



# Progress Newsletter

Broadland  
Futures Initiative

## UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

'COVID-19 & ONLINE ENGAGEMENT', 'NEW RELEASES', 'ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM- A STRUCTURE FOR DECISION MAKING', & 'PROJECTS IN THE AREA'

## In this edition...

We have rather a lot to share with you, ranging from Covid -19 updates and its impacts on our public engagement to the imminent new release of our study reports on the BFI Website. Plus, we are highlighting important projects in the area, and we will be giving an introduction to the BFI Elected Members Forum, and what this means for the project.

### **Covid 19 update & online engagement**

The Virtual Exhibition and online survey originally planned for this Autumn & Winter has been moved to early 2021. We did not take this decision lightly, but with the continued impact of Covid-19

on resources and time, this postponement gives us the opportunity for additional features and content to be included, making the Virtual Exhibition experience even more informative, meaningful and engaging as possible.

Ultimately, our aim is to hear your views and opinions on flood risk and climate change in the Broadland area. With that in mind we plan to run our virtual exhibition and the survey for a period for 8-12 weeks, giving you lots of time to get your thoughts across to us, and we are really keen to hear from you.

We will be issuing more news on this towards the end of 2020.

On to the matter of face to face events, we are following the government Covid-19 guidance,

and we want to keep everyone safe and well.

We recognise at the moment face to face public events are not permitted, and we will share any further updates on this as we move into the New Year.

### **New releases**

We are pleased to tell you that the following study reports will be released on our BFI webpage in the coming weeks. We will announce when they have been published.

- Origins of the Plan Area – Sets out a brief history of the Broadland area and how it has changed and adapted over time
- Sources of Flood Risk – Summarises the sources of

flood risk in the Broadland area including key flood events that occurred in the past

- Coastal processes – Describing the evolution and processes of the coast between Cromer and Great Yarmouth, with a focus on the low lying Eccles to Winterton frontage.
- Current Approaches to Flood Risk Management – Describes current approaches to managing flood risk within the Broadland area including an overview of how flood risk management is funded
- The Influence of Flood Risk Management- Overview of how the local economy, as well as the social and natural environments, are influenced by current flood risk management.

We invite you to delve into each of these background documents, and take the opportunity to get an insight into the important exploration that we have undertaken into the wide range of topics that these reports cover.

There will be more documents to follow, as well as interactive Story Maps, videos, and an FAQ page.

More general information about the BFI can be found on our dedicated webpage which will

continue to evolve as we work towards our online public engagement events in 2021.

If you would like to contact or speak with us please do feel free to get in touch via the contact details section at the end of this newsletter.

## Elected Members Forum – A structure for decision making

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The main purpose of the BFI strategy is to combine extensive research with local knowledge, blending the important views of stakeholders to develop a suite of flood risk management approaches to better cope with our changing climate and the increased flood risk that this will bring in the future.

*How do we make a decision as to what approaches will be implemented?*

This is where we plan to bring together a group of elected representatives to create an *Elected Members Forum*.

We anticipate that the role of the Elected Members Forum will be to provide a strategic steer to the BFI. The elected members will receive advice and recommendations, review progress and reach agreements on the choice of flood risk management approaches, based on economic, environmental,

technical and other evidence presented by the Initiative Project Team, which is in turn influenced by stakeholder feedback and engagement at every opportunity.

The Elected Members Forum will comprise one appointed representative from each Local Authority within the BFI area, with an interest in flood and coastal risk management.

## Projects in the Area

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The BFI is an important and significant strategy for flood risk management, however, there are many projects that are supported and of interest to the BFI. Here are just few projects of note that we felt you'd be interested to hear about.

Please do look out for the opportunities to engage with these projects in their own right.

### Consultation on Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document

A partnership of East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Broads Authority, and the Coastal Partnership East Team is seeking views on the proposed content of a draft Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document. The purpose of this joint document is to provide guidance on how to interpret and implement planning policy in relation to coastal matters. Following this early

consultation on what should be included in the joint document, the partnership will prepare a draft document for public consultation. Once adopted, the joint document will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The BFI is pleased to support this consultation and encourages you to take part. The Local Planning Authorities involved and Coastal Partnership East are BFI partner organisations and keen to ensure this work is informed by the latest findings of the BFI.

