

## **Notes of Broads Forum workshop:**

### **A Flood Management High Level Review for the Broads Climate Partnership**

3 November 2016 - Norwich City Football Club

#### Background

Flood and coastal risk management in eastern Norfolk includes major flood defence strategies for **Eccles to Winterton** (coastal), **Great Yarmouth** (tidal) and **Broadland** (tidal and rivers). While these strategies are delivering their individual objectives, decisions made in each area can affect what happens in the others. As such a more integrated approach to flood defence, possibly with a single overarching strategy for all three areas, may be more beneficial.

To consider this approach, **A Flood Management High Level Review** has been prepared by consultants CH2M for the Broads Climate Partnership. It looks at the interrelationships between the coast, Great Yarmouth and Broadland, and updates existing information and changes since the strategies for these areas were set. This includes economic, social, environmental, political and technological change, as well as predicted changes in climate and sea level rise.

The review does not include recommendations: It is a starting point for discussion with local communities and other interested groups (including the Broads Forum), and with those responsible for flood defence management in eastern Norfolk and the wider region.

#### Broads Forum workshop

The workshop was introduced by Keith Bacon (Chair, Broads Forum) and Jacquie Burgess (Chair, Broads Authority), and was facilitated by Rowena Harris (3KQ). There was a presentation on the High Level Review from Kevin Burgess from CH2M.

Workshop participants (Appendix B) worked in small groups to discuss their issues and concerns about the management of flood risk in the area. Comments were recorded on post-it notes and grouped under common themes. Participants then voted on themes or individual comments to discuss further in the following plenary session. A full transcript of the workshop sessions is in Appendix A.

#### Conclusions

The main conclusions from the workshop were about the importance and urgency of:

- (i) Engaging local and national political leaders in this vitally important issue;
- (ii) Developing an integrated strategy for the coast, Great Yarmouth and the Broadland rivers, and ensuring that future strategies take account of the whole East coast;
- (iii) Raising awareness among the public of the real risks we face in this region from increased dangers of flooding as climate change accelerates in the coming decades;
- (iv) Investigating if there are any new and innovative techniques for flood protection from elsewhere in this country and around the world; and
- (v) Gaining a better idea of the costs likely to be involved in protecting the Broads.

### Next steps

With the support of the workshop, the Chair of the Broads Authority has written to the area's MPs and to leaders of the Authority's constituent County and District Councils (Norfolk, Suffolk, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk, Norwich, South Norfolk and Waveney), suggesting that:

- (i) A meeting of the Broads Climate Partnership\* is held in December to review the main themes emerging from the workshop and to discuss next steps. This includes making sure the steering process suitably reflects relevant stakeholders.  
*(\*Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers Union, RSPB, local authorities, University of East Anglia)*
- (ii) The Chair and Chief Executive of the Broads Authority meet individually with local MPs and local authority leaders to hear their initial views on how we should engage with the general public at one end of the spectrum and the with Government on the other.
- (iii) Two meetings are held in the New Year: (a) with all relevant MPs (to be held at Westminster) and (b) with the Leaders and Chief Executives of the constituent local authorities (to be held in Norwich), to discuss how flood risk management strategy for the region should be taken forward.

Progress on these and other related actions will be reported to the Broads Forum (as a key consultation body) and published on the Broads Authority's website, together with the Flood Management High Level Review (CH2M, October 2016) and linked workshop presentation.

**9/11/16**

### **Appendix A**

**Post-it note comments (direct transcript)**

<b>Who? Roles, etc.?</b>	<b>5</b>
What role should the IDBs play in finding a solution?	
Is the IDB on board?	
Who leads and takes control of the strategy? BA to facilitate.	
Future strategy should be produced by democratically elected body	1
How involving young people?	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Governance / Process / Ownership</b>	<b>15</b>
Strategy needs to be produced by independent company with no financial interest in the result.	3
Was the tender process legal with UK and European companies asked?	3
Managing expectations?	
Ownership of strategy and of solution?	1
Localism rules ok	
Increase the momentum	
Danger of fragmentary approach	
Dynamic strategy based on evidence/time frame also up to 100 years	
One strategy or three? If it's not broke don't fix it.	
Urgent action – what follows BFAP/BESL?	
Who is going to decide what we should do [BESL] after 2021?	
Public buy in.	
How to incentivise change and avoid inertia?	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>'Soft options' or a barrier?</b>	<b>6</b>
Need to find a solution that allows land to recover from flooding.	1
Barriers are a priority - more than one.	3
What do we want a barrier for? What will it achieve?	
2013 flood event water went where it was designed to go.	
Should we be further developing existing BFAP project – enhance the work to date.	
Look at softer options consistent with National Park not just barriers or hard options.	2
Why does Environment Agency not allow the use of different types of groynes and barriers? They are used effectively in other parts of the world.	
No dredging – how managed at government level – too costly to afford it.	
Anxiety about flood alleviation banks, design and angle and how it affects navigation.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>'Stakeholders' - who is impacted?</b>	<b>1</b>
Flood alleviation design needs to be more sympathetic to navigation.	2
Wildlife is adaptable. Farming not so.	
Human cost – no reference in plan. Needs consideration.	
Restrictions on dredging are counter-productive.	
What are the key 'things' we need to protect? How to protect?	3
How to engage younger generation. These will be their issues.	3
Importance of our decisions for next generations.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

