

Chief Executive's Report

Summary: This report summarises the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including any decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings.

1. BA Follow up: 26 January 2018

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Sandra Beckett/None

In addition to the usual business at the Authority's meeting on 26 January 2018, the Authority received a number of detailed and interesting presentations on Natural Capital Accounting, The Broads Water Plant Survey Results for 2017 and the Norwich Local Plan.

1.1. Natural Capital Accounting

Professor Kerry Turner from CSERGE at the University of East Anglia, a former Chairman of the Authority and a leading environmental economist provided a presentation on the basic principles of Natural Capital Accounting, the concept of which has particular relevance for the Broads and the Authority's core business and was becoming more important to the economy of the 21st century. The approach goes beyond the consideration of the Gross Domestic Product being the measure of the wealth of a nation, by taking account of natural assets, land-use categories, ecosystem services, sustainability and ultimately welfare and wellbeing benefits. This was exemplified in the Balance Sheet approach through which the question of pressures and drivers and potential adverse impact on the environment and risks could be assessed. The presentation prompted an interesting debate on its potential application in the Broads with members recognising the complexities, that there would be some element of subjectivity but it should help to achieve a more objective approach to decision making. The need to work in collaboration with partners was also recognised. It was noted that the approach was still being developed and could be of excellent value in the future.

1.2. Broads Water Plant Survey Results 2017

The Environment and Design Supervisor gave the Authority a presentation to complement the report on the Broads Water Plant Survey Results carried out during the summer of 2017. The report and full survey are available from the Authority's website. [Broads-Water-Plant-Survey—Report](#)

Members were pleased to note that the methods being used were proving

to be very useful in helping to establish impacts as well as trends and prioritise where work was required and therefore assist in sustainable management and balancing navigational access and ecological function. The resources required for the surveys were highlighted, together with the acknowledgement of the valuable input from volunteers. Members are welcome to volunteer to help with the surveys and full training will be provided.

1.3. **Greater Norwich Local Plan –First Consultation Stage**

Mike Burrell from Norwich City Council gave a presentation providing a comprehensive overview on the Greater Norwich Local Plan and the consultation process. The plan built on the long established joint working relationships set up under the Greater Norwich Development Partnership involving Norwich City, Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils working with Norfolk County Council in association with the Broads Authority. It was aimed at planning for the housing needs and jobs required for the Greater Norwich area up to 2036, and was designed to set the strategic planning policies to guide future development.

The first draft version was open for consultation from 8 January to 15 March 2018 with documents available electronically and a series of public roadshows. The consultation is designed to ask questions, not to provide answers. The Authority agreed to authorise the Planning Committee to consider and submit representations on behalf of the Authority and a full report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 March 2018. The consultation responses will inform the next version which will be the pre-submission consultation version of the Local Plan. The Authority will again be consulted possibly near the start of 2020.

Details of the Greater Norwich Local Plan are available from the following links:

[Greater-Norwich-Local-Planba260118](http://www.gnlp.org.uk/)
<http://www.gnlp.org.uk/>

1.4. **Strategic Direction – Strategic Priorities update 2017/18 and Strategic Priorities for 2018/19**

The Authority received an update on the Strategic Priorities for 2017/18 and agreed in outline the proposed Strategic Priorities for the forthcoming year 2018/19, accepting that these built on the successful bids for the two major programmes of CANAPE and the Water Mills and Marshes and the resulting significant commitment on the Authority's resources for their delivery. The other major pieces of work include:

- Broadland Futures (Integrated flood risk management) - Develop joint programme of work with the Environment Agency
- Catchment Management - Continue engagement with landowners and delivery of on-site projects
- External funding - Develop a strategic overview for external funding and capacity building

- Marketing, promotion and media relations - Take forward branding initiatives and implement Peer Review recommendations
- Peer Review - Prepare Action Plan to implement the recommendations from the Peer Review Team and outcomes from the Member Away Day on 30 January 2018
- Acle Bridge - Establish Member Group and develop a brief for the development of the site.