As a planning based document, the guidance will help developers and individual landowners adapt in areas of rapid coastal change, also including erodible frontages, along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. As an overarching flood risk strategy, the BFI project area encompasses both the coast and inland across Broadland, planning for the next 100 years. Guidance for landowners needing to adapt to coastal change in the immediate or short term, particularly on erodible frontages, is needed and it is likely that the joint document will need periodic review.

Therefore, the preparation of the guidance document need not be restricted by the timings of the BFI. The consultation on the supplementary planning document supports the aims of

the BFI and should help to deliver our aspirations.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks, beginning on 4th September 2020 and closing at 5pm 16th October 2020. Visit the [consultation portal](#) to view the Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document and make a comment online. Alternatively, email your response to [planningpolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or post your comments to East Suffolk Council, Planning Policy and Delivery Team, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0EQ. Comments must be received by 5pm on the 16th October 2020. Physical copies of the document template are available to inspect at Great Yarmouth Town Hall on a pre-booked appointment basis. This can be arranged by emailing [localplan@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@great-yarmouth.gov.uk) or calling 01493 846483. Alternatively to request a copy to be sent by post (free of charge) please email [planningpolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or telephone 01394 444557.

### Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The government announced on the 14<sup>th</sup> September that “grants from £50k to £5 million are now available to help the nation build back greener from the Covid 19 pandemic. The £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund, part of the government’s wider green economic recovery, jobs and skills package, brings forward funding

for environmental charities and their partners to start work on projects across England to restore nature and tackle climate change.”

The Broads Authority, who are a main partner organisation in the BFI, are supporting the Norfolk Rivers Trust in their collaborative bid for funding. This comes as good news in our nation’s challenge to tackle climate change and also a welcomed opportunity for sustainable catchment management and climate adaptation in the Broadland Rivers Catchment Area.

The project objectives are to:

1. Restore and improve priority wetland and coastal wildlife habitat;
2. Improve public access to and engagement with nature and associated health benefits, and;
3. Promote better understanding of issues and opportunities associated with climate and coastal change and Covid 19.

The proposed project will construct earth bunds and raise existing earth banks which will be used to:

- Raise water levels and/or create temporary wetlands to capture and store increasing volumes of winter rainfall/high drain flow;

- Retain water for release during summer droughts;
- Reduce flood risk from future sea and river over-topping at strategic locations, and;
- Link recreational access routes in appropriate locations

More general information on this funding opportunity can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/governments-40-million-green-recovery-challenge-fund-opens-for-applications>

### **Wetland demonstration site (Interreg CANAPE project)**

The Broads Authority, as lead partner in the CANAPE (Creating a New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems) project, is preparing to create a wetland demonstration site at the Horsey Estate in the Upper Thurne area.

The partnership involves the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board (IDB). The project would re-wet around 3 hectares of agricultural peatland. The rewetted area would be used to trial the production of wetland plants to see if paludiculture (wetland farming) is possible along with achieving other multiple benefits. The land manager demonstration site has multi-benefits: to improve water quality, reduce carbon emissions and increase water storage, reduce

flooding risk and create habitats. More specifically, it achieves three main aims:

- Filter ochre from the Brograve catchment, returning cleaner water to supply the protected downstream wetlands, in association with projects to minimise the source of ochre and salt;
- Re-wet drained peat soils to reduce carbon emissions, and;
- Create 3 hectare land manager demonstration of wetland crops on deep peat agricultural land.

This partnership project contributes to the objectives of the following initiatives:

- Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund.
- IDB programme of integrated drainage improvements (planning the replacement of pumping stations in the Upper Thurne.
- Broads Authority Interreg project CANAPE (Creating a New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems).
- Other initiatives have an interest in the project, such as Water Resources East and Broadland Futures Initiative.

This project complements the IDB programme of installation of new pumping stations with automated gates which aims to reduce ochre pollution. The pump replacements will run at variable speeds for better efficiency in both drought and flood event situations. There are local complexities and sensitivities with managing land and water in the Upper Thurne.

Partners are aiming to share learning from this test site, in addition to the upcoming Environment Land Management (ELM) scheme payments, to develop new ways to address the blockers to landscape change.

Finally, if you would like to hear more about any of the information shared in this edition please get in touch via the contact us section.

#### CONTACT US

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#### BFI WEBSITE

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>

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