

# Navigation Committee

20 October 2022

Agenda item number 7

## Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

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### Purpose

To provide a briefing on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The past few weeks have highlighted the tremendous economic uncertainty that the country faces with rising levels of inflation, increasing interest and mortgage rates and worries about the level of public expenditure and the financing of debt.
- 1.2. Inflation is having a significant impact on the Authority's expenditure through the cost of raw materials such as wood, steel, diesel and aggregates. The offer of salary increases of £1,925 for all local authority employees would represent a 6.2% overall increase in the Broads Authority's wage bill. That is well above the 2% budgeted for 2022/23.
- 1.3. The Authority is also awaiting the outcome of the review of pensions and monitoring closely the number of boats registered on the Broads. Recent improvements in the

processing of tolls means that a decision on next year's navigation charges can be put on a new timescale and it has been decided, in the light of the rapidly moving economic situation, to consult the Committee on next year's charges on January 12 before the Authority takes a decision on January 20. With the new streamlined arrangements this leaves plenty of time for the circulation of toll reminders by post and email ready for the new financial year.

## **2. Navigation patrolling and performance targets**

- 2.1. The average navigation/countryside splits for the year it set out in Appendix 2. The figures show an 83% Navigation, 17% Countryside split. This variance in the planned programme was due to staff illness and a vacancy in the team mid-season. During the winter works program the variance will be corrected.

## **3. Sunken and abandoned vessel update**

- 3.1. The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 3. The newly sunken vessel is in the process of being recovered by the owner. The vessel sunk at the Stalham/ Sutton Junction was not able to be recovered by the dredging rig. As it is outside the channel and not affecting the navigation this vessel will be marked but left for landowner to manage. Three Abandoned Vessel Notices have been issued over this period.

## **4. Planning enforcement update**

- 4.1. There are no further enforcement matters with navigation implications to report.

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 07 October 2022

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties total time allocated and actual days

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 06 October 2022  
06/10/2022

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 09/06/2022  
09/06/2022

## Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis

**Table 1**

<b>Verbal warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b> Wroxham and upper Bure	<b>Irstead launch</b> Ant	<b>Ludham launch</b> Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	<b>Ludham launch 2</b> lower Thurne and lower Bure	<b>Norwich launch</b> Norwich and upper Yare	<b>Hardley Launch</b> Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b> Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	<b>Breydon launch</b> Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	40	7	1	13	6	10		
Speed	672	384	127	68	43	78		30
Other	82	66	6	14	22	8		1

**Table 2**

<b>Written warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b>	<b>Irstead launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch 2</b>	<b>Norwich launch</b>	<b>Hardley Launch</b>	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b>	<b>Breydon launch</b>
Care and caution	1	1	3					1
Speed	5	3	1				1	1
Other	1	2	4		3	2	2	1
Special directions		25	7		6			

**Table 3**

Launch patrols	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Launch staffed by ranger	21	25	28	16	30	30	21	27
Volunteer patrols								
IRIS reports	7	4	4	3	8	2	4	9

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	3147
VHF	429
<b>Total</b>	<b>3576</b>

## Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days

**Table 1**

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Training	134	83.14
Broads Control	362	160.34
Team meetings, work planning	356	117.16
Partnership working	76	16.49
Assisting other sections	76	24.39
Billets and boatsheds	25	4.80
Launch – general		1.49
Trailers - general		0.00
Vehicle maintenance		2.16
Other equipment repair		3.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>635.84</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Annual allocation (days)	Actual days to date
Patrolling	2136	1098.48
Escorts	49	14.93
Prosecution files	0	4.93
Bankside tree management	53	11.22
Obstruction removal	36	2.30
Channel markers and buoys	25	10.14
Signs and boards maintenance	34	14.63
Adjacent waters	100	42.64
Reactive mooring maintenance	104.5	2.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537.5</b>	<b>1202.03</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Annual allocation (days)</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	195	7.97
Lake, riverbank restoration	126	3.24
Invasive species control	22.5	8.65
Other conservation work	148	20.74
Pollution response		1.96
Visitor site maintenance	209	140.72
Public footpath work	44	10.10
Education work	69	6.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1114.5</b>	<b>249.51</b>

**Team total up to 05 October 2022**

Percentage Navigation: 83%

Percentage National Park: 17%

## Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels current position as at 06 October 2022

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	Old River Yare, Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Sutton/Stalham cut	Not able to raise hull with dredging rig. Not affecting the navigation.	No	Vessel marked
Motor Cruiser	River Yare	Vessel Sunk at owners mooring	No	Chasing insurance details.
Motor vessel	River Ant	Unregistered vessel on How Hill 24 hour mooring	Yes	Possible owner failed to come forward with any details or register, vessel to be sold.
Aux Yacht	River Waveney	Unregistered vessel, trespass mooring	Yes	No owner came forward, vessel removed.
Aux Yacht	River Yare	Unregistered vessel	Yes	Owner came forward.

## Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 09 June 2022

Type of vessel	Vessel name	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor plus dingy		£25.00	£0.00	£34.00	£378.82
Motor		£800.00	£660.00	£100.00	£740.00