

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 08 February 2021

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Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Donna Deane- Natural England, Emma Dixon -IDB Peter Doktor- Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, Gavin Rumsey - Environment Agency, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Charlotte Hounsell- Norwich City Council, John Jones – Norfolk County Council, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes),

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Rob Goodliffe, Simon Curl, Phil Pearson and Shirley Bishop

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed attendees to the remote meeting and welcomed new officer, Charlotte Hounsell, Norwich City Council to the Initiative Project Team (IPT) As well as Donna Dean from Natural England in support of Andy Millar.

2. Update on communications and community engagement

Kellie Fisher (KF) and Gavin Rumsey (GR) provided a recap and update on BFI, for the benefit of the new officers, including:

- What is the Broadland Futures Initiative?
- Partnership
- Governance Update
- The Stages in BFI Development
- Study Reports Available Now
- 2019-2020 Engagement Activity

Engagement Update

- Online survey launched 18th January until 11th April. As well as online, stakeholders can also participate via postal submissions or telephone with a member of the BFI project team.
- Virtual exhibition includes 2 videos about flood modelling and the impacts of dredging in the Broads. KF highlighted that these were mentioned at recent Virtual meeting with Somerton PC.
- Videos and StoryMaps allow visitors to explore different levels specific to their location.
- Virtual Village Hall Events to be held online with 3 dates bookable via Broads Authority BFI webpage on 17th February, 10 March, 24 March (7.30-8.15pm).
- Engagement Promotion- newsletter, social media, IPT minutes, press releases and dedicated BFI webpage.

- 80 responses to the online survey have been received so far. The BFI webpage has attracted 625 visits and 342 link downloads. BFI posts via Broads Authority Facebook have reached 2900 users and 1080 impressions on Twitter. (Accurate as 08.02.21).
- Next Steps
 - Establish increasing connections with those organisations and individuals that come forward from engagement activities.
 - Focus engagement activity to specific demographic groups.
 - Continue to produce technical baseline reports.
 - Share a regular newsletter on progress of the initiative with key stakeholders.
 - Maintain close links with EA Future Fens Project (Cambs and Beds).
 - Embed democratic involvement and governance structure by convening the Elected Members Forum.
 - Continue to collect evidence and material with support from consultant.

Comments

- Identifying the location of visitors to the exhibition and online survey will not always be clear due to individual users' security settings, this will be taken into consideration when reviewing the data. Where participants opt to leave their details we can identify their location.
- The Christmas flooding in the Waveney Valley was a reminder that fluvial events can be just as devastating as tidal events. The stakeholder engagement in the New Year was adjusted to acknowledge the flooding as well as provide support for anyone affected, and additional FAQs were added to the BFI webpage.
- There were increased interest and enquiries regarding BFI due to the flooding in the Waveney Valley. Beccles Town Council have called for a strategic approach against future flooding.
- Tas Valley experienced similar flooding but sits outside of the BFI area. Nevertheless, learning and experiences can be shared for the benefit of additional areas and BFI.
- Donna Deane (DD) offered to help with education provider contacts.
- The minimum sign-ups for the first village hall event on 17th February has been met. Rob Wise (RW) agreed to continue circulating the engagement promotion materials fortnightly with NFU members.

3. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) noted that launching virtual exhibition and the online survey was a major milestone, however there are still several products outstanding:

Product 8

Existing key data sources and indicators for the plan area, for example the use of citizen science. Work is planned to take place between May- August 2021.

Product 11

Objectives for the plan to be confirmed by the Elected Members Forum (EMF). Significant input will come from the results of the stakeholder engagement, together with other sources, in order to shape recommendations to the EMF. Aim is to complete the work by July 2021.

Product 12

The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection. Derived from the objectives the methodology will be used during stage 2 of the project and beyond. Work on this product will commence in May and complete in August 2021.

Product 13

An introduction letter about the SEA scoping process has been circulated to the IPT members and others. The final scoping report is due to be completed by August 2021.

Salinity review

The process has been started, however the data available is fairly disperse. PD welcomes any ideas for how the information can be brought together and the work can be scoped for Jacobs from the IPT.

RW noted that currently there is only a brief mention of large-scale events such as overtopping which would have a large long-term impact on croplands. The gradual increase of salinity must also be highlighted.

PD agreed to follow up the draft salinity report with Alison Parnell.

Hydraulic modelling

The contract for development of the new modelling is due to be awarded by March 2021. In relation to scoping possible new coastal process modelling Jacobs have considered the Bacton to Walcott sandscaping work.

Breydon Water level gauges

Breydon has a key role of the hydraulic behaviours in Broadland waters. 3 new water level gauges are due to be installed by spring 2021.

4. Elected Members Forum

MPT confirmed that 6 of the 9 local authorities have confirmed their member representation. Outstanding are:

- East Suffolk District Council
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Suffolk County Council

Mark Johnson (MJ) agreed to follow up East Suffolk DC and Great Yarmouth BC with Rob Goodliffe (RG) in a separate meeting.

The IPT agreed to wait until all members have been confirmed before setting a date for the first EMF meeting. Members will require briefing and a review of our stakeholder engagement before considering objective setting.

5. Set meeting dates

IPT agreed the following meeting dates for 2021/2022.

Monday 19 April 2021 10.30-12.30pm
Monday 14 June 2021 10.30-12.30pm
Monday 16 August 2021 10.30-12.30pm
Monday 18 October 2021 10.30-12.30pm
Monday 13 December 2021 10.30-12.30pm
Monday 7 February 2022 10.30-12.30pm

6. AOB

KF presented BFI at the Somerton Parish Council meeting on 2nd February 2021. The presentation was received positively and a good number of questions were put forward. Topics included: Shoreline Management Plan policy, face to face meetings, dredging, future capital investment and a BFI letter drop for all households located within a flood zone area. Hemsby Parish Council have requested a similar presentation.

The IPT noted that previously promotional material has been circulated with Council Tax statements and local election information. 1800-1900 households sit within the BFI plan area and could be sent a letter using one of the above mail shops.

Broads Local Access Forum have requested a presentation, KF and GR will be presenting on 10th March 2021.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) have attended BFI meetings in the past, but currently do not have any representation. MPT agreed to contact NWT to enquire if they would still like to be involved with BFI.

Andrea Kelly has been producing a Nature Recovery Plan of which the BFI has been built in. DD suggested a presentation of the Nature Recovery Network at a future BFI meeting would be beneficial.

Water Resources East (WRE) are currently recruiting a Norfolk Water Strategy Programme Manager, IPT agreed to invite them to the June meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 19 April 2021 10.30am via video conference.

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
PD to follow up the draft salinity report with Alison Parnell.	08/02/2021	PD
MJ to follow up outstanding EMF members with RG	08/02/2021	MJ
MPT to contact NWT for future IPT attendance.	08/02/2021	MPT