<b>Information needs</b>	<b>17</b>
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Environment: Benefits? Impacts? Opportunities?	
More information on the consistency of the climate is needed.	
Innovative solutions – sand engine	
Mistakes in report need to be corrected, e.g. RSPB not statutory body	
What do we want to preserve? How do we manage change?	
More understanding of issues by stakeholders (incl. public).	
Local knowledge – use farmers and fishermen who know about details not just outside consultants and research for decision making.	
Are we trying to move to a solution too quickly? Evidence – knowledge.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>Geographical coverage of strategy</b>	
What other flood defence measures can be included in strategy?	3
Difference between coastal and inland flooding – consider.	
Strategy needs to cover other sources of flooding, e.g. Walcott overtopping.	1
Prioritise three areas: 1. Great Yarmouth, 2. Broadland, 3. Happisburgh to Winterton	
Yarmouth is very vulnerable.	
Need to include Lowestoft.	1
Too localised on a region. UK as a whole – look at Holland and Germany.	
North Sea policy, not just the Broads.	7
Learning from the Netherlands.	2
Knowledge/learning from abroad/elsewhere in the UK	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>Saline flooding</b>	<b>13</b>
Lack of data on river levels and salinity – needed to inform any strategy.	
What should we defend against?	
Economic value of defending against saline incursion to environment.	1
Flooding is nearer/sooner than we think.	
Essential to protect fresh water.	3
Who benefits from a fresh water system?	
What would be the purpose of a barrier for saline incursion?	
Use slipper dams to stop saline incursions. Cheap alternative to a barrier.	
Hard and soft defences. Use of salt marsh for natural defence.	
Need to be pro-active rather than reactive with regards to saline flooding.	
Saline groundwater into the Upper Thurne?	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>Flood resilience</b>	<b>1</b>
How do we protect what we have now from future flooding?	
Problems caused by additional housing (policy).	3
Statutory and voluntary? Resilience and recovery.	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Costs</b>	<b>15</b>
Partnership funding.	1
Innovative approach to funding.	
The 'value' of the National Park should be given the highest weighting.	

Should find value today and then estimate future value (is cost calculation the right	
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way round?)	
Given the long period of time, will the Government cost contribution change?	1
Valuing eco-system services in CBA.	3
Funding – cost benefit calculation	
Treasury model takes no account of true community value.	5
How will partnership funding be obtained?	
Protection afforded so far – why not in future?	
Need a comprehensive cost benefit analysis including all benefits – environmental, social, tourism etc.	1
The finance data is confusing and doesn't mean anything to us.	
How is the cost/benefit calculation made?	1
Defra schemes – loss of drinking water not costed	
How do local businesses relate to the long-term focus of the report?	
Fisheries from accounts?	
What price is life – or way of life?	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>Comments about the meeting</b>	
Publicity, publicity, publicity. If people don't know they won't care.	
All fascinating. Such a complex set of issues	
Well done getting such a great set of relevant people together.	
3 hours too long, 2 ½ better?	
BA needs to maintain a strong leadership role – keep up the momentum.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

### Plenary session – flipchart notes

- Area under review: Lowestoft not included in the High Level Review as there is already an ongoing scheme in place there. However it and other adjacent areas will need to be taken into account in flood management planning in the Review area.
- Retaining a freshwater habitat: Need to define what Defra policy means by 'sustainable' in terms of keeping the Broads as a freshwater habitat

#### Funding

- Emphasis should be on first looking at what we actually want, before looking at costs - though recognise nothing will happen without funding.
- Government infrastructure costs (for such major projects) tend to escalate from original estimates.
- What will Treasury rules allow? If costs outweigh benefits, who makes the decisions?
- Consider what is done elsewhere including Thames, Ipswich, Netherlands
- Mechanism exists to factor in all costs, including environmental and social, and give them a monetary value. Ecosystem services evaluation factors in all the financial benefits of natural goods and services to society and to wildlife.
- Local communities must understand that funding has to be found from somewhere, including from them. Government will not meet all costs; large contribution needs to come from elsewhere. Local communities need to get involved early in process.
- Possible need for local precept to raise funds for local flood defence work?
- Local people should be involved in decisions as key stakeholders and potential financial contributors. Every parish will be affected by climate change and flooding and should therefore

take some responsibility. However there is a lack of awareness and a general apathy around this (climate change mitigation and adaptation) at the moment.

