

## **Chief Executive's Report**

**Summary:** This report summarises the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including any decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings. It does not include matters which are already on the agenda for this meeting. Members are asked to note the report.

### **1 Hickling Enhancement Project**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: Trudi Wakelin/ BD4.1

- 1.1 At the Authority's meeting on 25 September 2015, members received a report and presentation on the master plan project for the enhancement of Hickling Broad. The principles of the proposal including the draft vision, which had been amended following consultation with the Navigation Committee, Broads Forum and others, was endorsed together with the strategic approach. Members agreed to increase the 2015/16 navigation budget by £21,000 for the priority dredging work and noted the likely financial provision of £1.4 to £1.5 million required over the next six to ten years, which had been identified to assist in preparing a detailed external funding bid as well as the amount of match funding required from Broads Authority using navigation income and National Park Grant. Members particularly welcomed the engagement with the local communities and stakeholders considering this to be an exciting project. As part of this, the next Parish Forum is to be held at Hickling Barn, Tate Loke (off Mallard Way), Hickling on Monday 26 October 6.30pm in order to provide the parishes within that area of the Upper Thurne and Bure with a specific presentation on the project.

### **2 Mutford Lock**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objectives: Tom Hunter/ None

- 2.1 At the Authority's meeting on 25 September 2015 members received a report and presentation on the Mutford Lock Maintenance and Reserve. The Authority agreed expenditure of £87,082 from the Mutford Lock reserve fund to complete the essential maintenance and repairs in the current financial year 2015/16 as well as a revised annual maintenance budget of £18,000 to allow for hydraulic control system servicing and routine underwater maintenance and this will be incorporated in the draft 2016/17 budget for consultation. The Authority also agreed to the appointment of a consultant in 2016/17 to investigate costed de-watering options for the lock ahead of future major work, the estimated cost being between £5,000 and £10,000 possibly to be funded from the ring fenced reserve.

### **3 Member Workshops**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: John Packman /Multiple

- 3.1 Since the Authority's annual meeting when it was decided to use a series of Member Workshops to improve knowledge of and engagement with a range of future policy matters, there have been three Member workshops

1. Finance Training – 22 September 2015 (half day - am before FSAC)
2. Tolls – 23 September 2015 – (All day event)
3. Broads Plan – 7 October 2015 (Half day am) (Report on agenda)

- 3.2 A workshop on Waste Disposal is due to be arranged for November.

### **4 The Tolls Workshop – 23 September 2015**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/ None

- 4.1 The Tolls Workshop was attended by 16 Members, from the full Authority and Navigation Committee. In addition, three expert witnesses were invited from British Marine, the Broads Hire Boat Federation and the Norfolk and Suffolk Boat Owners Association who provided presentations in addition to those provided by the Collector of Tolls and the Chief Executive. Insight Track also provided members with information from the Stakeholders Survey. The Workshop was facilitated by an independent facilitator - Richard Harris.. The aim of the day was to improve members' understanding of the existing system and its complexities and to examine whether there was an appetite for change. The Workshop was considered to be very positive and the general feeling was that there was an appetite for a change to the Tolls Charging Structure and clear mandate to move forward. As a result it was agreed that the next steps would be to set up a small Member working group in order to explore matters highlighted in the workshop and to come up with a set of proposals for future consideration by the Navigation Committee and the Broads Authority.

- 4.2 This approach was endorsed at the Authority's meeting on 25 September 2015 when it was resolved to establish a fixed term Tolls Review Working Group comprising six members; to include the Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the Navigation Committee in addition to four other members including co-opted members to be confirmed by the Chairman of the Authority. The membership of this group has now been confirmed as: Jacquie Burgess (Chairman), Michael Whitaker, Kelvin Allen, Louis Baugh, Bill Dickson and Nicky Talbot. The Group will invite representatives from specific stakeholder groups to attend to discuss specific topics as appropriate and other Members of the Broads Authority and Navigation Committee will be welcome to attend Tolls Working Group Meetings in an observer capacity. The Group met on Monday 5 October 2015 to consider the Scope and Terms of Reference of the Group. The next meeting has been arranged for Friday 6 November 2015.

- 4.3 The aim is for the Working Group to have proposals for consideration by July 2016 with a report to come to the Navigation Committee for consideration and consultation prior to consideration at the Broads Authority meeting in November 2016, the aim being for proposals to be finalised for implementation in April 2017. It is anticipated that this will require a potential of five meetings to cover specific topics identified by the Working Group based on the views expressed at the Members Workshop. The Working Group will be taking account of the work and building on the lessons learnt from previous reviews.

## **5 Riverbank Stabilisation and Mooring Guides**

Contract Officer/ Broads Plan Objectives: Natalie Beal/ CC4.1, NA1.5

- 5.1 The responses to the consultation including those from the Broads Forum on the Riverbank Stabilisation and Mooring Guides have now been considered and in light of the comments made a number of amendments were made. These were considered and endorsed by the Authority's Planning committee on 9 October 2015 with a recommendation to the full Authority on 20 November that the Guides be adopted.

Background papers:	None
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Date of report:	15 October 2015
Broads Plan Objectives:	Multiple
Appendices:	None