

## **Chief Executive's Report**

**Summary:** This report summarises the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including any decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings. It does not include matters which are already on the agenda for this meeting. Members are asked to note the report.

### **1 Network Rail**

Contact Officer Angie Leeper /Broads Plan Objective: NA5

- 1.1 Network Rail has now published the Anglia Route Study - an important milestone in the development of the railway in East Anglia. The document, part of the Long Term Planning Process (LTPP) considers the potential outputs required by the railway network within the Anglia Route in Control Period 6 (2019 – 2024), as well as further ahead up to the year 2043. It offers funders sets of choices as to how these outputs might be met, having regard to value-for-money, affordability and efficient delivery.
- 1.2 In the study under Appendix B Option Assessment, option 3 it states the option to double the single track section over Trowse Bridge and Trowse Lower Junction.
- 1.3 A copy of the full report can be found by following this link  
<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/long-term-planning-process/anglia-route-study/>
- 1.4 Network Rail are also considering the railway upgrade plan in respect of Somerleyton and Reedham swing bridges, and Mott MacDonald have been appointed to carry out a multi criteria analysis of the options and are in the process of contacting key stakeholders to participate in the process.

### **2 Toll Plaques**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Bill Housden/ None

- 2.1 At the Authority's meeting on 18 March 2016, Members considered a report on the difficulties that had occurred with ink running on some of this year's toll plaques as an item of urgent business due to the need to consider a solution and take a decision before the 1 April 2016. The options included moving to a paperless system removing the requirement to print and display a plaque, similar to the DVLA vehicle licensing system.

- 2.2 Members of the Navigation Committee, representatives of the Broads Hire Boat Federation and the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association were consulted prior to presenting proposals to the Authority. The legal issues relating to byelaws were investigated and the Solicitor advised that he was satisfied that the Authority had the freedom to act as proposed. Boat owners would still be able to renew their licence on line, by post or in person, and they would be sent a receipt, which would be proof of payment. The number of the boat and its name still has to be displayed. Consideration was also being given to developing an app for Rangers' phones so as they could check boats using a hand held device rather than laptop computers. Such a scheme could alter the way the Rangers worked enabling them to focus on other duties to the overall benefit of the Authority. Members gave consideration to the potential risks particularly that of failure to pay a toll and loss of income through evasion, and enforcement issues. However, it was clarified that the Collector of Tolls monitored the income on a regular basis and would be able to track any significant divergences, which might require remedial action.
- 2.3 The Authority considered that the proposal would be an excellent opportunity to embrace a more up to date system, but given the potential risks, including reputational risk, agreed that it be considered as a trial for a year and reviewed at or before the end of December 2016.
- 2.4 The early indications are that it has been a success and income from private boat owners is a little up on what was predicted for this year,

### **3 Tolls Review Group 2016**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Bill Housden/ None

- 3.1 The Tolls Review Group has now met on nine occasions between October 2015 and May 2016 and considered a number of options and scenarios whilst analysing the impact these would have on the entire Fleet, both private and commercial. The Group have been mindful of the complexity of the matter and the results of the Stakeholder Survey and the challenges from the Hire Boat sector.
- 3.2 A workshop for all Authority Members including the Co-opted members was held on 21 April 2016 to present the Group's initial thoughts, and to gain some feedback. Following further work, another workshop was held on 14 June 2016 to which key stakeholders were invited.
- 3.3 The second workshop aimed to provide the key organisations representing the private and commercial fleets in the Broads with a brief review of the progress being made by the Tolls Review Working Group. The Group presented the Drivers for Change, the Principles by which the TRG was working and further details on the strategic proposals for a new structure system for collection of navigation charges. Those present were invited to consult their respective organisations and provide comments by the end of July.

- 3.4 A report was presented to the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 5 July 2016 which was reported in the EDP. The Navigation Committee will be consulted on the Working Group's proposals at its meeting on 8 September before it goes to the Broads Authority for approval on 30 September.

