

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. BA Follow up: 29 September 2017

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Sandra Beckett/None

1.1. Riverside Tree and Scrub Management

At its meeting on 29 September 2017, the Authority received a similar presentation to the one Navigation Committee received at its meeting on 7 September 2017. Members fully appreciated the balance required when prioritising areas for tree and scrub maintenance in order to maintain navigation safety, wind quality whilst retaining environmental features and interests. They welcomed the easily understandable matrix and methodology that had been developed. In particular Members noted that much was dependent on working closely with landowners and acquiring their consent to work on the river bank. Being mindful of the sensitivities involved in implementation of any works, Members considered that communication with stakeholders, landowners and users of the network was vital in providing that understanding. The Head of Communications has taken this on board and publication of the information through articles and social media will be utilised and encouraged. The Authority welcomed and endorsed the report and work programme being adopted.

1.2. River Wensum Strategy Consultation

The Authority received a similar presentation to the one this Committee was given at its last meeting. They noted that the Navigation Committee had been heartened by the potential opportunities, had applauded the vision and were hopeful of its delivery although had some concerns over funding. Members were assured that the delivery of the project would be in small steps, building on the success of each element, and using funds from each of the partners. The Authority would be able to provide funds from its project delivery pot. Reference was made to the issues relating to the rail bridge as well as the opportunities for de-masting moorings on the downstream side of Carrow Bridge.

Members welcomed the approach as they considered that the strategy presented a real opportunity to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and recreational benefits for the City through partnership working particularly through enhancements to land and water access by

using the river corridor, given that it was such an important asset to the area. The Authority endorsed the vision and objectives of the draft strategy and its action plan and agreed that the comments on the proposed contents be referred to the strategy working group.

It was noted that the working group for the Strategy would be meeting in the week beginning 2 October 2017. Following consultation, the Authority will receive the comments and final report for adoption.

1.3. Broads Local Plan

Members of the Authority were provided with a track changed version of the Local Plan illustrating the changes that had been made since the Planning Committee and Navigation Committee meetings as well as a clean copy that will serve as the publication version for consultation. They were also provided with the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulation Assessment and the Response Form and Guidance, which will accompany the Local Plan for consultation.

Members were informed of the Navigation Committee's expressed preference for a specific objective to address navigation and that the Planning Committee had discussed this in great depth but concluded that due to the generic wording in objective 14 of the Local Plan this was adequate and no change was made. Members wished to thank the Navigation Committee for encouraging a review on this, but they believed that the current objective within the plan was comparable to that proposed by the Navigation Committee and was appropriate. An explanation of the Planning Committee's decision was provided to the Chairman of the Navigation Committee and accepted. This was also accepted by the Authority.

The Authority agreed that the Local Plan should proceed to pre-submission consultation subject to understanding the impacts on the Local Plan of the final versions of the Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Show People, Caravan and residential mooring accommodation needs study and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The final decision to go to pre-submission consultation will be made by the Chief Executive, Chair of Planning Committee and Chair of Full Authority on the basis that any changes arising as a result of these studies are technical in detail and do not materially alter the policies of the Local Plan.

The pre-submission consultation will be the final stage before examination by the planning inspector. It is likely that the consultation will commence at the end of October/beginning of November 2017 for 6 weeks. Members will be informed of the drop in sessions. It is anticipated that the Local Plan may be ready for adoption by Summer 2018.

1.4. Peer Review Update

The Authority received a progress report on the preparations for the Peer

Review taking place between the 10th and 12th October 2017.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman

A working group established by the Broads Authority met on the 4th October to examine the whole issue of anti-social behaviour. The group included members of the Broads Authority and representatives of Broads Beat, the Hire Boat Federation and the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association. They agreed that the vast majority of boaters, both private and hirers, on the Broads act responsibly and do not encounter issues of poor behaviour whilst enjoying our National Park.

There was a collective acceptance however that the Broads is not immune to the challenges of anti-social behaviour experienced in many other areas and there are some instances that are not limited to hirers of boats or any particular group (such as 'stag' parties) which attract the attention of the media and are reported on social media.

The Group agreed a number of actions including to:

- Investigate increased Ranger and Broads Beat presence in the evenings
- Expand the current 'Super Safety days' programme to evenings
- Work with the industry to encourage limiting the maximum speed of hired day-boats
- Increase the level of communication between Broads Authority Rangers, Broads Beat and boat hire companies to share intelligence about groups that are causing problems
- Investigate the purchase of mobile speed signs to build on trials which took place this summer

3. Navigation Patrolling and Performance Targets

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1 and reflects a busy peak season. The average navigation/countryside splits since April (Appendix 2) continues to be higher on the navigation side as would be expected during the summer when patrolling is a priority. This percentage will start to change as we move into the winter working pattern in November.

