

Navigation Committee

13 January 2022

Agenda item number 7

Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

To provide a briefing on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways.

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1. Broads Authority 19 November 2021

- 1.1. The Broads Authority adopted the recommendations of the Navigation Committee to increase navigation charges for 2022/23 in the navigation area and adjacent waters by 3.6%. Members also resolved to transfer £88,000 of the additional navigation income to the IT Computer Software Reserve as a contribution towards the replacement of the tolls online system.
- 1.2. Members also agreed to repay the £250,000 transferred National Park Reserves at a rate of £50,000 per annum over 5 years. In order to fund an increase in the time of a Hire Boat Licencing Officer to three days a week, the Hire Boat Licence charges are to

be raised to £25 per operator and £17 per vessel. Members also supported the proposal to hold a workshop in 2022 to discuss sustainable boating on the Broads.

2. Barton Turf Staithe 24 hour mooring update

- 2.1. The Director of Operations continues to have on-going discussions with the Chairman of Barton & Irstead Parish Council regarding the lease of Barton Turf Staithe 24-hour mooring, and the arrangements for when the current agreement expires in September 2022.
- 2.2. The most recent offer from the Parish Councils requests that the Broads Authority takes on full structural responsibility, full maintenance liability, and pays a substantial yearly rent for a lease period of only seven years. This offer is not consistent with the principles agreed with the Navigation Committee on the leasing of moorings.
- 2.3. The retention of Barton Turf Staithe as a free 24 hour mooring is not a priority as per the Integrated Access Strategy and Gap Analysis and the high rent and short lease term on offer from the Parish Council puts the continuation of this small mooring site as a Broads Authority run mooring at risk. A long length of mooring is available close by.

3. Carrow Road Bridge repairs update

- 3.1. On the 8 December the Broads Authority met with Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council to discuss the County Council's approach to carrying out the repairs on the road deck of Carrow Bridge. It was a positive meeting with all partners understanding the different issues each organisation faced with the proposed construction method.
- 3.2. In conclusion, Norfolk County Council officers agreed to re-look at road deck construction methods and the timing of the repairs to see if these can better link with the City Council's planned route improvements and still maintain the ability to open the Carrow Bascule bridge.

4. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 4.1. The latest update on the significant use of powers by the Rangers is shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits up to end of November 2021. While average navigation/ countryside splits are still higher on the navigation side, with planned work now underway on the countryside sites this figure is moving into line with the target.

5. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 5.1. The abandoned and sunken vessel update is set out in Appendix 3. Two vessels have been raised over this period and a further abandoned vessel was claimed by the owner.

6. Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls

- 6.1. There are no further prosecution cases to report, however 16 cases have been submitted in the last couple of weeks with 14 more being prepared for submission.

7. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 16 December 2021

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties total time allocated and actual days

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 13 December 2021

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis – October-November 2021

Table 1

Verbal warnings	Wroxham launch Wroxham and upper Bure	Irstead launch Ant	Ludham launch Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	Ludham launch 2 lower Thurne and lower Bure	Norwich launch Norwich and upper Yare	Hardley Launch Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	Burgh St Peter launch Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	Breydon launch Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	4		3	17	2			
Speed	363	68	39	88	34	13		12
Other	28	2	6		8	8		6

Table 2

Written warnings	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Care and caution	1				1	1		1
Speed	6	2		5				
Other	2	6	1			8		
Special directions	13	21			2	12		

Table 3

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	37	31	22	26	32	26	24	35
Volunteer patrols		5						
IRIS reports	6	2	3		5	4	2	6

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	3970
VHF	646
Total	4616

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

Table 1

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Training	134	67.91
Broads Control	362	260.57
Team meetings, work planning	356	281.11
Partnership working	76	13.61
Assisting other sections	76	43.38
Billets and boatsheds	25	16.96
Launch – general		15.91
Trailers - general		2.23
Vehicle maintenance		4.26
Other equipment repair		10.95
Total	1029	716.89

Table 2

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1537.60
Escorts	49	30.14
Prosecution files		13.72
Bankside tree management	53	13.92
Obstruction removal	36	14.59
Channel markers and buoys	25	6.76
Signs and boards maintenance	34	29.93
Adjacent waters	100	60
Reactive mooring maintenance	104.5	10.57
Total	2537.5	1717.23

Table 3

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Fen management	195	71.96
Lake, riverbank restoration	126	25.61
Invasive species control	22.5	14.05
Other conservation work	148	39.16
Pollution response		1.82
Visitor site maintenance	209	287.16
Public engagement	301	45.37
Public footpath work	44	8.24
Education work	69	16.22
Total	1114.5	509.59

Team total up to 06 December 2021

Percentage Navigation: 77%

Percentage National Park: 23%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 13 December 2021

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, old River Yare Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owners' moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Sutton/Stalham cut	Landowner has removed top section of vessel. Hull is marked and an assessment made if this can be raised by the dredging rig when it is next in the area.	No	Top section removed by landowner
Workboat	River Yare, old River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owners' moorings	No	Working with owner to raise
Motor Boat	River Yare, old River Yare, Thorpe	Sunken vessel	Yes	Vessel removed
Motor Cruiser	Dove House Farm, Lower Bure	Sunken Vessel	Yes	Vessel removed
Motor Cruiser	River Wensum	Sunken Vessel	No	Owner aware and looking to raise
Motor Cruiser	River Bure	Abandoned Vessel	Yes	Owner came forward