

Broads Local Access Forum

Agenda 04 December 2019

2.00pm

Yare House, Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

Introduction

1. **Apologies for absence and welcome**
2. **Declarations of interest**
3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**
4. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 4 September 2019 (Pages 4-10)**
5. Matters arising from the minutes

Items for discussion

6. **Consultation on BLAF constitution (Pages 11-18)**
Report by Director of Strategic Services
7. **Idea for a new cycle route from Oulton Broad**
Presentation from Suffolk Wildlife Trust
8. **Feedback following the visit to Aston Rowant National Land Access Centre**
Feedback from members
9. **Update on publicly accessible slipways and launching points**
See website: [Slipways and launching points](#)

Other matters

10. **Any other business**
Advance notice needed
11. **To note the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 2.00pm at Yare House, 62/64 Thorpe Road, Norwich**

Broads Local Access Forum membership details included

Broads Local Access Forum Membership

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Kelvin Allen	9 Landseer Drive Downham Market PE38 9NG	01366 384458	kelvinallen@btinternet.com	Broads Authority
Linda Aspland	Tbc	Tbc	tbc	Waterborne recreational users / Paddle sports
Keith Bacon	Woodcroft Wood Street Catfield NR29 5DF	01692 581314	keithbacon@keme.co.uk keithbacon@broadsland.net	Archaeology and landscape heritage
Louis Baugh	Neatishead Hall Neatishead NR12 8XX	07785 224589	lbaugh@netcom.co.uk	Landowners and managers
Harry Blathwayt	20 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678644	Harry.blathwayt@north-norfolk.gov.uk	Local Authority (District Council) / Tourism and local business
Julie Brociek-Coulton	159 Angel Road Norwich NR3 3HX	07786 694325	jewills064@aol.com	Broads Authority
Liz Brooks	Heronway Norwich Road Ludham NR29 5QD	01692 678674	ejb553@gmail.com	Equestrian riding and driving
Robin Buxton	Speedwell House South Burlingham Road Lingwood NR13 4ET	01493 750102	robin.buxton@ukgateway.net	Landowners and managers/ Tourism and local businesses
Michael Flett	33 Broad Reaches Ludham NR29 5PD	01692 678560	mikeandjeanne@btinternet.com	Local Authority (Parish Councils)

Member	Address	Phone number	Email	Interest
Tony Gibbons	19 Blithewood Gardens Sprowston NR7 8PS	01603 400973	tonygibbons.ndaa@gmail.com	Angling
Tim Harris	Catfield Hall Catfield NR29 5DB	01692 580220	tim@catfieldhall.com	Nature conservation / Archaeology and landscape heritage
Dawn Hatton	c/o Broads Authority Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY	01603 433174	stock.dawn@gmail.com	Walking/People with disabilities/Access for all
Peter Mason	7 Brick Kiln Gardens Catfield Gt Yarmouth NR29 5DW	01692 583152	peter.mason51@sky.com	Walking/Tourism and local business
John Murray	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	Walking / People with disabilities / Access for all
Steve Read	The Anchorage Broadview Road Oulton Broad Lowestoft NR32 3PL	07720 808715	stevereadcon@btinternet.com	Walking/water borne recreational users
Richard Webb	9 Bek Close Norwich NR4 7NT	01603 505362	dickwebb@talktalk.net	Walking/sailing
Christopher Yardley	Thorpe Cloud Creake Road Burnham Thorpe PE31 8HW	01328 738705	Ci.yardley@tiscali.co.uk	Waterborne recreational users/ nature conservation

Kylie Moos - Broads Local Access Forum Secretary
Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY
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Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 04 September 2019

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Present

Keith Bacon in the Chair, Linda Aspland, Louis Baugh, Harry Blathwayt, Liz Brooks, Robin Buxton, Mike Flett, Tony Gibbons, Peter Mason, John Murray, Steven Read, Richard Webb, Chris Yardley

In attendance

Lottie Carlton – Administrative Officer, Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Environment, Marie-Pierre Tighe – Director of Strategic Services, Louis Treloar – Waterways and Recreation Officer, Mike Edwards – Norfolk FWAG, Chris Ward – Reedham Parish Council, Ken Hawkins – Norfolk Local Access Forum.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Kelvin Allen, Dawn Hatton, Tim Harris.

