

'Future proofing access – the impact of Climate Change on access'

Part 1: Setting the Scene

The JLAF have agreed that '*Future proofing access – the impact of Climate Change on access*' will be the running theme for their 2020 meetings each of which will be themed to address an element of climate change, particularly relating to access issues. In advance of the meeting please consider the following questions and your comments will be used during the afternoon session.

1. **What is meant by 'climate change'?** Temperature rise on planet due to human activity

2. **Give three effects of climate change.** Increased risks of flooding, drought, severe weather.

3. **What is the difference between 'climate' and 'weather' and 'global warming'.** Climate is long-term trends, weather is short-term movements, global warming is climate change to higher temperatures over planet as a whole

4. **What is a 'carbon footprint'?** How much carbon dioxide you generate in your personal activities

5. **Name three ways of reducing your carbon footprint.** Eat less meat, use public transport more, take fewer flights

6. **Name three ways of reducing the world's carbon footprint.** Stabilise human population, switch from meat to vegetarian diet, reduce coal consumption

7. **What is meant by a greenhouse gas.** A gas which reduces flow of heat out of atmosphere into space, particularly at night, hence increasing surface temperatures

8. **What is meant by 'carbon offsetting'.** Paying for carbon-reducing activities such as tree planting to compensate for your own excessive production of carbon dioxide in say a flight

9. **How might climate change affect the countryside – please give some examples.** Intense flooding affects river courses giving severe erosion, washes topsoil off exposed land, reduces fertility in long-run. Droughts aggravate disease problems such as killing plants and trees already weakened by disease, Seasons can be affected confusing wildlife, which may become out of synchronisation with traditional patterns, causing breeding failure.

10 **What do you think is the biggest myth and biggest truth surrounding climate change?**
Truth is temperatures are rising. Myth is the certainty attached to all aspects of it: we have been intensely measuring weather for only the past 40-50 years in large areas of the planet and scientifically are only beginning to understand how our climate works. The models on climate change are work in progress.

Any other comments Certainly we should be taking precautions to mitigate the effects of climate change. From the environmental perspective as a whole, we also have too high a human population, too much pollution and a loss of biodiversity.

Thank you. Please return to Marion before the meeting or bring with you on 30 January.