

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: 16 March 2018

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Sandra Beckett

1.1. Tesco Project: Water Sensitive Farming

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: Neil Punchard/ A1.1, B2.2, C3.2

At the Authority meeting on 16 March, Neil Punchard, the Broadland Catchment Partnership Officer provided a report and presentation on the progress being made on the Catchment Partnership and in particular the Water Sensitive Farming (WSF) pilot partnership project between Tesco and the Authority undertaken in 2017. The approach which involved farmer to farmer liaison rather than the standard method of offering advice has been very well received being based on voluntary co-operation and good practice guidelines. It appeared effective in engaging with the "harder to reach" farming community as well as improving relationships with those already engaged with sustainable farming and protection of local water bodies. The project has been built on work already being undertaken and it has been progressed with the facilitation of a member of the Authority, Louis Baugh. This project has demonstrated that the key components for considering when to undertake or not undertake a project are often dependent on being opportunistic and the personalities involved. The report may be viewed at

[BA-Tesco-Project-160318](#)

1.2. Strategic Direction: Strategic Priorities 2017/18

Contact Officer: John Packman/Maria Conti

The Authority received the final progress report on the Strategic Priorities for this last year 2017/18 and was pleased to note the considerable achievements on the major projects in addition to the Authority's regular maintenance and routine work. The major themes linked to the Authority's Broads Plan will be carried through as the Strategic Priorities for 2018/19.

[Strategic-Direction2017-18-ba160318](#)

1.3. Broads Local Plan – Submission

Contact officer: Natalie Beal

The Authority agreed to the Broads Local Plan being submitted to the

Planning Inspectorate. The views of the Navigation Committee and endorsed by the Planning Committee especially in relation to residential moorings were accepted. The Local Plan has now been submitted to the Planning Inspector and copies together with all the Submission documents have been distributed to appropriate locations throughout the Broads area and all consultees notified. The Authority expects to receive questions on matters and issues within three weeks of the submission by this Committee's meeting date. It is anticipated that the Hearing will take place 10 weeks following the submission but this could be open ended.

Until the new plan is adopted, [the current policies](#) as set out in the Core Strategy, Development Management DPD and Sites Specifics Local Plan will be used to determine planning applications alongside the National Planning Policy Framework.

The NPPF review is currently out for consultation but the examination of the Authority's Local Plan will be conducted under the current NPPF. A report on the proposed changes to the NPPF and its potential implications for the Broads is to be brought to the next Planning Committee on the 27 April 2018.

<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/development/future-local-plan/examination-of-the-local-plan-for-the-broads-2018>

1.4. **Acle Bridge Site**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan objectives: John Packman/Multiple

Since the last meeting, three other members expressed an interest in joining the Working Group and this was agreed at the Authority's meeting on 16 March 2018. The Group is now comprised of: Linda Aspland, James Bensly, Mathew Bradbury, Bill Dickson, Lana Hemsall, Bruce Keith, James Knight, Nicky Talbot, and Haydn Thirtle.

As you will be aware, Members of the working group had their first meeting on site on 14 February 2018 and this was followed by another meeting on 8 March 2018 to which all members were then invited and various options were put forward. Since that meeting officers were able to examine some of the options before the Authority meeting and provided some advice on 16 March 2018.

The Authority agreed an outline list of key components for the development list of facilities to be considered as part of the architectural brief for a potential design, with the exception of a marina and day boat operation. Members then agreed to conduct a design competition to work up some initial design ideas for the site and architects are being invited to participate. Details of the process are now being worked up.

As agreed, the Authority is in the process of having discussions with potential operators for a quality mobile café operator for this 2018 season.

The mobile operator appointed will be required to undertake not to sell alcohol during this coming season. Any updates will be provided at the meeting.

[Acle-Bridge-Site-ba160318](#)

1.5. **Peer Review Update**

Contact Officer: John Packman

Following the workshop with all members and co-opted members on 8 March to discuss, review and comment on a potential work programme to address the issues raised by the Peer Review, Officers are using the ideas from that to develop an Action Plan and this will be brought to the next Authority meeting in May. The report will focus on a number of options relating to governance.

1.6. **Broads Authority Safety Management System External Audit Findings and SMS Update**

Contact Officer: Steve Birtles

The report and recommendations from this Navigation Committee's last meeting on 22 February 2018 were supported by the Authority on 16 March 2018 and the Safety Management System version 7 was adopted. The Authority continues to support the ongoing development of detailed supporting operational procedures.

1.7. **Pilot Agri-Environment Scheme for the Broads**

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan objectives Simon Hooton/Andrea Kelly/Neil Punchard B2

An expression of interest for a pilot agri-environment scheme for the Broads (post Brexit) has been submitted to Defra at the end of February 2018, in accordance with the Authority's agreement in January. This has built on the Authority's valuable past experience as well as the Government's Environment Plan and the Food and Farming Consultation paper from the Oxford Farming conference.

[Pilot-agri-environment-scheme-ba160318](#)

2. **Planning Application with navigation implications.**

Contact Officer/Broads Plan objectives: Nigel Catherall/ multiple

The Planning Committee on 2 March 2018, considered the planning application (BA/2017/0369/FUL) from **St Olaves Marina, Becces Road, St Olaves** for mooring pontoons with bank cut back on the River Waveney frontage together with demasting, visitor and service moorings. Members welcomed and endorsed the comments from the Navigation Committee of 14 December 2017 and were pleased that the applicant had addressed the concerns raised by the previous application. The Committee approved the application subject to conditions and Informatives. Full details may be

viewed from Public access on the Authority's website using the application number above.

[Planning-public-access](#)

3. Unauthorised Development with Navigation Implications

The owners of the site at Barnes Brinkcraft have been notified in writing following the recommendations of the Navigation Committee at the 22 February 2018 meeting. No planning application has been received as of the date of this report. Any additional updates will be provided verbally at the 19 April 2018 meeting.

4. 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. During the 2017/18 year the rangers undertook 6,278 verbal warnings, down from 8,194 the previous year. A total of 260 written warnings were issued. Appendix 3 sets out the report of prosecutions since the last meeting. Over the last year a total of five people have been prosecuted for navigation offences, including speeding, care and caution and no insurance.

The average navigation/countryside splits for the year it set out in Appendix 2. The figures show a 64% Navigation, 36% Countryside split. This slight variance in the planned programme was due to staff illness along with recruitment and training which was unplanned.

5. Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/4.3

The sunken and abandoned update is contained in Appendix 4. As with the last report, the high rainfall combined with the recent snowfall has 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.

6. Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

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

Background papers: None

Author: Sandra Beckett/Sarah Mullarney

Date of report:

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