

River Wensum Strategy update

Report by Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report provides members with an update on the work being carried out on the production of a management strategy for the River Wensum through Norwich.

Recommendation: That members note the contents of the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Broads Authority is working in partnership with Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and the Environment Agency and the Norwich Society to produce a management strategy for the River Wensum through the City of Norwich. One of the clear aims of the strategy is to identify potential projects for inclusion in an action plan that will enhance the river corridor and encourage greater activity on the river to the benefit of the local economy. It is anticipated that a number of the projects that are included in the strategy action plan will be access related and therefore the Broads Local Access Forum will be a major consultee in the process.

2 Progress

- 2.1 The initial work on the strategy is being undertaken by a joint officer working group which has been meeting since December with the aim of producing a final strategy document this financial year. The working group has initially carried out a major mapping exercise to identify things like existing structures on the river, landownership, management responsibilities and land designations. This has been produced on GIS with the intention of using a range of maps in a public consultation exercise to seek people's views as to what types of enhancement projects they would like to see on the river.
- 2.2 An internal officer consultation has also been undertaken in each of the organisations involved in order to define the scope of the strategy, what its aims and objectives should be and to seek ideas for enhancement projects. The information gathered in this exercise has been recorded as a SWOT analysis for the entire length of the river from Hellesdon Mill to Whitlingham Country Park.
- 2.3 Now that the views of the partnership members have been gathered through the internal consultation exercise work a wider public consultation is being carried out. A consultation data base has been prepared which includes all the major organisations and user groups who have an interest in the river and

work is now being carried out on planning the consultation. The initial idea is to have at least one open public consultation event and an online consultation.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 The proposed strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of access enhancements on the River Wensum. In view of the role of the BLAF it is proposed that further detailed reports will be brought to the Forum throughout the consultation process and members will be invited to attend the open consultation event which is likely to take place in June or July.

Background papers:	Nil
Author:	Adrian Clarke
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Broads Plan Objectives:	None
Appendices:	Nil