

Notes from the 29th meeting of the Broads Climate Partnership (formerly Adaptation Panel)	
Date: 21st December 2016	
Present Kerry Turner (UEA – chair), Charlie Beardall, Mark Johnson (EA), Andy Millar (NE), Bill Parker (Coastal Partnership East), Rob Wise (NFU), John Sharpe (RSPB) Paul George, Karen Thomas (Water Management Alliance), Jacque Burgess, John Ash, Sarah Mukherjee, John Packman, Simon Hooton {skh} (notes),	
Apologies: Giles Bloomfield (WMA), Maria Conti (BA),	
Summary points:	ACTION
<p>1. Broads Forum special workshop 3-11-16</p> <p>General view was that the workshop went well if not better than could have been expected with good facilitation. The venue and framework for the evening had worked for the vast majority. Some key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the desire to incorporate local decision making alongside national awareness; (ii) The flood risk to the Broads needed to be seen in the context of the surrounding coast; (iii) the fact that the Broads has an equivalent designation to that of a National Park is significant; (iv) there was an urgency to move forward especially because the Broads Flood Alleviation Project is coming towards an end; (v) involving local people and stakeholders in the project along with excellent communication was important for the success of the project. <p>The event set the scene and got people talking but the challenge was to work out how to take it forward. The knowledge of people about the issues appeared greater but was patchy. Whilst the cost was recognised as a concern there was less debate on what it would need to be spent on. There was a feeling that things like the Shoreline Management Plan process had helped people taking longer perspectives and recognise different viewpoints but a need to create a process to take matters forward was still there.</p> <p>The notes from the meeting had been sent to all invitees and appear to have been well received with minimal response. One respondent had noted no reference to Walcott and over-topping (which was outside of the spatial scope of the Review) though it was felt this would be covered in future work as the workshop had recognised planning need to be in the context of the whole shore.</p> <p>All material is available on the Broads Authority web site http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broads-community</p>	
<p>2. Moving forward</p> <p>KT reflected that the current funding formula preferentially supporting high cost benefit schemes was becoming out of step with public opinion and would advocate a process looking at a balanced scorecard where we knew ‘winners’ and losers’ more clearly. Building on the Defra focus on natural capital could help and the learning from pioneer schemes needed to be built in.</p>	

CB strongly believed there was a need to establish robust and clear governance as the first step. Having local democratic decisions and not the perception of quangos making the running would be vital. Others agreed this was important and needed the context of what was the scope of the process to be clarified alongside. A focus on outcomes - what would people want to see in the future - would be important. Although there was a need to remember the traumas following Natural England's climate change exploration some years back and ensure discussions were kept very transparent, there was a growing view that the setting was different with people recognising a changing risk but feeling fairly powerless to act themselves. Good quality leadership was therefore vital.

There were differing views about how good the knowledge was about who could be considered 'winners or losers'. Clarity over what outcomes would create what funding opportunities would need to be investigated. Local communities were starting to recognise that holding the line would be challenging and that forward planning was vital to avoid a catastrophe-led approach. A sequential approach would be needed perhaps covering technical and governance processes.

Our large spatial area created challenges and we needed to be aware of how to avoid repeating cycles of re-explanation as new people awoke to the situation. Carefully communication would be needed to try and integrate the parallel bottom up and top down processes. A general process of elected representatives making decisions on information fed in through groups and sub-groups covering topics and spatial areas would be wanted. This needed to be evolved with support and so sharing a possible model with appropriate stakeholders to help refine/improve and eventually build strong support for the end product would be vital.

Project scope

The scope of the final programme of action would need to also be evolved. The current focus would be flood risk management for the Broads and adjoining coast but it would need to be in the context of a changing climate and how this was creating greater and increasingly urgent challenges.

The 'naming' of the project could therefore be significant (to help distil its focus) and possible terms around 'flooding', the 'area' and the 'future' would be floated to see which gained widest support. Clear terms of reference for whatever became established, which needed to be able to evolve as required, would help support the framework.

There would need to be various strands of work within the overall framework. It is likely some aspects would be considering known information but there would also need to be new research and modelling to help inform decision making.

Next steps are likely to include

- A simple narrative outlining the problem and current position
- A series of conversations with local authorities to build a common approach to that narrative and ensure they are comfortable with a leadership role
- Pulling together and refreshing stakeholder mapping and some initial thoughts about effective engagement steps
- Open conversations with local stakeholders so they can inform and influence the framework for action from the beginning
- Briefings to ensure MPs and other national interests are well informed
- Identifying important local interests with a leadership role and ensuring they are well informed

ACTION: BA and EA prepare some draft ideas on the project aim and

SKH
finalise BA
draft

SKH/JP
share draft

<p>governance structure to share with this group as a precursor to taking draft material to local authority meetings to help evolve the framework.</p> <p>This meeting and subsequent actions would be shared through the Broads Forum to keep stakeholders in the picture. Other partners would consider other relevant groups that would need to be involved or briefed.</p>	<p>with MJ BA</p>
<p>3. Initial discussions held</p> <p>JB had written to all local MPs sharing the High Level Review and floating the idea of collective meeting in the new year. The coastal MPs who have had considerable involvement already had a good understanding of the issues and are relatively comfortable though most of those with inland constituencies have not responded. Lord Gardner, the Defra Minister with responsibility for National Parks, has been invited to visit the Broads, and this would provide an excellent opportunity for the Partnership to raise the issue with him.</p> <p>The local authority CEOs were all briefed before the meeting and have had a copy of the High Level Review. Further meetings with leaders and portfolio holders are likely to happen with GYBC and NNDC. The City Council is up to speed. Further connections with BDC and SNC will follow. NCC is recognising this is an area they need to get engaged with and SCC would like to follow up. WDC leader has been informed and is positive about further progress. Coastal Partnership East team will continue to feedback to the coastal authorities.</p> <p>Likely to be heading towards MPs and LAs meetings in March.</p> <p>ACTION: BA and EA to continue meetings with MPs and Leaders of Local Authorities aiming towards two meetings in March, one with the MPs in London and one with Leaders locally.</p>	<p>BA/EA</p>
<p>4. Other matters</p> <p>Much expertise exists around the table to plan and execute some of the needed work. Other resource could be the skills of Sharon Bleese (CPE) though she has a full work programme already.</p> <p>There was support for BA to continue the secretariat role bringing people together and pressing to move things forward. The resourcing of such a framework was probably best as a partnership with EA recognising how much of the coming work would be vital to its own planning and activities and so being a key player.</p> <p>However there needs to be recognition that the framework of action will create demands and a suitable structure to make progress and meet the raised expectations of those involved will be essential.</p> <p>ACTION: EA and BA to consider the on-going resourcing issues to ensure that progress is maintained.</p>	<p>EA/BA</p>
<p>5. Date of next meeting</p> <p>SKH to doodle poll something for February</p>	<p>SKH</p>