

Parish Council Comments on Draft Strategic Priorities 2013/14

The Parish and Town Councils were consulted on the draft Broads Authority Strategic Priorities for 2013/14 on 6 February 2013. The table below details the results of this consultation.

Priority Serial Number	Objective	Parish/Town Council	Comment	Officer Comment/ Suggested Action
1.1	CC2.1 – Climate Change	Somerton Parish Council	This Parish Council has previously commented on several occasions that the greatest threat to the Broads is from North Sea surge tide events. A Yare Barrier would offer protection. However, it is understood that the Broads Authority has not included any reference to a barrier in the current draft adaptation plan, and therefore this Council does not see any point in participating in the Authority's climate change adaptation process.	<p>The engagement plan will enable an improved understanding with the public of climate change and its potential impacts. The draft adaptation plan will not be considered by the Authority until March 2014, following engagement with the public; which will hopefully draw out references to many potential mitigating solutions.</p> <p>The objective should remain, with the engagement process educating the development of the adaptation plan.</p>
2(a)3	LC3	Brundall Parish Council	The Riverside chalet's contribute considerably to the economic viability of the Brundall village infrastructure. The majority are available for weekly hire through the major Agents who handle hire boat rentals. Whilst a few have been rebuilt in the last decade to modern standards of heating and ventilation with rooms that meet building control standards, a large proportion do not meet this criteria. Although the Development Plan specifically	<p>The contribution made by the Riverside Chalet's at Brundall to the tourist economy of the Broads is acknowledged.</p> <p>These comments relate specifically to the Site Specifics Development Plan Document due to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate in Spring/Summer 2013. The document</p>

			<p>does not mention the existing footprint it is perceived that permission will not be granted for redevelopment beyond the existing footprint size. It is felt that the Area would benefit considerably from the upgrading of the older chalets to modern building regulation room sizes and standards of insulation and heating. The cost of upgrading is high and it is usually more cost effective to demolish and rebuild. This Council would wish to see indication of this view within the Development Plan and consider the Authority would be able to considerably assist the general Riverside by making specific policies conditional to redevelopment for example a lowering of fence and hedge heights to allow views from the road to the river, the construction of rubbish bin insets in the fence to prevent bins being left in the road for several weeks. The setting back of gates to improve ingress and egress, a condition to park all vehicles within the curtilage of the chalet would be most helpful. The policies should be firm to prevent the spread of UPVC replacement windows and consideration could be given to recommended colour treatment of wooden buildings and fences to halt the dreary " Brown " stain on the Landscape.</p> <p>The chalets bring several hundred people to the area during the year and the late Autumn and Spring lettings to Fishermen Artist's and Birdwatchers help our two riverside pubs and shops through what can often be a very bleak financial period.</p> <p>The hoary old subject of Flooding is often used as a reason to put off redevelopment. Most</p>	<p>is required to be in conformity with national planning policy including that on floodrisk and the approach taken in the policies as agreed by Members is supported by the Environment Agency. The Broads Authority has worked hard to convince the EA that replacement dwellings on a similar footprint are acceptable, however, increasing the footprint and therefore losing flood storage capacity has not been accepted. There is also a balance to be made between retaining the traditional Broads character of many of the chalets against the need to upgrade them for modern purposes.</p> <p>The Authority has considerable sympathy with the comments made about the general appearance of the area and how this could be improved and will consider the use of appropriate conditions for fence heights, set back gates, bin access and parking for future applications.</p> <p>The Authority is however unable to specifically condition against UPVC windows outside of listed buildings, conservation areas or where a specific Article 4 direction has been served as this would be extending beyond our planning powers.</p> <p>The objective is to remain and the</p>
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3(a)2	PE2.1	Beccles Town Council	<p>Beccles Town Council were interested to note that one of the Authority's priorities is to 'maintain effective network of visitor information centres serving the Broads'. As you may be aware the Broads Authority did operate the Broads Information Centre at the Beccles Quay up until 2010, but then withdrew due to cost cutting and has offered no funding</p>	<p>It was with regret that the Authority reduced from six to three visitor centres in 2011 as a result of the ongoing reductions to the national park grant. The Authority has undertaken to maintain the effective network of these three 'hubs' to improve the provision of facilities to</p>

			since that time to try and keep the Centre open. This therefore seems to contradict the PE2.1 objective.	the public.
4.1	Effective Engagement	Somerton Parish Council	<p>The stated outcome of “increased awareness by Local communities of Broads Authority responsibilities and issues” is a fair point. However, to this should be added “and to increase awareness and understanding by Broads Authority of local communities' concerns”.</p> <p>National Parks, unlike the Broads Authority, have 4 Parish Council members and therefore local residents have a voice. The proposal in this objective to hold parish forums will not give the local community any voice or say in the decision making process. This objective is not therefore supported by this Parish Council.</p>	<p>The Parish Forums are specifically designed to allow the Authority to listen to parish concerns and have an increased understanding of their issues to aid decision making.</p> <p>It is recommended that the outcome is amended to reflect the additional wording proposed.</p>
4.4	National Park Status	Somerton Parish Council	<p>It appears the Authority prefers ‘parish forums’ to National Park style Parish Council representation. The ideal aim should be both parish forums and having the same Parish Council representation which exists in National Parks. Without proper and effective representation, this Parish Council will object to National Park Status for The Broads.</p>	<p>The Governance arrangements of the Authority would need to be reviewed if it was to be granted National Park Status. It is hoped that such requirements will be drawn out by the proposed programme of work and consultation process.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Parish Forum idea will be trialled in the summer to gauge appetite for it from Parishes. The model the Authority is trialling is based on that used currently by the North York Moors National Park Authority and similar to that used by a number of District Councils where it is used in addition to direct representation</p>

				To note Somerton's comment for the engagement process.
4.4	National Park Status	Beccles Town Council	Beccles Town Council fully support you in trying to achieve this status as it would make such a difference to small towns on the Broads such as Beccles with regards to tourism.	To note Beccles' comment for the engagement process.

In addition Earsham, Loddon and Ludham Parish Councils and Thorpe St Andrew Town Council responded that they had no comments on the draft strategic priorities for 2013/14 but would like to continue to be consulted on these matters in future.