

Chief Executive's Report and Current Issues

<p>Purpose: The purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways and to provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to raise any such issues.</p>

1. Acle Bridge

At the 28 September Broads Authority meeting members discussed the potential development of the Acle Bridge Visitor and Education Centre. Members received a presentation from Feilden and Mawson on the further design work the company had undertaken together with an analysis of the costs of construction. Planning Solutions Consulting Ltd were in attendance to provide their conclusions on the business analysis.

Members discussed a range of options as to how to take forward the refurbishment and development of the site and decided:

- To proceed with the essential repairs to the moorings at the Acle Bridge site subject to the views of the Navigation Committee;
- To investigate whether the development of a Visitor and Education Centre could form an important element in a wider more ambitious project to improve the infrastructure for Broads tourism and raise awareness of the special qualities of the area in future.

2. National Parks Review

At the Broads Authority meeting on 28 September members were invited to suggest issues, which officers could investigate as the basis for a response to the call for evidence based on the eight areas the Review were asked to consider.

Members raised the following points:

- **Extending or creating new designated areas** Extension of the boundary: To consider the potential for extending the boundary to create a more coherent Park area, due to the difficulty of not having whole parishes within the Broads area.
- **Governance:** To consider the structure of the Broads Authority and have a more effective means of engaging with the navigation interests.
- To recognise the importance of those with specific expertise being included on the main board, not necessarily relying on those elected.

- **Finance:** To emphasise the impact from Brexit and the loss of that potential source of funding, if this is not replaced.
- To ensure that the Natural Capital of National Parks is recognised not only for commercial and environmental purposes but for the wellbeing of people, visitors and the local communities and:
- **Enhancing our environment and biodiversity** To raise awareness of the uniqueness of the Broads, its special ecosystem and its fragile nature. To emphasise the impact of climate change/sea level rise and the potential increase in flooding as well as the potential for increased incursion of salt water into a fresh water system. To raise the importance of flood defences and the role of and links with the Environment Agency.
- **Legislation for the Future** for the Authority to deliver the vision for the Broads. Eg; The Authority to have similar powers to the Highways Authority to ensure navigation is not impeded. ie: to deal with maintenance and neglect of riverbanks by landowners
- **Connecting more people with the environment and improving well-being:** To improve facilities and access to the Broads for all and especially providing boating facilities for those with disabilities.
- **Supporting Communities through Purposes:** At present, the National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority had the responsibility to take account of those who live and work in the area and their economic wellbeing. This could become a purpose and therefore strengthen the Authority's ability to engage.
- **Finance:** To ensure there is sufficient finance to carry out the duties and responsibilities for managing the National Park.

3. **Navigation Patrolling and Performance Targets**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1.

A member of the Committee has specifically raised the issue of speeding on the River Yare. Combining the figures from both the launches on the Yare (Norwich and Hardley launches) the total number of verbal warnings given is 490. When compared with the average number of verbal warnings issued over the last 4 years (average of 324) this shows an increase.

Verbal warnings are given for slight speed over the limit (at Rangers discretion and dependent to other factors, but up to 1mph above). It is worth noting that both launches have higher staffing levels this season

particularly around weekends which may account for some of this increase.

Written warnings for more serious offences are however lower for the river Yare than the average for the last 4 years with a total of 5 'Blue Book' (Memorandum of Navigational) warnings issued for speeding so far this year compared to the average of 10. Some of these cases have or may be going forward for prosecution.

We always follow up on any reports of speeding reported to our Control office or to rangers directly.

Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits. Conservation tasks are now starting across the areas.

4. Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 3.

5. Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

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

Background papers:	None
Author:	John Packman
Date of report:	October 2018
Broads Plan Objectives:	Multiple
Appendices:	APPENDIX 1 - Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis
	APPENDIX 2 - Ranger Duties
	APPENDIX 3 - Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

