

**Annual Report of the Local Access Forum**  
Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

**Summary:** Since its inception in 2003 the Local Access Forum has, in accordance with the relevant government regulations, submitted a report to the annual meeting of the Broads Authority setting out its activities in the year. The draft annual report is attached and members are invited to consider it prior to its submission to the Authority.

**Recommendation:** To approve the draft report for submission to the Authority.

**1 Requirement to Produce an Annual Report**

1.1 Since its inception in 2003 the Local Access Forum has submitted a report to the annual meeting of the Broads Authority setting out its activities during the year. The relevant section of the recent Guidance sets out the statutory requirement as follows:

“Regulation 13 requires every forum to produce an annual report on the discharge of its functions. The report should set out the main issues and occasions on which the forum has given advice during the year, and indicate the bodies to whom advice was given. The report may also:

- review how effective the forum was in meeting its own criteria for measuring success or effectiveness and completing its forward work programme;
- identify the forum members and the interests they represent;
- give information on the meetings held and the main issues discussed;
- give information on any training events held;
- summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies;
- identify issues which posed a particular challenge for the forum; and
- address other issues relevant to the work of the forum.”

1.2 The Regulations require the appointing authority to:

- (a) publish the annual report, and
- (b) send a copy to the Natural England within 21 days of publication. (This information will be used to assist Natural England in delivering its own functions, and in supporting forums (e.g. through training)).

## **2 Draft Annual Report**

- 2.1 The draft annual report is attached to this covering report as Appendix 1. Members are asked to consider both the report and whether they wish to make any additions/amendments prior to its consideration by the Broads Authority on 13 July 2012.

Background papers: Minutes of the Local Access Forum

Author: Adrian Clarke  
Date of report: 10 May 2012

Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Draft Annual Report of the Local Access Forum to the Broads Authority

## APPENDIX 1

**Broads Authority**  
13 July 2012  
Agenda Item No

### **Annual Report of the Broads Local Access Forum** Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

**Summary:** This report presents for members' information the key matters considered by the Broads Local Access Forum during the last year relating to the development and improvement of public access within the Broads.

**Recommendation:** That the work of the Forum be noted.

#### **1 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the key matters considered by the Broads Local Access Forum during the last year relating to the development and improvement of public access within the Broads.

#### **2 Annual Report**

2.1 An edited report of the activities of the Broads Local Access Forum during the past year is attached to this covering report as Appendix A.

2.2 The complete Annual Report can be accessed via the web link below:

(Link to be inserted)

Background papers: Minutes of the Local Access Forum

Author: Adrian Clarke

Date of Report: 10 May 2012

Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: APPENDIX A – Edited report of the activities of the Broads Local Access Forum during the last year

## What has happened during the year?

### **1.1 The Forum at work**

The Forum has delivered its purpose in a number of ways:

- i. The Forum has held three public meetings to agree its advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations.
- ii. The Forum provides representation on the Broads Forum and the Norfolk Local Access Forum.
- iii. Forum members provide advice by individual correspondence on consultation documents.
- iv. The Forum has held two site visits to give members an opportunity to see at first hand “issues on the ground” and give advice.
- v. The chairman attended a National Local Access Forum Conference with other local access forums to consider and better understand areas of common concern and ways of partnership working.
- vi. Forum members are expected to use and develop their own networks of contacts to gather information and opinion, and to offer advice and information on access.

### **1.2 Challenges Faced by the Forum**

The Forum faced the following challenges:

- The reduction of funding for maintenance of rights of way by local authorities generally.
- The withdrawal of funding for access agreements in agri-environment schemes.
- The reduction in support from Natural England.

### **1.3 Advising the Broads Authority**

The Forum has given advice on the following issues:

- National Park Authorities Performance Assessment
- Scoping of the Broads Integrated Access Strategy
- Re-prioritisation of the Broads Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Advising the Broads Authority on its review of countryside access management
- Paths for Communities
- Broads Outdoors Festival.

## **1.4 Responding to Consultations**

The Forum has responded to the following consultations:

- Greater Norwich's Green Infrastructure - Community Infrastructure Levy
- Changes to National Park Governance
- Village Greens Registration
- National Planning Policy Framework.

## **1.5 Access Reports**

The Forum has received the following access reports:

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review: Moving Towards an Integrated Access Strategy for the Broads
- Norfolk Trails Partnership Update
- Wensum River Parkway Update
- Review of Broads Authority Footpath Maintenance
- Ferry Proposal for the Deal Ground Development
- GIS Mapping System.

## **1.6 Partnership Working**

- Great Yarmouth Tourism
- National Local Access Forum Conference

## **1.7 Site Visits**

- Access improvement works, Whitlingham Country Park
- Easy access links, Loddon

## **1.8 Observers and Advisers to the Forum**

The Forum has received reports and advice from:

- Tim Lidstone-Scott, Norfolk County Council
- Anna Mangini, Regional Local Access Forums Co-ordinator
- Alex Hartley, Wensum River Parkway
- Peter Howe, Anglia Boatbuilders Association
- Alan Carr, Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Sarah Abercrombie, Norfolk County Council
- Trudi Wakelin, Broads Authority
- Simon Hooton, Broads Authority
- Fergus Bootman, Broads Authority
- Adrian Clarke, Broads Authority
- Russell Wilson, Broads Authority