLAF members provide their individual feedback to the three authorities. GS will circulate the consultation links.</p>	<p>GS</p>

<p>B1</p>	<p>Path Maintenance</p> <p>KT received a complaint from a member of the public about the surface of public footpath AQ89 along the Wansdyke. The route is maintained by B&NES Council's Parks Team and that the Council regards the surface to currently be in an acceptable condition. The Wansdyke is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Historic England have previously refused to give consent for works because they regard the surface to be acceptable in its current condition. GS conveyed the contents of an email from Keith Weller who carried out a site visit and stated that <i>"Obviously it is all dry at the moment but it is possible that it may get wet in places at times. At present it is a pleasure to walk along it."</i> AG felt that this kind of issue is for a liaison group or the ROW Sub-Committee rather than the main JLAF. GS said that the B&NES PROW Liaison Group was originally wound up in 2010 by the Council following cuts; a previous JLAF Chair instigated a Liaison Group in 2013 but the Chair also decided to wind up the new Liaison Group because they didn't feel it served a useful purpose. KT noted that the issue of AQ89 was discussed but was outside the scope of the JLAF.</p>	
<p>C</p>	<p><u>ITEMS TO REPORT/FOR INFORMATION</u></p>	
<p>C1</p>	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Teams</p> <p>NC reported on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council that there is currently a review ongoing relating to funding up to 2022. Roads and vulnerable people have been identified as two of the SGC's priorities. The Forgotten Landscapes Project has published leaflets and there will be a Severn Festival. National England are continuing with the implementation of the National Coast Path within Bristol and South Gloucestershire. KM said that Natural England are looking to set up stakeholder meetings. NC said that the Environment Agency have a planning consultation out for the Severn Wall which involves re-profiling embankments that will have an impact on views for wheelchair users. The Cotswold Wardens have Gateway Funding for projects including one at Hawksbury. The Charfield Crossing case is ongoing. Volunteers continue to be vital to maintenance.</p> <p>DV summarised the written report for Bristol City Council contained in the Background Papers and stated that looking for development opportunities continues to be a priority. £150k in funding has already been secured for two paths. Christine Pouncett has retired and BCC is currently looking to recruit a full time junior. Some DMMO claims will shortly be going to committee. RD asked for an update on the Kingswestern Bridge; DV said that there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes and the bridge is included in this year's capital programme. It is will be very expensive due to the specialised nature of the work.</p> <p>GS summarised the written report for Bath and North East Somerset Council in the Background Papers and highlighted the upcoming Beeks Mill DMMO public inquiry, the newly recorded footpath in Bathford/Bathampton and the capital works to reopen the Batheaston Riverpath.</p>	
<p>C2</p>	<p>JLAF Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee</p> <p>RD summarised the Chair's notes from the recent meeting and said that the HWB Sub-Committee now has definite aims. Senior Officers and Councillors from SGC attended the recent meeting. Health is a growing</p>	

	<p>area of interest and the HWV Sub-Committee will be aiming to influence policy rather than deal with individual projects. RD proposed that the JLAF delegates authority in respect of matters which are primarily concerned with health and wellbeing to the JLAF HWB Sub-Committee for them to deal with based on a simple majority of HWB Sub-Committee members; this was seconded by AG and passed unanimously by JLAF members. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee's remit covers all areas relating to Health & Wellbeing and outdoors access. GS will circulate dates of future meetings to all JLAF members.</p>	GS
C3	<p>JLAF Rights of Way Sub-Committee</p> <p>KM explained that the ROW Sub-Committee started in January and had another meeting in June; the Chair's notes from the meetings have been circulated to JLAF members. The Sub-Committee will be looking at volunteering, planning applications and the appointing authorities' priorities. Upgrading FPs to BRs and connecting up the BR network was seen as a priority, along with tourism promotion and public transport. It was felt that the ROW Sub-Committee was important but, given the small number of members, it would meet on an ad-hoc basis. KT suggested that it could look at specific rather than strategic issues. KM will draft Terms of Reference for consideration and possible ratification at the next JLAF meeting.</p>	
D	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
D1	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	
D2	<p>Election of Chair for Next four month period</p> <p>No JLAF members were willing to put themselves forward for election. KT therefore agreed to be considered for a further four month term. RD proposed KT as Chair until a 16th November 2018; CB seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.</p>	
E	<u>FUTURE JLAF MEETING</u>	
	The next JLAF meeting is scheduled for 2pm on 2 nd November 2018	
	Close 16.00pm	