In addition, following a meeting of National Parks England and a meeting with the Minister of National Parks, Lord Gardiner, it became apparent that there was an urgency to highlight the special qualities and unique challenges facing the Authority in relation to the agri-environment especially following Brexit. Areas were being invited to bid for pilot studies to review how new payment schemes to farmers might be organized and implemented post Brexit. Although the Authority would be working with the other national parks and working within the National Parks England common framework, it was noted that many of the other national parks were in upland areas, whereas the lowland wet grassland in the Broads was very different and unique in that it had areas of key environmental habitat and species juxtaposed with areas of intensive agriculture. Therefore the Authority agreed that a pilot scheme be developed in association with other stakeholder organisations to respond to Defra's call for a proposal by the end of February 2018.

1.5. **Budget 2018/19 and Financial Strategy to 2020/21**

The Authority agreed the Budget for 2018/19 taking account of the 3% increase in navigation charges for 2108/19 and an assumption of a 2.5% per annum increase in the subsequent two years. Since providing the outline budget to the Authority in November and presentation to the Navigation Committee in December, the budget has been adjusted to allow for a 2% increase in salaries for April 2018 to March 2019, in light of current negotiations. However, the final settlement was yet to be determined. It was noted that officers would be examining the level of reserves and giving preliminary thought to the type of long term projects in which the Authority should be investing and the allocations required, particularly in light of the need for sustainability, prior to reporting back to the Authority. A full report on the Budget may be viewed on the website. [Report-on-Budget-2018/19-to-Broads-Authority260118](#)

1.6. **Acle Bridge Site**

The Authority agreed to establish a small working group of members to work with officers to develop plans for the Acle Bridge site, the potential for which would need to be discussed with third parties. The following members who volunteered were appointed: James Bensly, Mathew Bradbury, Bill Dickson, Bruce Keith, Nicky Talbot, and Haydn Thirtle. The first meeting has been arranged for 14 February 2018.

1.7. **Review of Audio Recording of Broads Authority Meetings**

The Authority considered that the use of audio recordings for its Committee meetings had achieved the specific purpose for which they had been trialled in helping to improve the accuracy of minutes, in resolving any disputes and reducing the number of challenges which had taken a considerable amount. They agreed that the use of audio recording of meetings be continued and copies provided to members of the public on request. It was also agreed that the recordings would be destroyed after two years from the date of the meeting, this being considered to be a reasonable time for retention

It was considered that the very limited demand for recordings did not warrant making the recordings available on the website at this stage.

It is emphasised that the minutes will be the record of the meeting.

1.8. **Mutford Lock**

The Authority considered the deliberations and recommendations from the Navigation Committee on 14 December 2017 together with the legal advice requested following which they accepted the Committee's recommendation. Therefore it was agreed that the two Harbour Revision Orders are submitted and the tripartite agreement, set out within the exempt report, be completed in all respects, to give effect to completing the transfer of the Lock into the navigation area and the ownership to the Broads Authority.

2. **Unauthorised Development with Navigation Implications**

The Planning Committee on 5 January 2018, received a report on the breach of conditions as part of planning permission granted in July 2017 at the Barnes Brinkcraft site in Hoveton for a mooring basin, configuration of moorings and location of pontoon (BA/2017/0155/FUL).

In accordance with the recommendations by the Navigation Committee, the Planning Committee, whilst acknowledging the continued investment in the site, felt very strongly that the encroachment of the unauthorised development at Barnes Brinkcraft into the navigation area was unacceptable; the Committee resolved to authorise officers to negotiate the restriction on the vessel length, an agreed mooring configuration, a scheme of management in respect of the pontoon, and the removal of the build-out.