#### **4 Royal Norfolk Show - 29 and 30 June 2016**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: Lorna Marsh/PE1/PE2

- 4.1 Members will recall that the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association (RNAA) invited the Authority to coordinate exhibits to create a "Broads village" at this year's Norfolk Show in order to promote the special qualities of the Broads to local people, highlight it as an important resource in the County and showcase all those involved in various ways with it.
- 4.2 We were delighted with the response from colleagues in Broads' organisations – both charities and companies – who agreed to join us. The result was that the Broads Village was a huge success both in terms of the feedback from the stall holders, the view of the RNAA and the general public. The Authority's stand, included the boat Liana and the fen harvester to prompt discussions on sustainability and management of the fens. The highlight of our attendance was a visit by HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cambridge and receiving the Somerleyton Cup for the most effective conservation or environmental exhibit.

#### **5 Tesco "Bags for Help" Award**

- 5.1 The Authority has won an award of £12,000 from the Tesco "Bags for Help" scheme. This will be for the construction of a new wildlife pond at Whitlingham Country Park for pond dipping, educational visits and the relocation of the low ropes course, originally funded by South Norfolk Council, to the Outdoor Education Centre.

#### **6. Waste Disposal Review**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Angie Leeper/ TR2.2

- 6.1 Officers have been in discussion with the local councils in respect of the ongoing concerns regarding waste provision in the Broads. A member workshop has been arranged for the 15 July to consider the current situation and options for the future and an update will be given at the meeting.

#### **7 National Parks Plan**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/ None

- 7.1 On 23 March Liz Truss, the Secretary of State for the Environment, launched an 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks in the South Downs. A copy of the Plan can be found at the Defra website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plan-for-national-parks-gives-every-schoolchild-a-chance-to-visit>

The Plan is heavily focused on the second National Park purpose, in the Broads Authority's case: – "promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public". The Plan is born out of Ministers' enthusiasm and support for National Parks and the work of the authorities. It is very much their plan but nevertheless fits rather well into much of what the Authority is already doing or plans to do. The Plan includes a case study from our Landscape Partnership Scheme, "Going the Extra Mile", referenced on page 16.

- 7.2 There are no additional resources provided for the delivery of the objectives in the Plan but rather that they will be delivered through the collective effort of the 9 national park authorities and the Broads Authority. Park authorities will focus their attention on different elements of the Plan so that it does not mean that there is an imperative to change direction but rather consider how the National Park Plan relates to the priorities in the Authority's emerging new Broads Plan. Therefore, the relevant items in the National Parks Plan will be considered alongside the review of the Broads Plan in the Autumn.

## **8 Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Broads 2016 – 2020**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lorna Marsh/Bruce Hanson/ TR1

- 8.1 Members will recall that you received the Draft Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism at your meeting on 4 February and provided the Authority with comments. At the Authority meeting on 13 May 2016, the Authority received, welcomed and adopted the final version of the Strategy and Action Plan. The Authority considered the consultee responses received following the five week consultation period together with the response from the Habitats Regulations Assessment which confirmed that the strategy conformed with the required legislation.
- 8.2 The three top priorities identified within the Strategy for completion in year one are:
- To develop and maintain a high quality up to date destination website
  - To develop and maintain a strong digital/social media presence and PR Activity
  - To develop and package high profile wildlife experiences

The Authority will be working closely with Broads Tourism in the delivery of the actions. The consultation responses and final plan may be viewed from our website:

[http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/756926/Sustainable-Tourism-Strategy-0416.pdf](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/756926/Sustainable-Tourism-Strategy-0416.pdf)

## 9. National Park Partnership

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/ None

- 9.1 The National Park Partnership was launched on Monday 9 May 2016, details of which can be found via the Authority's website. <http://www.nationalparks.co.uk/>  
The new board was pursuing a number of possible sponsorship ideas examples of which included outdoor clothing companies, retailers and vehicle manufacturers. The initiative has already helped the Authority and as a result active discussions are taking place with one of the major supermarket companies about how it might support the Authority's catchment work.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objectives: Multiple

Appendices: None