

Chief Executive's Report

Summary: This report summarises the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including any decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings.

1 Bridges Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Angie Leeper/NA5

- 1.1 Network Rail has now published the Anglia Route Study. The document, part of the Long Term Planning Process (LTPP), considers the potential outputs required by the railway network within the Anglia Route in Control Period 6 (2019 – 2024), as well as further ahead up to the year 2043. It offers the funders sets of choices as to how these outputs might be met, having regard to value-for-money, affordability and efficient delivery.
- 1.2 In the study under Appendix B Option Assessment, option 3 states the option to double the single track section over Trowse Bridge and Trowse Lower Junction.

2 Budget 2016/17 and Financial Strategy to 2018/19

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Emma Krelle

- 2.1 At the Authority's meeting on 18 March 2016, the 2016/17 Budget was adopted, with the key assumptions applied in its development being endorsed. The Budget and Financial Strategy was based on the four year settlement of National Park Grant which included a 1.72% per annum allowance for inflation, the adopted overall 4.5% increase in navigation charges for 2016/17 as agreed in November 2015 and an assumption of 2.5% per annum increase in the subsequent two years. The Budget, in line with the previous Financial Strategy took account of three key factors: Resourcing the Asset Management Plan, Allocation of Practical Work and Reduction in Central Costs.
- 2.2 The key assumptions also took account of the information provided by the Broads Hire Boat Federation on:
 - the continued decrease in hire boat numbers
 - continuation of the discretionary support for the hire boat industry in terms of staged payment facilities
 - allowance for public sector salary increases of 1%
 - changes to national insurance contributions and pension lump sum deficit

2.3 The Budget had been reviewed by the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee in February and the views of the Navigation Committee have been given due consideration. The Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee had suggested that the Authority undertake some benchmarking activity with other organisations and as a first step some initial work was undertaken by looking at costs of dredging. Members of the Authority suggested that a benchmarking exercise in relation to administration costs in association with other National Parks also be attempted.

2.4 The full report on the Budget may be viewed on the Authority's website [Budget-2016-17-and-Financial-Strategy-2018-19.pdf](#)

3 Toll Plaques: Options for Moving to a Paperless Solution

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Bill Housden

3.1 At the Authority's meeting on 18 March 2016, Members considered the difficulties that had occurred with ink running on some of this year's toll plaques as an item of urgent business due to the need to consider a solution and take a decision before the 1 April 2016. The options included moving to a plaqueless system removing the requirement to print and display a plaque, similar to the DVLA vehicle licensing system.

3.2 As the Navigation Committee will be aware, all Members of the Navigation Committee, representatives of the Broads Hire Boat Federation and the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association were consulted prior to presenting proposals to the Authority. The legal issues relating to byelaws were investigated and the Solicitor advised that he was satisfied that the Authority had the freedom to act as proposed. Boat owners would still be able to renew their licence on line, by post or in person, and they would be sent a receipt, which would be proof of payment. The number of the boat and its name still had to be displayed therefore it would be possible to check with the Tolls Office if the appropriate toll had been paid. Consideration was also being given to developing an app for Rangers' phones so that they could check boats using a hand held device rather than laptop computers. Such a scheme could alter the way the Rangers worked enabling them to focus on other duties to the overall benefit of the Authority. Members gave consideration to the potential risks particularly that of failure to pay a toll and loss of income through evasion, and enforcement issues. However, it was clarified that the Collector of Tolls monitored the income on a regular basis and would be able to track any significant divergences, which might require remedial action.

3.3 The Authority considered that the proposal would be an excellent opportunity to embrace a more up to date system, but given the potential risks, including reputational risk agreed that it be considered as a trial for a year and reviewed at or before the end of December 2016.

4 Royal Norfolk Show - 29 and 30 June 2016

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: Lorna Marsh/PE1/PE2

- 4.1 At the Authority's meeting on 18 March 2016, Members were informed that the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association was providing an opportunity to create a "Broads" area at this year's Norfolk Show in order to promote the special qualities of the Broads to local people, highlight it as an important resource in the County and showcasing all those involved in various ways with it. The Authority has been invited to coordinate the exhibits and a number of organisations have already agreed to be involved. As part of the Authority's stand, it is intended to include the presence of Ra, the Authority's solar boat, and the fen harvester to prompt discussions on sustainability and management of the fens. The Authority welcomed the initiative and endorsed the proposals as providing an excellent opportunity for promoting the Broads and particularly the work of the Authority.

5 Annual Prosecution

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/NA4.3

- 5.1 A total of six navigation prosecutions have been dealt with in court during the 2015/16 year with one further case waiting to be heard on 21 April 2016. Most of the offences related to care and caution and excess speed with one case for no insurance. The average fine was £388 with the average costs awarded being £150. For tolls offences 15 cases were taken to court with average fine of £233 and average compensation of £285. This year, in all of the cases taken to court by the Authority the defendant was found guilty.