The Chairman welcomed new members Linda Aspland, Harry Blathwayt, John Murray and Julie Brociek-Coulton, along with the new Waterways and Recreation Officer Lewis Treloar, Mike Edwards from Norfolk FWAG, Ken Hawkins from the Norfolk Local Access Forum, and Chris Ward from Reedham Parish Council.

New members introduced themselves with a short background on their experience and interests on access issues in the Broads.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were declared at this point of the meeting. Louis Baugh and Keith Bacon declared an interest at item 4 as Trustees of the Broads Trust regarding the Trust's agreement to contribute funding to Reedham Parish Council towards the Reedham permissive footpath landowner agreement. Louis Baugh declared an interest at item 6 regarding his membership of FWAG and as a landowner under countryside stewardship.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of 5 June 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

How Hill footpath

Members reported that the newly opened How Hill footpath was very good. Some anglers reported boats mooring at the 'no mooring' sign near Clay Rack Mill.

DH agreed to ask the Broads Authority Rangers to make checks on the 'no mooring' situation near Clay Rack Mill and report back.

River Wensum Strategy

Marie-Pierre Tighe will attend the River Wensum Strategy Steering Group meeting on 24 September 2019 at Norwich City Council.

Staithe Report

The final version of the Staithe Report is now available to view online at www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/staithe-of-the-broads. It includes minor amendments, satisfying parish and town council concerns.

Forum members will discuss potential further work related to staithe at their next meeting.

Reedham permissive footpath

A small section of the Wherryman's Way long distance footpath is closed at Reedham for safety reasons. The Broads Local Access Forum gave formal advice to the Broads Authority that they should use their powers to force a public right of way creation order for this section of footpath. Following input from Reedham Parish Council, the Authority discussed this advice at their 26 July meeting and resolved to continue discussions with Norfolk County Council, Reedham Parish Council and the landowner.

Chris Ward, a representative from Reedham Parish Council, joined the meeting at this point to give an update to the Forum as follows:

- Meetings between Reedham Parish Council and the landowner began in 2017.
- A sub-committee now deals with negotiations on behalf of the parish council.
- Achievements include production of a draft agreement including formal specifications of required work, Environment Agency bespoke licences, £20k funding secured from four different sources including the Broads Trust, formal tendering and selection of a contractor, vegetation and dyke clearance and surface levelling, and offers to the land owner to purchase the land.
- Reedham residents have volunteered to carry out maintenance of the footpath.
- The only remaining area the landowner does not agree with is management of dogs off leads, due to concerns about livestock on adjoining land.
- A meeting is due on 17 October between Reedham Parish Council sub-committee and the landowner.

The Broads Authority agreed for an officer to attend a meeting with Reedham Parish Council and report back to the Forum.

Comments and answer to questions

- Norfolk Local Access Forum discussed the issue and expressed support for a resolution to this matter.
- The Broads Authority and the Forum congratulated Reedham Parish Council on their efforts to date.

5. Broads Local Access Forum - terms of reference

Marie-Pierre Tighe gave a presentation on the Broads Local Access Forum's terms of reference and noted that the Forum's constitution needs to be refreshed to include up-to-date information. Any amendments would need to be agreed by the Broads Authority in consultation with the Forum.

Forum minutes are included in the Broads Authority agendas, and Authority members who are also Forum members can highlight any issues and report back to the Forum.

Forum members agreed to provide feedback and suggestions on amendments to the Broads Local Access Forum constitution via email. A draft will be discussed at a future meeting.

6. Norfolk FWAG presentation on local access agreements

Mike Edwards, Business Manager for Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Service (Norfolk FWAG), gave a presentation on local access agreements.

FWAG is a not-for-profit organisation that encourages farmers to carry out conservation measures on their farms. Norfolk FWAG and the Norfolk Local Access Forum have been working together to look at putting in access agreements on local paths that were permissive paths as part of farmers' agri-environment schemes.

As agri-environment schemes ended, permissive path agreements and financial support for their maintenance also ended. Following a spending review, the Government withdrew funding for new permissive path agreements as part of new agri-environment schemes. Some farmers still allow the public to use these previous permissive paths, while many others are lost to public access.