The Head of Ranger Services has since met with the owners to draw up a potentially acceptable scheme with which officers were satisfied; this will include restrictions in which vessels could be moored to the pontoons together with a restriction on the length of the moorings. Officers are awaiting further details and the submission of a planning application. Once submitted, the planning application will be presented to the Planning

Committee after the comments of the Navigation Committee are sought.

A verbal update will be provided to the 22 February meeting.

3. Navigation Patrolling and Performance Targets

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1. The range of duties undertaken by the Ranger Team is set out in Appendix 2. Average navigation/countryside splits are still higher on the navigation side however with the planned work now underway on the countryside sites this figure is now moving in line with the target of 60:40.

The report detailing the cases dealt with at Magistrates Court are shown in Appendix 3. Members have previously asked about enforcement of non-insurance and in the case of Mr Cutting the total fine included £660 for this offence. We also received for the first time a maximum fine of £1,000 for failure to navigate at a safe speed in the case against Mr Gibbs which was also publicised in the EDP.

4. Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 4. The high rainfall and water levels have led to a number of vessels sinking over this period all of which have been recovered or are in the process of being recovered in liaison with the owners.

5. Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

There are no further enforcement matters with navigation implications to report other than that mentioned at paragraph 2 above.

Background papers:	None
Author:	Sandra Beckett/Sarah Mullarney
Date of report:	February 2018
Broads Plan Objectives:	Multiple
Appendices:	APPENDIX 1 - Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis
	APPENDIX 2 - Ranger Duties
	APPENDIX 3 - Report of Prosecutions dealt with in court during December 2017 to February 2018
	APPENDIX 4 - Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis <i>(Bracketed figures are running totals, April 2017 to March 2018)</i>						Date: JANUARY 2018		
	Wroxham Launch	Irstead Launch	Ludham Launch	Ludham 2 Launch	Norwich Launch	Hardley Launch	B.St.Peter Launch	Breydon Launch
Launch Patrol Areas	Wroxham and Upper Bure	Ant	Hickling, P.Heigham, Upper Thurne & Womack	Lower Thurne, Lower Bure & South Walsham	Norwich and Upper Yare	Reedham, Chet & Middle Yare	Oulton Broad and Upper/Middle Waveney	Breydon Water, Lower Waveney and Yare
Verbal Warnings								
Care & Caution	(112)	(67)	(91)	(142)	(1)		(26)	(22)
Speed	(2723)	(977)	1 (580)	1 (522)	(110)	(134)	(239)	(127)
Other	(54)	(62)	1 (23)	1 (69)	(13)	(9)	2 (37)	(7)
Blue Book Warnings								
Care & Caution	(10)	(5)	(4)	(2)			(1)	(10)
Speed	(92)	(23)	(8)	(10)	(5)	(4)	(12)	(4)
Other	(19)	(9)	(4)	(7)	(2)	(12)	1 (10)	(4)
Special Directions	(81)	(98)	5 (5)		(1)	(17)	(258)	
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)								
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)	21 (257)	21 (162)	14 (197)	(121)	(121)	20 (109)	20 (185)	22 (268)
Best Value Patrol Targets Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	100% (80%)	100% (100%)	100% (100%)	100% (97%)	100% (93%)	100% (98%)	100% (94%)
Volunteer Patrols	3 (9)	(16)	(8)	(1)	(22)	(9)	(10)	
IRIS Reports	(107)	(56)	(38)	(27)	(59)	(55)	(32)	(76)
Broads Control Total Calls	TOTAL 233 (29,378)			Telephone 205 (23,911)		VHF 28 (5,467)		

January 2018

Total Time Allocated/Actual Ranger Team

Broads Authority Corporate	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Corporate Time	Training	137	117.82
	Broads Control	39	82.91
	Team meetings / work planning	461	361.28
	Partnership working	66	31.27
	Assisting other sections	94	38.55
	Annual Leave		307.70
	Off Work Sick		103.31
	Time in Lieu		28.31
Premises Maintenance	Billets and boatsheds	19	30.78
Vessel & Equipment Maintenance	Launch - General		18.31
	Trailers - General		3.11
	Vehicle Maintenance		10.07
	Other equipment repair		39.59
Total		816	1173.01

