

# Broadland Futures Initiative

## Minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021

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## Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Julia Beeden - Water Resources East, Giles Bloomfield- IDB, Dave Cobby- Jacobs, Donna Deane- Natural England, Peter Doktor - Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Rob Goodliffe- Coastal Partnership East, Kevin Hart- Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Charlotte Hounsell – Norwich City Council, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, John Jones- Norfolk County Council, Phil Pearson – RSPB, Gavin Rumsey- Environment Agency, Rob Wise- NFU, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes).

## 1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Simon Curl – Suffolk County Council, Emma Dixon – Water Management Alliance, Sarah Luff – Norfolk County Council, Alison Old – South Norfolk Council

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed attendees to the remote meeting.

## 2. Update on communications and community engagement

Gavin Rumsey (GR) provided an update to the Initiative Project Team (IPT) on activities since the last meeting.

- Results from the online survey have now been compiled and a full summary will be shared with stakeholders this week. The summary will also be sent to the Elected Members Forum (EMF).
- A copy of the virtual village hall Q&A transcripts have been uploaded to the BFI website.
- An MP briefing update is being produced and will be reviewed by MPT and Mark Johnson (MJ).
- The Broads Museum exhibition space is now open for visitors to view. The exhibition will be in place until the end of October. GR agreed to confirm if the exhibition is within the paid section of the museum, or if it can be viewed for free. Photos of the exhibition will be included in the newsletter.
- GR has been in contact with Plovers Rovers charity and will confirm if the event is going ahead.
- Our young person's online survey has received a good response, in particular from East Norfolk Sixth Form.
- An evaluation of the engagement taken place so far is due to take place shortly. GR will prepare a summary note which will be circulated to the IPT and EMF. In October GR, Peter Doktor (PD) and Kellie Fisher (KF) will meet with consultants to discuss the next engagement milestones.
- Development of potential focus groups is being explored. Example groups include: angling, biodiversity and navigation. Officer representation with technical knowledge will also need to be considered.

### 3. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) provided an update for the following outstanding products:

#### **Existing data sources/indicators (Product 8)**

Review and collation of existing data sources for the plan area that can be used later in the project. A draft technical report will be circulated at the end of August [although now likely to be later due to a change in IPT meeting date] with the IPT.

#### **Appraisal methodology (Product 12)**

The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection. There is no update since the previous meeting due to the ongoing work on product 11.

#### **SEA scoping (Product 13)**

The draft SEA scoping report was sent out to statutory consultees and the IPT in July for a 6 week consultation and will close on 27 August.

#### **Salinity investigation (Product 17)**

The feasibility study is due to be completed by October/November. The study will include a literature review and discussions with key organisations and stakeholders.

#### **Coastal data analysis (Product 18)**

A detailed analysis on the existing coastal data has started and is due to finish by early 2022.

#### **Hydraulic modelling**

Work on the hydraulic model has commenced and is due to be completed by mid-2023. The first stage which involves data gathering is nearly complete.

#### **Breydon Water level gauges**

Water level gauge have been installed at Breydon Bridge. Gauges at Bure Bridge and Berney Arms due to take place in the Autumn.

#### **Comments and feedback**

- PD agreed to send a copy of the salinity investigation scope to Julia Beeden (JB).
- The latest data will be used in the coastal data analysis, including beach profile data at Winterton
- Rob Goodliffe (RG) reported the importance of data analysis via his work with the Anglian Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. PD agreed to send a copy of the coastal data analysis scope to RG to review.

#### **Draft BFI plan objectives (Product 11)**

The draft note has been revised and updated based on feedback at the June IPT. The language has been simplified and more emphasis on personal responsibility has been included, albeit relatively limited.

The objectives are grouped into the 3 national ambitions from the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. There are 10 sets of characteristics set out within the 3 national ambitions which are all interlinked. Under each characteristic is a set of concise objectives which will be expanded into several SMART objectives in due course.

