



Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Local Access Forum

Minutes meeting 31 23rd April 2009

Members

Andy Gerrard - Chairman
David Simkins
James Russell
Tom Chevalier
David Mitchell
Steve Bumstead
Bob King
Bob Wallace

Observers

Clive Beckett – Central Bedfordshire Council
Martyn Brawn – Bedford Borough Council
Michelle Flynn – Central Bedfordshire Council
Phill Fox – Bedford Borough Council
Chris Heard – Central Bedfordshire Council
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council
Caroline Romans – Central Bedfordshire Council
Rosalyn Whisker – British Horse Society

Apologies

Les Geary
Brian Golby
Andy Knight
Christine Crouch
Ian Clifton
Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire Council
Keith Dove – Luton Brough Council
Jackie Patterson – Luton Borough Council

1. Election of JLAF Chairman and Vice Chairman

Due to the local government re-organisation, the structure and membership of the

Jonathan Woods ~ JLAF Secretary 01234 276389

JLAF will be reviewed in the next six months. As a result nominations were requested for a chair for the six month period. Andy Gerrard was proposed as chair, David Simkins seconded his nomination. No other nominations were received; therefore Andy Gerrard was formally elected as chair of the JLAF for six months. It was agreed that it was not necessary to formally elect a vice chair for the six month period. Jonathan Woods is now the JLAF secretary (awaiting staff recruitment).

David Simkins congratulated the council and the forum for their input into the OAIP that won the Natural England 'most innovative and enterprising improvement plan award'. He also thanked the forum for their support during his time as Chair. Clive Beckett thanked David Simkins for his chairmanship during the difficult period of Local Government re-organisation.

2. **Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

3. **Apologies**

See above.

4. **Matters arising from minutes of last meeting**

a. No discussions have taken place with Luton BC regarding financial contribution to the Let's Go project. Jackie Patterson (LBC) will hopefully attend the next JLAF meeting.

Bob Wallace is on the members steering group for Lets Go. He will invite a LBC representative to the next meeting on 20/5/09 to discuss future developments.

Action

Talk to Luton BC to seek financial contribution to Let's Go project. Review web site content – how could it be developed? **JLAF Secretary and JLAF members**

LBC representative to be invited to Lets Go meeting – **Bob Wallace**

b. National ROWIP Awards – The OAIP won the award for most innovative and enterprising improvement plan. Andy Gerrard passed on his thanks to all of the officers involved.

c. Information on the extent of permissive routes as a result of Stewardship agreements in Bedfordshire can be found on <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk>. 47 sites in total with 19 in Bedford Borough and 28 in Central Beds. Details include a location map, points of entry and date the scheme ends. The walks and/or rides last for 10 years. They potentially could become part of a Higher Level Scheme bid when they end but the farmer needs to apply and the budget is limited.

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- d. Programme for raising awareness of JLAF to be progressed by a working group including members from all 3 authorities. Phill Fox volunteered on behalf of BBC.

Action

Email to be sent to all JLAF members inviting volunteers for the working group – **JLAF secretary**

- d. Capital funding allocations for 2009-2010 for CBC and BBC were shared with the forum:

CBC: £275k for ROW - major bridge H&S works, £100k for ROW major H&S surfacing, £100k for Countryside H&S enhancements, £150k for OAIP (delivering outputs and actions), £50k for Swiss Garden. Further income will hopefully be received from external sources: £20k for Countryside H&S enhancements, £1.25m for Public Open Space, £100k for OAIP and £100k for the Swiss Garden.

BBC: £455k for ROW improvements, £50k for H&S, £100k Bedford MK canal, £65k parks infrastructure

BBC confirmed that it had considerably higher capital and revenue allocations than it would have had under BBC, but that ROW capital was likely to decrease to £200k in 2010-2011.

CBC confirmed that it had a significantly higher capital sum, but revenue figures are still not finalised.

No information was available on LBC allocation.

Action

LBC to be asked to present similar information at the next JLAF meeting – **JLAF secretary**

- f. Staffing structure for BBC was circulated at the meeting. Clive Beckett talked through the structure for CBC.

Action

Staffing structure for CBC to be circulated to JLAF members – **Clive Beckett**

- g. LTP3 guidance was shared with the meeting.

5. Any other business

- a. Rosalyn Whisker was invited to become a member of the JLAF representing horse riders (replacement for Sam Franklin)

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Action

Appointing authorities to write to Rosalyn Whisker inviting her to apply to join the JLAF – **JLAF secretary**

b. JLAF annual report was approved subject to the contact details being amended.

Action

Contact details to be updated on JLAF annual report– **JLAF secretary**

6. Icknield Way

Tom Chevalier had circulated a briefing paper on the Icknield Way (Paper 31.1) prior to the meeting. It highlighted the fact that the IW path and trail development seems to have been dormant for a couple of years. The forum appreciated the issues raised and invited Tom to set up a working group to try to resolve some of the issues. It is likely to be a long term project due to the complexities of some of the issues that need to be resolved e.g. road crossings.

