



Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Local Access Forum

Minutes meeting 32 22nd June 2009

Members

Andy Gerrard - Chairman
Les Geary
James Russell
Tom Chevalier
David Mitchell
Steve Bumstead
Christine Crouch
Bob Wallace

Observers

Clive Beckett – Central Bedfordshire Council
Martyn Brawn – Bedford Borough Council
Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire Council
Adam Maciejewski – Bedford Borough Council
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council
Caroline Romans – Central Bedfordshire Council
Carrie-Anne Rowley – Bedford Borough Council
Rosalyn Whisker – British Horse Society
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council
Malcolm Oliver – Greensand Trust
Lynne Stinson – Highways Agency
David Green – Scott Wilson
Ian Bamforth – Scott Wilson

Apologies

David Simkins
Andy Knight
Ian Clifton
Jackie Patterson – Luton Borough Council

1. Highways Agency presentation – M1 junctions 11 & 12

Lynne Stinson (Highways Agency) and David Green and Ian Bamforth (Scott Wilson) gave a presentation on the options being considered for junctions 11 and 12 of the M1 now that it has been confirmed that it will be widened by hard shoulder running.

Junction 11 – only a single option – improvements to on and off slip roads and a fully

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signalised junction with improved facilities for non-motorised users.

Junction 12 – 3 options were presented (red, blue and orange!) which will be sent out for public consultation. Each provides junction enhancements to the north of the existing junction with improvements for non-motorised users. The degree of improvements for non-motorised users and the environmental impact for each option vary – hence the consultation.

Public consultation letters will be sent out on 24th June. The consultation period will run for 13 weeks and end on 24th September 2009. Details of the public meetings to be held in Harlington (9th July), Luton (10th July) and Toddington (11th July) will be included within this and on the Highways Agency website. The Highways Agency then hope to publish draft orders in November.

After the presentation, further discussion took place amongst the forum members during which a number of concerns were raised. Following discussions with the Chair it was agreed that these will be collated and forwarded to the Highways Agency along with a note of thanks for a very useful and informative presentation.

Action

Email of thanks to be sent to the Highways Agency along with a list of key comments on the J12 options from the forum – **JLAF Chair & Secretary**

2. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

3. Apologies

David Simkins and Cllr Ian Clifton (Bedford Borough Council) sent their apologies.

4. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting (review of matters arising report)

The JLAF secretary circulated a summary of progress made against the actions from the previous JLAF meeting (copy attached). Due to the large volume of work that needs to be covered within the JLAF meetings, it was proposed that:

a. In future members update the JLAF Chair and Secretary on progress against their actions two weeks before the meeting. The JLAF secretary will then circulate a matters arising report a week before the meeting to allow members time to review it before the meeting. Questions can then be raised at the meeting.

Action

JLAF Secretary to send out prompt two weeks before the meeting for email updates

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from JLAF members to enable a 'matters arising report' to be issued before the meeting – **JLAF secretary and JLAF members**

- b. The appointing authorities circulate an email update bulletin on current/future areas of work at a set point between meetings. The JLAF via the Chair can then request further information on an area of interest or project.

Action

Email update bulletin on current/future areas of work to be issued by the appointing authorities a minimum of four weeks before the next meeting - **Appointing authorities**

5. Items for Any Other Business

- a. Lets Go
- b. Review and renew forum membership and name

6. Leighton Linlade – Green Wheel/Ouzel Valley Project/Cycle Town

Malcolm Oliver from the Greensand Trust gave a very comprehensive presentation on the Leighton Linlade Green Wheel and Ouzel Valley project. It demonstrated what has and what hopefully will be achieved by working with Councils and other land owners (including developers) to open up green space and provide green corridors in and around Leighton Linlade.

The following next steps were identified where JLAF involvement would be beneficial:

- a. Production of a horse riding aspiration map (walking and cycling already done) with help from Rosalyn.
- b. Input into the development of clear, consulted and agreed plans – are they right, do JLAF members have any useful contacts?
- c. Comments on the development plan for the recently purchased Linlade Wood (at a future meeting)
- d. Identification of the key areas that should be included by developers when growth is planned e.g. green space, network connectivity etc.

Action

JLAF Chair and Secretary to discuss how best to provide JLAF input and guidance to developers – **JLAF Secretary**

7. **BBC – Bedford Green Wheel – Master Plan Consultation**

The Bedford Green Wheel is about developing and enhancing the existing network of traffic free paths and quiet routes around the Bedford urban area for use by pedestrians and cyclists. The consultation document had been circulated prior to the meeting for members to review and comment upon. The forum were very supportive of the proposals and will send in a formal response to register their approval and desire to be involved in any further consultations. Due to the huge scope of the project, the response will include suggested priorities for the short term e.g. development of links to increase opportunities to cycle into town.

Action

Letter in support of the Bedford Green Wheel Master Plan to be sent to Bedford Borough Council – **JLAF Chair**

8. **CBC – Open Paths Initiative**

A paper on the CBC Open Paths Initiative had been circulated prior to the meeting. The aim of the Open Paths Initiative is to develop a coherent suite of linked policies and practices which link into the themes within the outdoor Access Improvement Plan and are founded on the core value of aiming for openness and least restrictive access to the network. Involvement from the forum was sought to both develop the suite of policies and to potentially act as a mediator in difficult cases.