### Comments and feedback

- The BFI vision mentions people and place, but not the environment.
- The formatting means that the circles highlighting the 3 national ambitions do not equally overlap with each other.
- BFI officers are encouraged to brief their respective EMF members on decisions that will be asked of them at the next meeting. For example, the draft BFI plan objectives.
- Questions to EMF members need to be open and start to discuss the deliverability of the plan. For example, some objectives are more like likely to be fulfilled due to practical delivery and funding available.
- The IPT agreed with the revised draft objectives, subject to 'environment' being incorporated into the BFI vision. The final draft will be presented at the September EMF meeting for their consideration.

## 4. Elected Members Forum

MPT noted that the next EMF meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 September. The terms of reference will be on the agenda for agreement, as well as the draft objectives. The option to invite IPT members to observe will be proposed to EMF members. The invitations have been sent to the members from each authority and their supporting officers.

RG agreed to confirm the representative for East Suffolk Council.

Current members are set out in the table below.

Authority	Member
Broadland District Council	Sue Lawn
Broads Authority	Matthew Bradbury
East Suffolk Council	James Mallinder
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Penny Carpenter
Norfolk County Council	Andy Grant
North Norfolk District Council	Harry Blathwayt
Norwich City Council	Mike Stonard
South Norfolk Council	Kay Mason Billig
Suffolk County Council	Richard Rout

## 5. Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance strategy

A copy of the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) strategy was circulated to the IPT ahead of the meeting. The strategy will be endorsed by the end of September and includes BFI in the action plan (1.3):

“Develop in partnership with others (such as Water Resources East (WRE) and the Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) options for how flood water might be used to alleviate drought risks or managed in a more integrated multi-agency approach.”

MJ noted that this is an opportunity for BFI to work with NSFA in a succinct and consistent approach, where options for collaboration may arise. A short introduction to NSFA will be provided to EMF members at the next meeting.

### Comments and feedback

- NSFA would have been included in product 7 (review of existing strategic documents) if it had been formed at the time of the review. Instead NSFA will be referenced in the summary for product 11 (draft plan objectives).
- The NSFA strategy document looks at a strategic approach across Norfolk, unlike BFI which focuses on strategic initiatives for the BFI area. The process of producing the strategy was iterative.
- The strategy does not specifically reference the importance of peat and storage of water, the NSFA are focusing on how to respond to the flood management challenges which are impacted by climate change.
- The alliance is bringing all bodies together to address those communities which are frequently impacted by flooding.
- NSFA are hosting a full day event on flooding 18 October on flooding, which Julia Beeden will attend, and she can represent BFI.

## 6. Adaptive Pathways

KF presented two presentations to the IPT. The first presentation introduced the general principles involved in the adaptation pathways approach. The second presentation used the Thames Estuary 2100 plan to give an example of an adaptation pathway in action.

Presentations and facts sheets can be found at the following link:

<http://climatelondon.org/publications/adaptation-pathways-starter-pack/>

The Environment Agency’s definition of an adaptation pathway is as follows:

“A flexible, long-term, collaborative plan for adapting to an uncertain, and changing, situation (like climate change), by identifying pathways - sequences of potential actions - to cope with a range of possible futures, monitoring to understand how the future is unfolding, and investing in the most appropriate sequence of actions at the right time.”

## Comments and feedback

- Compared to the Thames Estuary, Broadland is a complex area where multiples sources and risks need to be considered. The Thames Estuary is considered a linear system with fewer complexities.
- Once a policy in place, it does not always mean that funding will follow. London has a large amount of economic benefits under treasury criteria, which is likely to help with funding for traditional flood risk management approaches.
- The EA are also working with the Fens and Humber Strategy and looking at lessons learnt. An online visualisation tool has been used to demonstrate how an adaptive pathway would work in the Humber. A similar tool for the Broadland area could be beneficial for BFI.
- Ongoing reviews and investment into monitoring is important for a successful adaptive pathways.

## 7. AOB

GR and KF met with Victoria Egan from the National Trust who expressed an interest to attend future IPT meetings. The IPT welcomed representation from the National Trust and look forward to Victoria attending future meetings.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is TBC via video conference.

## Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Send a copy of the salinity investigation scope to Julia Beeden	16/08/2021	PD
Send a copy of the coastal data analysis scope to Rob Goodliffe	16/08/2021	PD
Confirm EMF representative for East Suffolk Council	28/06/2021	RG