6 Waste

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Angie Leeper/ TR2.2

- 6.1 As requested a meeting for members to review waste facilities is currently being arranged for July/August 2016.

7 Navigation Patrolling and Performance Targets

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/NA4.3

- 7.1 The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1. The average navigation/countryside splits for the year show a 61% Navigation, 39% Countryside split which is in line with the forecast total. The mooring inspection target compliance figure for the period is 100%.
- 7.2 During the 2015/16 year the rangers undertook 7,757 verbal warnings, 317 written warnings issued 578 tolls reports and reported 12 people for navigation offences.
- 7.3 Six people have been prosecuted for navigation offences, five have been given navigation warnings (of which two complicated cases ran over the 6 month time limit for prosecution) and one case is yet to be heard. The list of cases that have been heard at court is listed in Appendix 2

- 7.4 In response to the decision on the display of tolls plaques for the 2016/17 season the Ranger team will be undertaking adjacent waters checks earlier this year starting in May. These checks will be followed by a series of publicised tolls checks as part of the Rangers super safety days which are held across the area.

8 Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Adrian Vernon/NA4

- 8.1 The sunken and abandoned vessel update is contained in Appendix 3. As can be seen there are some abandoned vessels which are being dealt with and some sunken vessels which await suitable BA equipment in the area. None of the vessels are causing an obstruction or are leaking any pollutants.
- 8.2 Following the raising of the sunken vessel at the Norwich Yacht Station a meeting was held with Norwich City Council where it was agreed that the Council would serve notice on vessels trying to moor there over the winter to try and prevent a similar situation occurring in the future. Details of the agreement will be written into the River Wensum Plan.

9 Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

- 9.1 Following queries raised by a member, it was agreed to provide regular updates on the position regarding relevant planning enforcement actions. There are no outstanding enforcement actions with navigation implications to report to this meeting.

Background papers: None

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Date of report: March 2016

Broads Plan Objectives: Multiple

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 –Report on the Significant Exercise of Powers by the Rangers during February – March 2015
APPENDIX 2 – Prosecutions during 2015/16
APPENDIX 3 – Report of Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

APPENDIX 1

Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis (Bracketed figures are running totals, April 2015 to March 2016)						Date: JAN - MARCH 2016		
	Wroxham Launch	Irstead Launch	Ludham Launch	Ludham 2 Launch	Norwich Launch	Hardley Launch	B.St.Peter Launch	Breydon Launch
Launch Patrol Areas	Wroxham and Upper Bure	Ant	Hickling, P.Heigham, Upper Thurne & Womack	Lower Thurne, Lower Bure & South Walsham	Norwich and Upper Yare	Reedham, Chet & Middle Yare	Oulton Broad and Upper/Middle Waveney	Breydon Water, Lower Waveney and Yare
Verbal Warnings								
Care & Caution	5 (89)	5 (24)	3 (4)	(172)		(1)	(18)	1 (26)
Speed	98 (2994)	35 (1177)	12 (703)	(892)	(344)	(96)	6 (219)	3 (156)
Tolls offences	(49)	3 (150)	(44)	(187)	(68)	(2)	1 (14)	(4)
Other	4 (41)	6 (73)	2 (23)	(145)	(50)	(53)	3 (24)	(4)
Blue Book Warnings								
Care & Caution	(15)	(4)	1 (5)	(1)	(1)		(1)	(12)
Speed	(88)	(24)	(13)	(34)	(6)	(1)	2 (11)	1 (12)
Other	1 (14)	2 (14)	(3)	(8)	2 (6)	3 (7)	3 (18)	(6)
Reports for Prosecutions		(2)			(4)			(7)
Special Directions	(7)	(98)					(278)	1 (31)
Toll Compliance Reports								
Non Payment	(75)	1 (113)	(13)	(64)	(105)	(5)	(57)	6 (61)
Non Display	(6)	(21)	(7)	(18)	(1)		(34)	(2)
28 Day request for information	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3)			(2)	
BSS Hazardous Boat Inspections	2 (4)		(1)	(2)				(1)
Enter Vessels Under BSS				(2)				
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)	36 (263)	19 (160)	14 (180)	9 (146)	32 (192)	20 (143)	27 (197)	19 (239)
Country Site Inspection Reports Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	(Combined figure)	100% (96%)	(Combined figure)	100% (100%)	100% (82%)	n/a
Best Value Patrol Targets Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	100% (90%)	90% (92%)	100% (98%)	100% (94%)	100% (100%)	100% (98%)	100% (86%)
Volunteer Patrols	9 (26)	8 (54)	7 (21)	2 (6)	2 (6)	(9)	(9)	1 (1)
IRIS Reports	5 (129)	5 (83)	4 (51)	2 (62)	5 (85)	4 (33)	8 (76)	10 (128)
Broads Control Total Calls	TOTAL 6,142 (39,945)			Telephone 5,632 (33,276)			VHF 510 (6,669)	