APPENDIX 1

Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis (Bracketed figures are running totals, April 2018 to March 2019)						Date: Aug-Sep 2018		
	Wroxham Launch	Irstead Launch	Ludham Launch	Ludham 2 Launch	Norwich Launch	Hardley Launch	B.St.Peter Launch	Breydon Launch
Launch Patrol Areas	Wroxham and Upper Bure	Ant	Hickling, P.Heigham, Upper Thurne & Womack	Lower Thurne, Lower Bure & South Walsham	Norwich and Upper Yare	Reedham, Chet & Middle Yare	Oulton Broad and Upper/Middle Waveney	Breydon Water, Lower Waveney and Yare
Verbal Warnings								
Care & Caution	16 (36)	4 (12)	12 (24)	38 (114)	(1)		2 (8)	8 (13)
Speed	963 (2173)	406 (1089)	62 (455)	204 (545)	175 (352)	55 (138)	66 (190)	48 (120)
Other	28 (68)	26 (60)	14 (29)	20 (54)	5 (40)	11 (46)	1 (26)	1 (4)
Blue Book Warnings								
Care & Caution	(5)	3 (4)	(1)	(1)			(1)	2 (6)
Speed	12 (33)	2 (18)	(7)	1 (6)	1 (4)	1 (8)	4 (5)	(5)
Other	2 (7)	18 (35)	4 (18)	2 (7)		1 (12)	2 (4)	(4)
Special Directions	7 (146)	(78)	55 (85)	(63)	3 (3)		44 (383)	4 (4)
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)	57 (172)	48 (136)	46 (150)	48 (92)	49 (141)	33 (99)	44 (129)	61 (183)
Best Value Patrol Targets Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	97% (95%)	100% (100%)	79% (90%)	89% (90%)
Volunteer Patrols		1 (3)		2 (3)				
IRIS Reports	22 (99)	22 (75)	14 (59)	12 (48)	20 (63)	14 (49)	20 (85)	31 (92)
Broads Control Total Calls	TOTAL 8,831 (26,459)			Telephone 6,746 (20,199)			VHF 2,085 (6,260)	

Total Time Allocated/Actual Ranger Team

Up to 08 October 2018

Broads Authority Corporate	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Corporate Time	Training	134	54.70
	Broads Control	39	23.17
	Team meetings / work planning	349	214.36
	Partnership working	82	48.14
	Assisting other sections	94	26.01
	Annual Leave		265.41
	Off Work Sick		41.52
	Time in Lieu		23.51
Premises Maintenance	Billets and boatsheds	19	15.37
Vessel & Equipment Maintenance	Launch - General		9.56
	Trailers - General		1.08
	Vehicle Maintenance		7.16
	Other equipment repair		18.45
Total		717	748.43

Navigation	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Navigation Maintenance	Patrolling	1356	1061.73
	Escorts	35	30.41
	Prosecution files	0	25.74
	Bankside tree management	101	30.24
	Obstruction removal	29	12.30
	Channel markers & buoys	41	8.72
	Signs & boards maintenance	73	30.61
	Adjacent Waters		66.86
Mooring Maintenance	Reactive mooring maintenance	129	26.42
Total		1764	1293.01

Actual Percentage	82%
-------------------	-----

Conservation, Rec, C'side	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Conservation	Fen management	14	1.49
	Lake / Riverbank restoration	10	0.00
	Invasive Species Control	33	0.14
	Other conservation work	202	2.03
	Pollution Response		0.14
Recreation/Countryside Maintenance	Visitor Site maintenance	185	130.27
	Whitlingham Country Park	300	138.48
	Public footpath work	14	0.00
Public engagement	Education work	20	13.18
Total		778	285.71

Actual Percentage	18%
-------------------	-----

Team total	3259	2327.16
-------------------	-------------	----------------

APPENDIX 3**Sunken and Abandoned Vessels**

Description	Location found	Action	Notice Affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Motor Cruiser	Oulton Broad	Harbour Master liaising with owner	No	Not affecting the navigation Oulton Broad Harbour Master liaising with owner
Yacht	Geldeston	Liaising with owner	No	Authority liaising with owner
Yacht	Somerleyton	Abandoned Notice expired. Hazard marked	Yes	Not a hazard, will be removed by Authority
Motor Cruiser	Beccles	No owner found for vessel.	Yes	Removed from water by Boatyard.
Yacht	Rockland	Vessel sunk adjacent to 24 hour moorings. Hazard marked. No owner traced.	Yes	Awaiting deadline for Notice on 21 st October.
Yacht	Dockyard	Owner needs to remove	No	Letter written asking for vessel to be removed or will be sold to cover costs.