

Navigation Committee

22 October 2020

Agenda item number 9

Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

To provide an update on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways, and allow members to raise any such issues.

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1. Broads Authority meeting – 25 Sept 2020

Response to Covid-19 emergency and financial position

- 1.1. At the last Broads Authority meeting, members received an update on the financial impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on the Authority and the hire boat industry. The

Authority agreed with the views of the Navigation Committee and endorsed the recommendations in the report.

- 1.2. The third toll instalment for hire boat yards was paid in September as previously agreed, with the fourth and final payment delayed to 30 November. We carried out a further survey of the income for hire boat yard bookings at the beginning of October, and the results will be reported verbally under item 8 on this agenda.

Options for the use of the Capital Receipts Reserve funds

- 1.3. Authority members resolved that early repayment of the Public Works Loan Board would not be appropriate. It was agreed that officers would prepare costed plans for the improvement of the facilities at Acle Bridge for consideration by the Navigation Committee and the Broads Authority at future meetings.

Annual Meeting arrangements

- 1.4. It was agreed to cancel the Authority's Annual Meeting in 2020 and hold the next Annual Meeting in July 2021 as scheduled. Existing member appointments will be effective until that time.

2. Boat Safety Management Group meeting – 5 Oct 2020

- 2.1. The last Boat Safety Management Group (BSMG) meeting focused largely on the incidents reported during the period 1 April to 25 September 2020. As part of their investigation into the fatality at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) highlighted six issues for consideration, which the BSMG discussed. These included the tidal nature of the Broads, qualifications of boat drivers, adequacy of the handover procedure, design of boats, unsafe behaviour of some people using the waterways, and boat numbers and size.
- 2.2. Members agreed that these issues should be raised with hire boat operators, although it was noted that the issues were also relevant to private boat users. The full findings of the MAIB investigation will not be reported for several months.
- 2.3. The Head of Ranger Services is investigating practical training for hire boat operators to highlight the issues that users may face in those areas where tidal influence is stronger. This will also seek to include throwline training from the RNLI.
- 2.4. The Head of Communications informed the BSMG about future safety campaigns for new visitors to the Broads.

3. Navigation patrolling and performance targets

- 3.1. The latest update on the significant use of powers by the Rangers is shown in Appendix 1, and reflects the continued busy period since the easing of lockdown restrictions. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits up to 29 September. As noted in the last report, while the percentage of time spent on patrolling and other navigation work is typically higher in the summer, this year the percentage is above

average. Patrolling was considered a priority task during the Covid-19 lockdown period, and some of the countryside tasks have been deferred.

4. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

- 4.1. The latest position on abandoned and sunken vessels is shown in Appendix 3. Since the last report, two sunken vessels were removed on the Yare and one abandoned vessel was registered. Two further vessels sunk on the Yare within the last week and we are following these up with the owners.

5. Planning enforcement update

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

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Date of report: 09 October 2020

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 4.3

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 08 October 2020

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 03 September 2020

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis: August-September 2020

Table 1

Verbal warnings

| 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 | 27 | 10 | 2 | | | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Speed | 1136 | 149 | 187 | 91 | 29 | 37 | 39 | 18 |
| Other | 9 | 1 | 4 | | 52 | 23 | | 18 |

Table 2

Written warnings

| Written warnings | Wroxham launch | Irstead launch | Ludham launch | Ludham launch 2 | Norwich launch | Hardley Launch | Burgh St Peter launch | Breydon launch |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Care and caution | | 3 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Speed | 31 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 6 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | |
| Special directions | 26 | | | | | 1 | | |

Table 3

Launch patrols

| 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 | 55 | 38 | 34 | 40 | 41 | 38 | 41 | 58 |
| Volunteer patrols | | | | | | | | |
| IRIS reports | 5 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 14 |

Table 4

Broads Control total calls

| Contact method | Number of calls |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Telephone | 5662 |
| VHF | 820 |
| Total | 6482 |

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

Table 1

Broads Authority corporate duties

| Work area | Actual days to date |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Training | 95.54 |
| Broads Control | 137.09 |
| Team meetings, work planning | 249.80 |
| Partnership working | 3.78 |
| Assisting other sections | 19.86 |
| Billets and boatsheds | 2.70 |
| Launch – general | 1.35 |
| Trailers - general | 0 |
| Vehicle maintenance | 1.69 |
| Other equipment repair | 1.62 |
| Total | 513.43 |

Table 2

Navigation duties

| Work area | Actual days to date |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Patrolling | 539.97 |
| Escorts | 20.14 |
| Prosecution files | 17.43 |
| Bankside tree management | 27.77 |
| Obstruction removal | 6.96 |
| Channel markers and buoys | 1.01 |
| Signs and boards maintenance | 15.88 |
| Adjacent waters | 37.03 |
| Reactive mooring maintenance | 4.66 |
| Total | 670.85 |

Table 3

Conservation, recreation and countryside maintenance work areas

| Work area | Actual days to date |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fen management | 2.43 |
| Lake, riverbank restoration | 0.61 |
| Invasive species control | 3.99 |
| Other conservation work | 6.28 |
| Pollution response | 1.15 |
| Visitor site maintenance | 115.14 |
| Public engagement | 0 |
| Public footpath work | 3.78 |
| Education work | 0 |
| Total | 133.38 |

Team total up to 29 September 2020

- Navigation: 83%
- National Park: 17%

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels: position as at 08 October 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 landowner, not in the navigation | No | Monitoring |
| Motor Cruiser | River Yare, Thorpe Marshes | Unregistered vessel new to system sunk | Yes | Removed |
| Motor Cruiser | River Yare, Thorpe Marshes | Sunken vessel | Yes | Speaking to owner to raise |
| Motor Cruiser | River Yare, Thorpe Marshes | No action taken by owner by deadline | Yes | Removed |
| Motor Cruiser | River Yare, Thorpe | Vessel new to system not registered | Yes | Vessel now registered |
| Yacht | River Yare, near Chet Mouth | Vessel sunk | No | Dealing with owner |

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 03 September 2020

| Type of vessel | Vessel name | Fined | Costs awarded | Victim surcharge | Compensation |
|----------------|-------------|-------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Motor Yacht | Miracle | £440 | £150 | £44 | £227.95 |