

**Norwich City Council River Corridor Strategy**  
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Summary:</b>        | This report provides members with an update on the proposed Norwich City Council river corridor strategy and highlights a number of access opportunities in the Wensum river corridor that have been identified by the Wensum River Parkway Partnership (WRPP). |
| <b>Recommendation:</b> | That members note the contents of the report and support officers' recommendation that Norwich City Council give appropriate consideration to access opportunities in its draft strategy document.  |

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members will recall that Norwich City Council has been working on a river corridor strategy for Norwich for the last year. While the strategy is likely to focus on asset management and income opportunities there is potential for access opportunities to be identified and developed as the project proceeds.
- 1.2 Broads Authority Officers have already had discussions with the City Council's property advisors regarding the need for navigation issues to be taken account of in the proposed strategy and explained the Broads Authority's duties and responsibilities with regard to the navigation.
- 1.3 The WRPP has also discussed the need for access opportunities to be considered in the strategy and identified a list of potential opportunities which it feels should receive consideration as the strategy work progresses (see Appendix 1).

**2 Strategy consultation**

- 2.1 The City Council has indicated that it will consult on a draft of the strategy in the next few months and officers propose to submit a response to the consultation asking for consideration to be given to access issues and highlighting the view of the WRPP that the River Wensum is an under utilised asset for the City of Norwich.
- 2.2 The list of sites and projects ideas identified in Appendix 1 will also be appended to the consultation response.

### **3 Conclusions**

- 3.1 The Broads Local Access Forum has previously indicated that it supports the aims of the WRPP to improve access to the river through Norwich. Members are therefore asked to support the proposed response to the consultation and request that the City Council investigate the access opportunities put forward for consideration by the WRPP. It should be recognised that not all the suggestions put forward for consideration will prove to be technically feasible and other factors such as cost, planning policy and lack of car parking may be factors that influence decisions on individual ideas.

Background papers: Nil

Author: Adrian Clarke

Date of report: 30 May 2014

Broads Plan Objectives: TR1, TR2

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 - Wensum River Parkway access suggestions

### **Suggested Access Improvements - River Wensum Corridor**

Following the adoption of the Broads Authority's Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) and in anticipation of the City Council's River Corridor Strategy, a survey of the Wensum corridor from Whitlingham to New Mills was carried out in conjunction with the Wensum River Parkway (WRP Partnership to identify potential locations for access improvements to the River through the City of Norwich. In particular the survey focused on opportunities for small boat/canoe access, moorings, angling and pedestrian access to the river.

The survey identified the following opportunities which are shown on the accompanying maps:

#### **Whitlingham to Carrow Bridge**

- Improved information/ interpretation of links between major access Trails (Wherryman's Way, Wensum River Parkway and Marriott's Way)
- New bridges to facilitate access to Whitlingham Country Park (link between Utilities Site, Deal Ground and Whitlingham Park)
- Additional Canoe launching and slipways at Whitlingham Country Park to provide access to the River Yare/Wensum
- Opportunities for River Bus stops at Whitlingham/Deal Ground, future development sites between Whitlingham and Carrow Road current sites under development
- Opportunities for heritage interpretation, including Carrow Abbey City Medieval Defences including Black Tower, Wilderness tower and Boom Towers
- Potential for slipways/canoe launch, visitor moorings, demasting moorings, stairs and WRP path improvements linked to Carrow Road/Football Ground development
- Opportunities for residential mooring generally

#### **Carrow Bridge to Foundry Bridge**

- Potential for short stay visitor moorings between Carrow Bridge and Lady Julian Bridge on true right bank of river – link to Riverside entertainment complex, shops, Railway Station and Football Stadium
- Viewpoints at Read's Mill development (S106 Agreement in place)
- Demasting mooring at Read's Mill development (S106 Agreement in place)
- Redevelopment opportunities (including riverside walkway, stairs, slipways/canoe launch and pontoons) from Novi Sad to turning circle on true left bank. In particular St. Anne's Wharf has potential for a mooring basin, visitor moorings and other leisure uses.
- Opportunities for residential mooring generally

- Better utilisation of existing pontoon leased by NCC to City Boats
- Boat access to/from Nelson Hotel (canoe launching , mooring using pontoons)

### **Carrow Bridge to Whitefriars Bridge**

- Formalisation of angling access (no angling at Yacht Station during BA tenure of site)
- Pull's Ferry – potential for leisure use, canoe/small craft launching
- Bank adjacent to Norwich School Rowing Club has potential for small craft launching
- Potential for improved slipway, launch facility at Red Lion Public House
- Potential for canoe launch at Cow Tower
- Potential multiple access opportunities along St James Place frontage with adjacent car parking available
- Petch's Corner access (stairs for canoe launching)
- Opportunities for residential mooring generally

### **Whitefriars Bridge to Fye Bridge**

- Visitor mooring at Quayside
- Other leisure use including river taxi
- Residential mooring
- Commercial river trips (Maid's Head proposal)
- All above would need improvements to access (structural work)
- Opportunities at green space at end of Fishergate (pontoons, slipway or canoe launch, other leisure uses)

### **Fye Bridge to St George's Bridge**

- Opportunities to improve/rebuild slipway at Friar's Quay
- Improved access to pontoon at St George's Green
- Better utilisation of existing pontoon leased by NCC to City Boats
- Opportunities to improve access to river from Elm Hill Park and Monastery Car Park (engineering/construction works to remove wall, install steps/pontoon for small craft)

### **St George's Bridge to New Mills**

- Missing link on WRP – opportunities to link path extension on true left bank to NUA development and on true right bank to Playhouse - previously submitted planning application for path and jetty walkway currently on hold

- Development opportunity at housing development site between Premier Inn and river frontage adjacent to Duke's Palace Bridge
- Development opportunities linked to Duke's Wharf site
- Opportunities at New Mills Basin for providing facilities to link Broads to Upper Wensum, access for small leisure craft linked to interpretation of major industrial archaeology heritage site
- Residential mooring
- Improved information/ interpretation of links between major access Trails (Marriott's Way, Wensum River Parkway and Wherryman's Way)

**Next steps:** the Wensum River Parkway partnership would advocate that a full structural survey be undertaken of the sites identified above with a view to assessing the feasibility of delivering the potential access projects listed in this paper.