

Navigation Committee

11 June 2020

Agenda item number 7

Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

The report briefs the Committee on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways and provides an opportunity for members to raise any such issues.

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1. Responding to the COVID-19 emergency

- 1.1. Members will be aware from regular briefings of the steps the Authority has taken in responding to the current crisis: ensuring that staff and volunteers are safe, maintaining services and the upkeep of the waterways and lobbying for support for local tourism businesses and the hire boat industry in particular. We have also tried to keep private boat owners and hire boat companies informed of the implications of the changes in Government guidance.

- 1.2. The decision to keep the essential health and safety and maintenance work going proved to be a critical in allowing private boating to recommence on 13 May. Since that date some of the loss in the Authority's private boat income has been recovered but as of 31 May private boat income stands at around £383,000 below where it would be expected to be in a normal year and hire boat income remains at virtually zero. The Authority is very concerned about the impact of the restrictions on local companies and the consequential impact on the Authority's own financial position.
- 1.3. The Authority's officers continue to work closely with Government officials on a timetable for the removal of the remaining restrictions: especially those related to private boat owners staying on their vessels overnight and the ability of the hire industry to restart.
- 1.4. The high level of uncertainty and rapid change involved in responding to the crisis places considerable pressure on the managers of local companies and the Authority's officers. Members will be given an update at the meeting of discussions with Defra officials both on the timetable for the removal of further restrictions to boating on the Broads and the availability of financial assistance to the Authority.

2. Procedure and actions for remote meetings held under the Coronavirus Act 2020

- 2.1. At the Broads Authority on 22 May, members agreed temporary Standing Orders for the conduct of any remote meeting of the Broads Authority and its sub-committees held under the provisions of [The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels \(Coronavirus\) \(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2020 no. 392](#) ('the Regulations'), made under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.
- 2.2. The Authority agreed to defer the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 2020, with all appointments from the 2019 Annual Meeting continuing, including the appointment of two co-opted members to the Authority. A decision on when to hold the Annual Meeting will be reviewed at the Authority's meeting in September.

3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. During the COVID-19 lockdown period, the Authority has put in place a safe system of working to enable the Ranger team to continue with patrolling and other essential maintenance tasks around the system. When not working on essential tasks, Rangers have been completing plans for future projects, collecting data and updating risk assessments, shown in Appendix 2 as team meetings and work planning. The exercise of powers in April was limited to a small number of isolated cases due to the very low numbers of vessels moving at this time. There was one prosecution relating to Navigation offences on the River Yare at Reedham, and a further case is awaiting a court date.

4. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 4.1. The sunken abandoned vessels are at Appendix 3. There are two sunken vessels on the system, following work over the winter to raise and remove as many as possible ahead of the new season.

5. Planning enforcement update

- 5.1. There are no further enforcement matters with navigation implications to report.

Author: John Packman

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[Broads Plan](#) objectives

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis – April 2020

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days – April 2020

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 28 May 2020

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls and navigation
Offences from 28 May 202028 May 2020

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis – April 2020

Verbal warnings: No verbal warnings reported during this period.

Table 1

Written warnings	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Care and caution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special directions	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0

Table 2

Launch patrols	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Launch staffed by ranger	18	20	18	15	21	23	19	5
Volunteer patrols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRIS reports	1	1	1		1	1	3	1

Broads Control total calls

Telephone: 2984

VHF: 0

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days – April 2020

Table 1

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Actual days to date
Training	30.20
Broads Control	48.85
Team meetings, work planning	156.01
Partnership working	1.82
Assisting other sections	6.08
Billets and boatsheds	1.82
Launch – general	0.27
Trailers - general	0
Vehicle maintenance	0.61
Other equipment repair	0.61
Total	246.27

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Actual days to date
Patrolling	146.42
Escorts	9.80
Prosecution files	2.84
Bankside tree management	3.04
Obstruction removal	2.30
Channel markers and buoys	0.41
Signs and boards maintenance	7.09
Adjacent waters	0
Reactive mooring maintenance	2.97
Total	174.87

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Actual days to date
Fen management	1.42
Lake, riverbank restoration	0.61
Invasive species control	0
Other conservation work	3.04
Pollution response	0.68
Visitor site maintenance	53.18
Public engagement	0
Public footpath work	1.01
Education work	0
Total	59.94

Team total up to 20 May 2020

Percentage Navigation: 74%

Percentage National Park: 26%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 28 May 2020

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owner's moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Sutton/Stalham cut	Liaising with owner, not in the navigation	No	Monitoring

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls and navigation Offences from 28 May 2020

Type of vessel	Vessel name	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Houseboat	Silver Dawn	£300	£150	£30	£81.75
Houseboat	Titch	£150	£150	£30	£179.85
Aux Yacht	Fogster	£440	£150	£44	£130.65
Motor Cruiser	Asterion	£440	£150	£44	£312.57
Day Boat	Tinker II	£300	£150	£32	£135.90
Motor Cruiser	Cobalt	£400	£150	£40	£285.39
Motor Cruiser	Silver Leaf	£300	£150	£32	£244.62
Motor Cruiser	White Lady	£280	£150	£32	£176.67
Aux Yacht	Sea Wyvern	£220	£150	£32	£100.50
Motor Cruiser	Cocktails and Dreams	£200	£773.68	£32	£0