Navigation	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Navigation Maintenance	Patrolling	1356	1209.53
	Escorts	28	29.12
	Prosecution files	0	32.60
	Bankside tree management	81	55.10
	Obstruction removal	29	26.93
	Channel markers & buoys	35	8.92
	Signs & boards maintenance	78	16.45
Mooring Maintenance	Adjacent Waters		52.29
	Reactive mooring maintenance	129	15.57
Total		1736	1446.51

Actual Percentage	68%
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Conservation, Rec, C'side	Work Area	Annual Allocation	Actual Days To Date
Conservation	Fen management	14	8.14
	Lake / Riverbank restoration	36	1.22
	Invasive Species Control	33	2.06
	Other conservation work	158	134.06
	Pollution Response		8.24
Recreation/Countryside Maintenance	Visitor Site maintenance	143	269.25
	Whitlingham Country Park	294	219.68
Public engagement	Public footpath work	11	3.38
	Education work	10	17.03
Total		699	663.06
Team total		3251	3282.82

Actual Percentage	32%
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APPENDIX 3

Report of prosecutions dealt with in court during December 2017 to February 2018			
Defendant	Offence	Court	Result
Mr Phillips	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Full toll paid Costs awarded £20 Compensation £180.00
Mr Gibbs	Speed Limit Byelaws Offences Not registered Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £2350.00 Costs awarded £200 Victim surcharge £100 Compensation £101.50
Lord Hall	Non Payment of Tolls	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £293.00 Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £30 Compensation £192.75
Mr Harmer	Non Payment of Tolls	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £440.00 Costs awarded £150 Victim surcharge £44.00 Compensation £257.00
Mr Willis	Non Payment of Tolls	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £660.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £66.00 Compensation £68.55
Mr Armitage	Navigation Byelaw Offences	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fine £1100.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £66.00
Mr Curr	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £660.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £66.00 Compensation £514.00

Mr Hudd	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £660.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £66.00 Compensation £269.85
Mr Sams	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £440.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £44.00 Compensation £269.85
Mr Smith	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £660.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £66.00 Compensation £244.15
Mr Eves	Non Payment of Tolls Not registered	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £440.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £44.00
Mr Foster	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £440.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £44.00 Compensation £133.00
Mr Cutting	Navigation Offences No insurance	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £910.00 Costs awarded £518.14 Victim surcharge £66.00
Mr Hill	Non Payment of Tolls	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £220.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £30.00 Compensation £154.20
Mr Waterfield	Non Payment of Tolls	Great Yarmouth Magistrates	Fined £500.00 Costs awarded £150.00 Victim surcharge £50.00 Compensation £244.15
Mr Fry	Non Payment of Tolls	Norwich Magistrates	Fined £1153.64 Costs awarded £200.00 Victim surcharge £30.00 Compensation £200.00

Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

Description	Location found	Action	Notice Affixed	Result
Sunken cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Sunken Cruiser	Oulton Broad	Harbour Master liaising with owner	No	Authority liaising with Harbour Master
Sunken Cruiser	Oulton Broad	Oil spill kit deployed, liaising with owner and yard over recovery. Recovering staff time and other costs through insurance	No	Vessel recovered
Sunken day boat	Reedham	Discussion with owner and Broadland DC (who are responsible for Reedham Quay in winter). Owner attempted to raise but unsuccessful. Deadline to raise given. Hazard marked and Rangers monitoring.	No	Vessel removed by owner
Sunken yacht	Geldeston	Liaising with owner	No	Authority liaising with owner
Abandoned sport vessel	Beccles	Ongoing investigations failed to find owner. Abandoned vessel notice affixed	Yes	Vessel removed from location pending disposal by Authority.