Action

JLAF members to be invited to join working group on the Icknield Way – **Tom Chevalier**

7. Rights of Way issues and recent projects – Central South Area

Michelle Flynn Rights of Way Officer for the Central South Area gave a presentation on ROW issues and recent projects in her area. There are a huge amount of road schemes and development proposals coming up in the south beds area and Michelle highlighted the opportunities for gain which are available, but also the importance of keeping on top of the Highways Agency to ensure that gains offered are delivered.

Tom Chevalier passed on his thanks to Michelle for removing 24 stiles from Toddington in 2008-2009.

8. M1 improvements – impacts on non-motorised users

The Highways Agency had contacted JLAF members and Michelle Flynn regarding their earlier consultation on the M1 widening between junctions 10 and 13. It has now been decided that the widening will be achieved by 'hard shoulder running' therefore the highway boundaries will not change except at junctions. As a result the improvements previously identified will not now be delivered. Consultation is planned for June 09 to decide how to improve the junctions. A key priority is to be able to get non-motorised users safely under junctions 11 and 12.

Action

Representatives from the JLAF to meet highways agency personnel in 4-6 weeks (ideally prior to the next JLAF meeting) to ensure a satisfactory solution found for non-motorised users – **JLAF secretary** to arrange

On-line forum to be investigated to share information - **JLAF secretary**

9

Commons and re-registration

Phill Fox gave a presentation on Commons and Village Greens, specifically covering an update to the guidance notes that was issued to local authorities in February 2009. It identifies that the JLAF will be an important stakeholder when the commons registers are updated in October 2010. Phill recommended that the unitary authorities start thinking about consultation before this date.

Action

JLAF members to be advised on developments on commons re-registration -
Appointing Authorities

10

Unitary (appointing) authority updates

Martyn Brawn circulated an outdoor access and rights of way team update for BBC. Key points were:

- SVC to be increased from 2 to 4 cuts between April and September.
- Will continue with BVPI survey for 2009- 2010
- Continuing with BCC OAIP for 2009-2010; have begun scoping work for reviewing
- Projects – Bedford Green Wheel, Major bridge replacement programme, Bedford River Valley Park and Bedford to MK canal green corridor.

Clive Beckett provided an update for CBC. Key points were:

- need to think about how the forum will operate with 3 authorities feeding in – more meetings? - alternating focus?
- CBC are committed to the OAIP – policy elements will be collated into a plan for input into the LDF (Local Development frameworks), covering ROW (linear and access), Open space/Greenspace and Engagement.
- 68ha of Linslade Wood was purchased in March 2009
- BVPI 178 – IPROW to collate the statistics with the hope that it becomes a national performance indicator again.

Actions

Bob Wallace to talk to Avon and Cheshire contacts about how they manage numerous inputs to their JLAFs – **Bob Wallace**

JLAF members to email suggestions/ideas for how the JLAF could operate in the future to the JLAF Chair and Secretary – **JLAF members**

Jonathan Woods ~ JLAF Secretary 01234 276389

Malcolm Oliver (Greensand Trust) to be invited to a future meeting to talk about the Ouzel Valley Park project – **JLAF secretary**

Capital expenditure plans (ROW) to be presented at the next meeting – **David Leverington**

Date of next meeting

Monday 22nd June 2009 – Venue tbc - Full meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.

ACTIONS FROM JLAF MEETING 31 ON 23rd April 2009

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|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Talk to Luton BC to seek financial contribution to Let's Go project. Review web site content – how could it be developed? | JLAF Secretary and JLAF members |
| 2. | LBC representative to be invited to Lets Go meeting | Bob Wallace |
| 3. | Email to be sent to all JLAF members inviting volunteers for the working group | JLAF Secretary |
| 4. | LBC to be asked to present similar information at the next JLAF meeting | JLAF Secretary |
| 5. | Staffing structure for CBC to be circulated to JLAF members | Clive Beckett |
| 6. | Appointing authorities to write to Rosalyn Whisker inviting her to apply to join the JLAF | JLAF Secretary |
| 7. | Contact details to be updated on JLAF annual report | JLAF Secretary |
| 8. | JLAF members to be invited to join working group on the Icknield Way | Tom Chevalier |
| 9. | Representatives from the JLAF to meet highways agency personnel in 4-6 weeks (ideally prior to the next JLAF meeting) to ensure a satisfactory solution found for non-motorised users | JLAF secretary to arrange |
| 10. | On-line forum to be investigated to share information | JLAF secretary |
| 11. | JLAF members to be advised on developments on commons re-registration | Appointing Authorities |
| 12. | Bob Wallace to talk to Avon and Cheshire contacts about how they manage numerous inputs to their JLAFs | Bob Wallace |
| 13. | JLAF members to email suggestions/ideas for how the JLAF could operate in the future to the JLAF Chair and Secretary | JLAF members |
| 14. | Malcolm Oliver (Greensand Trust) to be invited to a future meeting to talk about the Ouzel Valley Park project | JLAF secretary |
| 15. | Capital expenditure plans (ROW) to be presented at the next meeting | David Leverington |