Norfolk FWAG is working on getting together locals, parish councils and landowners to review paths included in previous agri-environment schemes and soon to end schemes. The process involves highlighting paths which are, or were, popular with the public and then assisting with drafting new agreements and payments from the parish council to the landowner for maintenance and putting up signs, including a map of footpaths in the area, what can be seen, and dos and don'ts when using the paths. This method worked successfully in Bradenham and Swanton Morley.

Norfolk FWAG is also involved in the Test and Trial stage of new ELMS, Defra's proposals for new agri-environment schemes, after current schemes are due to end in 2024. It is hoped to persuade Defra of the importance of permissive access paths as part of such agreements. This fits with ELMS principles of 'public money for public goods'.

Norfolk FWAG is also looking into alternative options for keeping permissive paths open such as business sponsorship or permits to use schemes.

Comments and answers to questions

- Footpaths seemed very wide in previous schemes due to management practices for field edges. There is no specific width requirement for local access agreements.

- This is an issue in other parts of the country but, as seen in the presentation statistics, Norfolk and Suffolk have more to lose, hence the reason Norfolk FWAG is piloting this work. The model can be used in other areas.
- Parish council payments to landowners will vary dependent on the length of path, where it is, what the footfall is and other considerations. The agreement is negotiated between the parish council and the landowner.
- The local access agreements are legally binding for 5 years, but protect the landowner property rights if a landowner sells the piece of land.
- Permissive path agreements were funded entirely from the UK treasury and not match-funded from the EU, which influenced the decision to not include permissive paths in newer schemes.
- While the two successful Norfolk FWAG schemes only involved footpaths, this does not preclude inclusion of bridleways in any future schemes. It is however dependent on securing landowner agreements.
- Parish councils can contact Norfolk FWAG or Norfolk LAF with any suggested areas. The number that can be taken on is dependent on contacts, expertise and officer time.
- So far there are no parishioner complaints regarding spending rate payer's money on footpath schemes.
- Paths which only exist for part of the year are not suitable for permissive path agreements.

Mike Edwards agreed to circulate Broads data on permissive footpaths.

7. Any other business

Broads Authority 24-hour moorings – mooring and angling priorities

Broads Authority 24-hour mooring signs request anglers to give way to boaters mooring up. Formal adoption of this policy was made 14 years ago. It was noted that at a specific site this sign is at odds with other angling restrictions.

Dan Hoare agreed to clarify with Tony Gibbons the matter of standard wording on 24-hour mooring signs and its applicability at all locations.

Aston Rowant National Land Access Centre visit

Staff at the centre have agreed to show Broads Local Access Forum members around the site. It is based in Oxfordshire and the journey time is approximately 2¾ hours from Norwich.

Lewis Treloar agreed to organise a trip to the Aston Rowant Centre, should sufficient numbers be interested in going.

Canoes and kayak launch sites

As the Broads Authority does not own bank sides it cannot make a blanket ruling on where canoes and kayaks can launch. There is information on the Visit the Broads website highlighting hire centres and paddle guide maps for each area.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum is 04 December 2019 at 2.00pm at Yare House, 62 – 64 Thorpe Road, Norwich.

The meeting ended at 15:30.

Signed by

Chairman

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Broads Authority Rangers to make checks on the no mooring situation near Clay Rack Mill and report back	04/09/2019	Dan Hoare
Discuss potential further work related to staites at the 4 December meeting	05/06/2019	BLAF members
BA officer to attend a meeting with Reedham parish council and report back to the Forum	04/09/2019	Lewis Treloar
Forum members to provide feedback and suggestions on amendments to the Broads Local Access Constitution	04/09/2019	BLAF members
Circulate Broads data on permissive footpaths	04/09/2019	Mike Edwards
Discuss matter related to signs wording with Tony Gibbons	04/09/2019	Dan Hoare
Organise a trip to the Aston Rowant Centre	04/09/2019	Lewis Treloar

Appendix 1 - Declaration of interests Broads Local Access Forum, 04 September 2019

Member	Agenda/minute	Nature of interest
Louis Baugh	4	Trustee of Broads Trust
Keith Bacon	4	Trustee of Broads Trust
Louis Baugh	7	Member of FWAG and landowner under countryside stewardship