

Broads Authority

26 July 2019

Agenda item number 19

Broads Local Access Forum annual report

Report by Director of Operations

Summary

The Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) presents its annual report 2018/19 on the development and improvement of public access within the Broads.

Recommendation

That members note the Annual Report.

1. Announcement

- 1.1. It is with sadness that the Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) announces the loss of one of its members, George Saunders, who passed away in May. A dogged campaigner for access rights, George was instrumental in making sure the Boudicca Way trail between Norwich and Diss could be traversed by users of powered wheelchairs. His campaigning also helped make Norfolk more accessible to those with limited mobility. His passing is a great loss to BLAF and our thoughts are with his family at this time. The Eastern Daily Press ran a fitting obituary to George here: [tributes to 'dogged' Norfolk disability campaigner George Saunders](#).

2. Annual report

- 2.1. The BLAF annual report 2018/19 is at Appendix 1.
- 2.2. BLAF held four public meetings in 2018/19 to agree its advice to the Broads Authority and other organisations on access matters. Members were also involved in the Broads Engage accessibility workshop in November 2018 and provided input for the revised Broads Integrated Access Strategy and the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. A challenge in the years ahead is the pressure across all local authorities on funding for countryside access. With the agri-environment access payment scheme coming to

an end, further pressures will be felt on existing permissive paths, potentially fragmenting the access network of paths and trails.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Broads Authority continues to have regard to the advice given by BLAF and to consider their recommendations.

Author: Rob Rogers

Date of report: 10 July 2019

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 6.1, 6.2

Appendix 1 – [Broads Local Access Forum annual report 2018/19](#)