

Broads Authority
Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 05 December 2018

Present:

Dr Keith Bacon (Chairman)

Mr Kelvin Allen	Dr Peter Mason
Mr Louis Baugh	Mr Stephen Read
Miss Liz Brooks	Mr George Saunders
Mr Tony Gibbons	Mrs Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro
Mrs Dawn Hatton	Mr Chris Yardley

In Attendance

Ms Lottie Carlton – Administrative Officer
Mr Adrian Clarke – Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer (SWRO)
Mr Simon Hooton – Head of Strategy and Projects
Mr Mark King - Waterways and Recreation Officer (WRO)

2/1 To receive apologies for absence and welcome new members

Mr Mike Flett, Mr Alec Hartley, Mr Charles Swan and Mr Martin Symons sent their apologies. The SWRO welcomed members to the meeting.

2/2 To receive declarations of interest

Mrs Vigo di Gallidoro declared an interest in relation to her role as Chairman of the Broads Authority Planning Committee and involvement as a facilitator at the Broads Engage event. Mr Baugh declared an interest in relation to item 2/8 regarding point 1.48 of the report and parts of the presentation due to personal financial interests.

2/3 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Dr Keith Bacon was nominated for the position of Chairman of the Broads Local Access Forum. There were no other nominations. Members voted unanimously to appoint Dr Bacon to this role.

Mr Alec Hartley, although not present at the meeting, had indicated he would be willing for the Forum to nominate him for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Broads Local Access Forum. Mr Hartley was the only nomination. Members voted unanimously to appoint Mr Hartley.

2/4 Review of BLAF membership

The SWRO gave a presentation reviewing membership of the BLAF.

Membership is due for renewal. Members are welcome to put themselves forward to continue their membership for a further three-year term. Members agreed to email the Forum Secretary with their intentions.

Following resignations this year, there are 19 members, although one member has not attended a meeting since 2016.

The Forum agreed to advertise for three new members to cover the areas of tourism business, nature conservation and entry level craft.

2/5 Receive and confirm the 05 Sept 2018 minutes

The Forum approved the minutes which the Chairman signed.

2/6 Matters arising from the minutes

(1) Minute 1/4 (1) How Hill Footpath

EA inspected the bridge. They are likely to finish work to bring the bridge up to standards by February 2019.

(2) Minute 1/4 (2) River Wensum Strategy

Invitations to the official launch go out in the New Year.

Project work: Planning applications are in for the New Mills canoe platforms; discussions between Norwich City Council and Norwich City Football Club are taking place regarding the moorings project near the football ground and a UEA post-graduate student completed a riverside biodiversity audit under the direction of Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

(3) Minute 1/4 (4) Staithes Report

All parish councils and others responsible for staithes had the chance to review the report and provide feedback. Thorpe St Andrew agreed wording changes to a section of the report. After a final proof read the report can be published.

Publicity would include clear attribution for the report to Prof Tom Williamson, UEA.

(4) Minute 1/4 (5) Wherryman's Way – Phase 2

Following completion of the Phase 1 hydraulic modelling work, BA has received a quote for Phase 2. This involves upgrading a model to show effects of various work options. The Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council are contributing funding to Phase 2, but are also asking for

contributions from the Environment Agency, the Parish Council and South Norfolk Council. Commissioning of Phase 2 work will take place after this.

2/7 Norfolk County Council update

No representative from Norfolk County Council was available.

2/8 Broads Engage update and Review of Broads Integrated Access Strategy

The Broads Engage event took place on November 6th and focussed on Access.

65 people took part and feedback was good. The Broads Authority, with help from the Forum, will analyse suggestions made by attendees and decide which to include in the review of the Broads Integrated Access Strategy.

Some suggestions were already known, some were new, some were known not to be possible and others give potential to work up the ideas.

Norfolk County are keen to work in partnership with the Broads Authority on the delivery of the new Norfolk Access Improvement Plan including shared routes and access for all/audits.

Two Broads Engage events will take place per year. The next is due to take place in March/April 2019. The Broads Authority has not yet confirmed the topic but this could be Education or Biodiversity Strategy.

Comments and answers to questions:

- It could be useful to identify previous stewardship scheme permissive paths.
- The sustainable travel list should include trains.
- If suggestions fall outside the National Park boundary but provide connectivity of strategic missing links, the Integrated Access Strategy can still include them.
- Linking circular walks with permissive paths: Deciding who is best placed to deal with landowners to speed up the process should be based on a case by case basis. Sometimes the relationship is difficult between the landowner and parish council and Broads Authority is the better negotiator, at other times there is already a good relationship that and the Parish Council taking the lead is the preferred option. The Forum prefers a sequential approach: PROW as preference, then Permissive Paths. Multiple landowners for a single permissive path create extra difficulties and delays which need to be factored in.
- Various national events could have impacts on access: Glover Review of National Parks, Brexit, resulting changes to agri-environment schemes.

The SWRO agreed to check details on creation of new PROW within the Broads area and the issue of compensation payments made to landowners.

The SWRO agreed to circulate a link for the Glover Review of National Parks consultation (ending 18th December).

The SWRO agreed to draw together a draft review document for Forum members to provide comment on.

2/9 Aston Rowant National Land Access Centre

The SWRO gave a presentation updating Forum members on the new Aston Rowant National Land Access Centre which opened in September 2018.

The centre aims to highlight best practise for surfaces, gates and gaps via a series of trails. Good vs bad examples will show how to make improvements and easier access for all.

The centre took on board comments received during the BSI Gaps, Gates and Stiles consultation, plus advice from various organisations and businesses with specific expertise.

The centre is keen for people to visit and 'road test' the trails.

The Government's MAGIC website with interactive mapping of the national environment is also a useful tool. <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

2/10 Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The National Survey on People and the National Environment

The SWRO gave a presentation highlighting relevant sections of the Natural England survey that monitors people's engagement with the natural environment.

Many interesting facts and statistics in the report show an increasing trend towards more frequent use of natural environments and a desire to learn more about and protect such areas.

Barriers to accessing the natural environment include disposable income, access to transport, time factors (caring responsibilities/work) and poor health.

Comments and answers to questions:

- Pathmakers engaged UEA to answer some of the questions raised.
- The survey will be useful to help guide the Forum's work.
- There is a need to overcome perceptions that the natural environment 'is not for people like me' and to raise understanding. Projects like the Water, Mills and Marshes English Plus grant to help take immigrants on a visit to Hoveton Great Broad and MOSAIC (now finished) encourage people to get out in the natural environment and feel they belong. It helps to show photos of a wide range of people so that everyone can relate to what they are seeing on a personal level.

- It was encouraging to learn that even when people do not, or cannot, use the natural environment themselves an overwhelming 93% said they felt green space was important and should be protected.

The SWRO agreed to circulate the full report to Forum members.

2/11 Any other business

The Forum's response to the Food and Farming consultation was well received as it encompassed landscape and agri-environment issues relating to access. Members were complimentary of the letter's contents.

2/12 To note the date of the next meeting

The date for the next meeting is Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 2pm.

The meeting ended at 4pm.

Chairman