RANGER TEAM ACTIVITY

as at 12 April

	Navigation Activity								Countryside Activity							
March 2016	Nav Patrol Launch	Nav Patrol Foot/Road	Incident Working	Admin - Navigation	Training (Navigation)	Escort	Moorings Maintenance	Bank work	Country Patrol	Country Maintenance	Admin - Country	Training (Countryside)	Equipment Maintenance	Tree/Ground work	Group Activities	Education/School Visit
Percentage Total	15.47%	3.18%	0.11%		1.55%	0.13%	0.27%	1.90%	2.90%	2.33%		1.78%	3.53%	0.39%		
Wroxham team	19%	42%	27%		7%	64%	63%	54%	19%	25%		23%	34%			
Thurne team	15%	2%	27%		10%	36%	10%	18%	9%	18%		5%	16%			
Yare team	24%	14%					19%		46%	41%		30%	9%	55%		
Waveney team	15%	12%			21%		4%		1%	7%		11%	4%	45%		
Breydon team	25%	14%	45%		56%		4%		25%			26%	17%			
Control Officer																
	27%								9%							

Month Percentages	
Navigation	60%
Country	40%
Total	100%
Time Off not included	

	General Support												Time Off			
	Broads Control	Travel Time	Activity Unknown	Training - Split	Meeting - Staff	Meeting - Public	Admin - Split	Admin - Volunteer	Training - (Volunteers)	Public Relations Event	Site Visit third party	Other Task	Time off in Lieu (not accurate)	Breaks (not including un-notified breaks)	Annual Leave	Sick
Percentage Total	6.35%	2.46%	11.89%	10.04%	4.65%	1.02%	6.53%				0.08%	2.92%	0.63%	3.41%	13.00%	3.48%
Wroxham team		20%	12%	15%	27%	22%	29%					26%	54%	27%	14%	27%
Thurne team		12%	16%	21%	10%	4%	11%				87%	10%		7%	43%	20%
Yare team	4%	24%	13%	6%	21%	1%	29%				13%	19%	41%	17%	16%	20%
Waveney team		27%	3%	20%	9%	10%	15%					14%		8%	11%	
Breydon team	1%	14%	7%	27%	13%	17%	9%					18%		13%	4%	33%
Control Officer	25%		1%											5%	2%	
	2%	3%	44%										21%			

Percentage with apportioned split	
Year to date (Apr - Mar)	
Navigation	61%
Country	39%
Total	100%
Time Off not included	

Team percentages equal team contribution to activity

APPENDIX 2

Report of navigation prosecutions dealt with in court during February and March 2016				
Place	Defendant	Offence	Magistrates Court	Result
Breydon Water	S Owen	(1) Navigating without lights	Great Yarmouth	(1) 12 Month CD Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £15

Report of prosecutions dealt with in court during January to March 2016			
Defendant	Offence	Magistrates Court	Result
D Cooper	Non- payment of tolls	Norwich	Fined £660 Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £66 Compensation £335.43
M Gordon	Non- payment of tolls	Norwich	Fined £60.27 Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £20 Compensation £389.73
C Parker	Non- payment of tolls	Norwich	Fined £60 Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £20 Compensation £152.48

APPENDIX 3**Sunken and Abandoned Vessels**

Description	Location found	Action	Abandoned /Sunken Notice Affixed	Result
Sunken and abandoned wooden sailing cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	No known owner	Yes	Vessel not raised by owner. Deadline expired and BA team will raise and remove when the programme allows
Sunken and abandoned aft cockpit cruiser hull	River Yare. New Cut Thorpe	No known owner found	Yes	Deadline expired and BA team will raise and remove when the programme allows
Sunken cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Sunken wooden cruiser	River Yare Norwich.	Vessel sunk at moorings owner to raise	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Abandoned Small fibreglass cruiser	River Bure Upton	Vessel found drifting by police.	Yes	Vessel taken to Ranger billet. Owner not traced vessel to be destroyed.

Abandoned Small fibreglass cruiser	River Wensum Norwich	Vessel found drifting after strong winds.	No	Vessel taken to Ranger billet. Enquiries to trace owner in hand.
Sunken Wooden Cabin Cruiser	River Wensum Norwich	Vessel sunk at moorings.	No	Owner has pumps in position ready to raise the vessel.
Sunken Wooden Cabin Cruiser	River Wensum Norwich	Vessel sunk at moorings	Yes	Vessel raised and removed to Dockyard.
Sunken Wooden Cabin Cruiser	River Wensum Norwich	Vessel sunk at moorings	no	Enquiries in hand to trace owner.