The forum approved the idea of the initiative, but strongly recommended that the three authorities should work together to get commonality of policy across the County. For any future proposals it was requested that the three authorities liaise before any such items are brought to the forum. The forum members are keen to provide direction and are happy to join working groups for any relevant areas in the future. The suggestion was made that different authorities lead on different areas e.g. LBC – network connectivity, CBC- enforcement

Action

Appointing authorities to meet to discuss development of the Open Paths Initiative across the County – **Appointing authorities**

9 **Any Other Business**

a. Lets Go – some forum members had reviewed the Lets Go website as actioned at the last meeting and had emailed suggestions for improvements to Bob Wallace. Any further comments to be emailed to Bob by 26th June. Collated list of suggestions to be forwarded by Bob to Lets Go and to the forum. Lets Go relaunch event being planned for later in the year.

Action

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JLAF members to email suggestions for improvements to Lets Go website to Bob by 26th June. Bob to collate list and send to Lets Go and JLAF – **JLAF members and Bob Wallace**

b. Review and renew forum membership and name – forum membership period is 3 years which expired in April. Due to the unitary changes it was not possible to renew the memberships at this time. Forum membership will now be reviewed by the three authorities (number of members (10-22), assessment criteria, retention of existing members to provide continuity, how to recruit members to fill the gaps, date for the forum to be reconstituted). Application forms will be updated and sent out by the middle of July.

Martyn Brawn confirmed that Bedford Borough Council are happy to be part of a single forum for Bedfordshire subject to a service level agreement being produced.

Members preferred name for the forum is the Bedfordshire Joint Local Access Forum (as Luton is geographically part of Bedfordshire).

It was identified that there is no link to the JLAF on the Central Bedfordshire website. This is due to problems with the new website. JLAF Chair to write to Central Bedfordshire to get a commitment that the pages will be available by an agreed date.

Action

Forum membership to be reviewed – **Appointing authorities**

Letter to be sent to Central Bedfordshire to get a commitment that JLAF pages will be on the CBC website by an agreed date – **JLAF Chair**

10 Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting: 23rd September 2009, 7.30 – 9.30 – venue tbc.

ACTIONS FROM JLAF MEETING 32 ON 22nd June 2009

	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS	COMPLETION DATE
1.	Email of thanks to be sent to the Highways Agency along with a list of key comments on the J12 options from the forum	JLAF Chair & Secretary		
2.	JLAF Secretary to send out prompt two weeks before the meeting for email updates from JLAF members to enable a 'matters arising report' to be issued before the meeting	JLAF secretary and JLAF members		
3.	Email update bulletin on current/future areas of work to be issued by the appointing authorities a minimum of four weeks before the next meeting	Appointing authorities		
4.	JLAF Chair and Secretary to discuss how best to provide JLAF input and guidance to developers	JLAF Secretary		
5.	Letter in support of the plan to be sent to Bedford Borough Council	JLAF Chair		
6.	Letter in support of the Bedford Green Wheel Master Plan to be sent to Bedford Borough Council	JLAF Chair		
7.	Appointing authorities to meet to discuss development of the Open Paths Initiative across the County	Appointing authorities		
8.	JLAF members to email suggestions for improvements to Lets Go website to Bob by 26 th June. Bob to collate list and send to Lets Go and JLAF	JLAF members and Bob Wallace		
9.	Forum membership to be reviewed	Appointing authorities		
10.	Letter to be sent to Central Bedfordshire to get a commitment that JLAF pages will be on the CBC website by an agreed date	JLAF Chair		

CARRIED FORWARD ACTIONS FROM JLAF MEETING 31 ON 23rd APRIL 2009

	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS	COMPLETION DATE
1.	Talk to Luton BC to seek financial contribution to Let's Go project.	JLAF Secretary and JLAF members	On – hold as a result of Lets go steering group meeting, Lets go web site and concept will be having a facilitated event later on in the year to steer future management and areas of development.	Autumn 2009
2.	LBC representative to be invited to Lets Go meeting.	Bob Wallace	On hold	Autumn 2009
3.	Email to be sent to all JLAF members inviting volunteers for the JLAF promotion and awareness raising working group?	JLAF Secretary	E-mail sent out, awaiting volunteers	23 September 2009
4.	LBC to be asked to present similar Capital information at the next JLAF meeting?	JLAF Secretary	Requested by Secretary	23 September 2009
8.	JLAF members to be invited to join working group on the Icknield Way.	Tom Chevalier	Steering group membership established, awaiting the appointment of CBC project officer before setting first date.	Autumn 2009
10.	On-line forum to be investigated to share information.	JLAF secretary	No action	Autumn 2009
12.	Bob Wallace to talk to Avon and Cheshire contacts about how they manage numerous inputs to their JLAfs	Bob Wallace	Bob has requested contacts from secretariat, staff shortages has resulted in no action. Responding to this, progressing this action will be put as a priority.	Autumn 2009