- Even if all parish councils partly in the Broads could contribute £10k, it would not raise a £million
- Wealth is concentrated in the cities, not in rural areas like this – but flood management should be a UK issue, not just a localized one.
- This is an issue for the whole East coast, not just Norfolk and Suffolk, but we are in competition with these areas.
- May be complacency as not much flooding in recent years in this area.
- £2.3 billion set aside for flood defence over 5 years in UK. Bids submitted every year.
- Government policy currently geared towards protecting properties, therefore having relatively few houses in this area doesn't help us. Making a 'special case' hasn't held any weight with Ministers so far. Government is starting to do ecosystem services evaluation, but it's no good to us at moment (i.e. putting forward special case on environmental grounds).
- £145 million invested in BFAP – but investment process then starts all over again.
- The approach to flood risk management is far too fragmented. Need to take large scale Government-led approach as Holland did after 1953. Can't just stop flooding in one place, it will impact somewhere else.
- Appointment of CH2M (for this Review): They have previous experience (consultation on water management framework). This report was through competitive tendering process for this and other work (normal process managed by Environment Agency across UK and Europe). Future elements of this work will go through the same tendering process.
- The report pulls together existing factual information only. It does not make recommendations.

#### Who leads process from here?

- Broads Authority in strong position to lead this process.
- Prefer elected body like County and/or District Councils.
- Broads Authority is a non-accountable body politically – accountable bodies need to take lead responsibility (e.g. local MPs, leaders of local authorities)
- Area needing flood protection is much wider than Broads Authority executive area. We must see the bigger picture and use 'Duty to Co-operate' for planning as this is a significant cross-boundary matter.
- Local politicians heavily involved in decisions about Government funding for flood risk management. Decision making should be through partnership that brings MPs into the discussion. Senior elected representatives in this area (MPs and leaders of Local Authorities) need to be pushed on this.
- Broads Authority can help lobby, but can't lead – it needs joined up responsibility across areas.
- State of flood defences in Great Yarmouth, Broads and coast all needs looking at together.
- Shoreline Management Plan – good decision making model where elected member forum has final say
- All local MPs were invited to this event; Peter Aldous and Norman Lamb have attended briefing meetings at BA, and Lord Gardiner (Minister responsible for National Parks) is being invited to the Broads to discuss this.

#### Partners to take this forward?

- Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers Union, District Councils, RSPB, University of East Anglia (all on Broads Climate Partnership); MPs, County Councils, parish councils, interest/user/amenity groups and organisations, residents, businesses, visitors.
- MPs and CEOs of County/District Councils should take the lead; BA can provide a lobbying voice

## **Appendix B**

### **Broads Forum workshop – attendance**

#### **Guests /speakers**

Stuart Barbrook, CH2M Consultants  
Kevin Burgess, CH2M Consultants  
Charlie Beardall, Environment Agency  
Mark Johnson, Environment Agency  
Kelly Fisher, Environment Agency  
Andy Miller, Natural England  
Ulysses Pasquier, UEA (PhD research)  
Rowena Harris, 3KQ (independent facilitator)

#### **Broads Forum members**

Keith Bacon, Chairman  
Michael Flett, Vice Chairman  
Andrew Alston  
Brian Barker  
Ashley Cato  
Henry Cator  
Tony Gibbons  
John Hiskett  
Philip Pearson  
Bryan Read  
Paul Savage  
Richard Starling  
Hugh Taylor  
Matthew Thwaites  
John Tibbenham  
Peter Wall

(Apologies: Julian Barnwell, Martyn Davey,  
Robin Godber, Barbara Greasley, Peter Jermy,  
John Lurkins, Jennifer Parkhouse, Simon  
Partridge, Charles Swan, Pete Waters,  
Anthony Wright)

#### **Broads Authority Members**

Jacquie Burgess, Chair  
Kelvin Allen  
John Ash  
Mike Barnard  
Louis Baugh  
Bill Dickson  
Alan Goodchild  
Gail Harris  
Brian Iles  
Guy McGregor  
Paul Rice  
Nicky Talbot  
Brian Wilkins

#### **Parish Councils**

Chris Ward, Reedham  
Christopher Marsh, Hoveton  
Colin Gould, Chedgrave  
Daphne Howlett, Rockland St Mary  
& Hellington  
George Gay, Mautby  
Glenn Neave, Barton Turf & Irstead  
Harry May, Potter Heigham  
Ian Walters, Brundall  
Jim Rampling, Norton Subcourse  
Joe Warns, Brundall  
Julie Mickleburgh, Brundall  
Keith Weston, Ditchingham  
Matthew Dinsdale, Belton & Browston  
Michael Filgate, Catfield  
Patrina Avellino, Horning  
Peter Gardner, Winterton-on-Sea

#### **Others**

Bernard Harris, Coastal Manager, GYBC  
Bill Parker, Coastal Partnership East  
Brendan Joyce, Norfolk Wildlife Trust  
Eleanor Pringle, Eastern Daily Press  
Gary Foreman, Hoveton Flood Warden  
John Currie, Broads Angling Strategy Group  
Matthew Cross, Broadland District Council  
Nick Johnson, Norfolk County Council  
Rob Wise, National Farmers Union

#### **Broads Authority officers**

John Packman, Chief Executive  
Andrea Long, Director of Planning & Resources  
Simon Hooton, Head of Strategy & Projects  
Maria Conti, Strategy & Projects Officer  
Adrian Clarke, Senior Waterways &  
Recreation Officer  
Lorna Marsh, Head of Communications  
Steve Birtles, Head of Safety Management  
Esmeralda Guds, Secretary to CEO and Chair