Mr Barrett who was involved in the incident at Oulton Broad last September pleaded guilty at Ipswich Crown Court. The Judge sentenced Mr Barrett to 9 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months. He is required to undergo 15 days' rehabilitation and undertake 120 hours unpaid work. He was ordered to pay £15,000.00 costs of which £968.63 will come back to the Authority to cover time spent on the case (Appendix 3).

4. Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

Over the summer 8 vessels which were sunk or abandoned have been successfully dealt with. There are a further 3 cases which are on-going (Appendix 4).

5. Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

No matters currently under action which have a waterways element.

Background papers: None

Author: Sandra Beckett/Sarah Mullarney

Date of report: October 2017

Broads Plan Objectives: Multiple

Appendices:

APPENDIX 1 -	Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis
APPENDIX 2 -	Ranger Team Activity
APPENDIX 3 -	Report of prosecutions dealt with in court during August 2017 to September 2017
APPENDIX 4 -	Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

APPENDIX 1

Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis (Bracketed figures are running totals, April 2017 to March 2018)							Date: Aug-Sep 2017	
	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	33 (98)	28 (66)	30 (84)	67 (142)	(1)		7 (20)	7 (20)
Speed	872 (2633)	326 (871)	171 (524)	246 (521)	(96)	31 (130)	95 (232)	31 (125)
Other	11 (45)	30 (59)	10 (22)	30 (68)	(7)	4 (8)	25 (30)	1 (7)
Blue Book Warnings								
Care & Caution	1 (10)	(3)	2 (4)	(2)			1 (1)	3 (10)
Speed	14 (90)	9 (23)	2 (8)	4 (10)	1 (4)	1 (4)	4 (8)	(4)
Other	13 (19)	1 (7)	(3)	(7)	(2)	3 (12)	1 (3)	2 (4)
Special Directions	(63)	(57)				8 (17)	88 (258)	
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)	58 (175)	36 (104)	39 (127)	37 (75)	39 (98)	22 (69)	41 (126)	61 (183)
Best Value Patrol Targets Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	98% (95%)	100% (100%)	98% (99%)	89% (95%)
Volunteer Patrols	(2)	1 (2)	3 (6)	(1)		(2)	4 (9)	
IRIS Reports	25 (103)	12 (36)	9 (32)	9 (25)	11 (52)	10 (51)	7 (25)	21 (61)
Broads Control Total Calls	TOTAL 7,799 (23,313)			Telephone 6,336 (18,814)		VHF 1,463 (4,499)		

Total Time Allocated/Actual Ranger Team

Up To 4 October 2017

Broads Authority Corporate	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Corporate Time	Training	137	75.19
	Broads Control	39	43.31
	Team meetings / work planning	461	206.55
	Partnership working	66	22.15
	Assisting other sections	94	23.78
	Annual Leave		244.26
	Off Work Sick		90.68
	Time in Lieu		22.57
Premises Maintenance	Billets and boatsheds	19	15.41
Vessel & Equipment Maintenance	Launch - General		3.92
	Trailers - General		0.47
	Vehicle Maintenance		6.59
	Other equipment repair		13.31
Total		816	768.18

Navigation	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Navigation Maintenance	Patrolling	1356	1007.26
	Escorts	28	13.65
	Prosecution files	0	26.45
	Bankside tree management	81	12.23
	Obstruction removal	29	17.87
	Channel markers & buoys	35	1.15
	Signs & boards maintenance	78	12.91
	Adjacent Waters		49.58
Mooring Maintenance	Reactive mooring maintenance	129	8.34
Total		1736	1149.44

Actual Percentage 80%

Conservation, Rec, C'side	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Conservation	Fen management	14	2.94
	Lake / Riverbank restoration	36	0.00
	Invasive Species Control	33	2.06
	Other conservation work	158	15.10
	Pollution Response		4.93
Recreation/Countryside Maintenance	Visitor Site maintenance	143	129.82
	Whitlingham Country Park	294	120.93
	Public footpath work	11	2.97
Public engagement	Education work	10	15.00
Total		699	293.76

Actual Percentage 20%

Team total	3251	2211.39
-------------------	-------------	----------------

APPENDIX 3

Report of prosecutions dealt with in court during August 2017 to September 2017			
Defendant	Offence	Court	Result
Mr. Barrett	Joint Prosecution with MCGA under Merchant Shipping Act 1995	Ipswich Crown Court	9 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months 15 days' rehabilitation 120 hours unpaid work £15,000.00 costs

APPENDIX 4**Sunken and Abandoned Vessels**

Description	Location found	Action	Notice Affixed	Result
Sunken cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Sunken Cruiser	Oulton Broad	Harbour Master liaising with owner	No	Area Ranger team monitoring.
Sunken Cruiser	Beccles	Ranger team investigated, not hazard or pollution threat. Owner aware	No	Vessel has been raised by owner, awaiting removal. Ranger team monitoring.