

Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 03 June 2020

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Present

Keith Bacon – in the Chair, Kelvin Allen, Linda Aspland, Harry Blathwayt, Robin Buxton, Tony Gibbons, Tim Harris, Dawn Hatton, John Murray, Steve Read, Christopher Yardley.

In attendance

Essie Guds – Administrative Officer, Dan Hoare – Head of Construction, Maintenance and Ecology, Kylie Moos – Administrative Officer, Sarah Mullarney – Administrative Officer, Marie-Pierre Tighe – Director of Strategic Services, Lewis Treloar – Waterways and Recreation Officer, Ken Hawkins – Norfolk Local Access Forum, Martin Sullivan – Norfolk Local Access Forum.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Liz Brooks, Louis Baugh, Michael Flett, Julie Brociek-Coulton, and Richard Webb.

The Chair noted this is the first Broads Local Access Forum remote meeting, and welcomed Ken Hawkins and Martin Sullivan from the Norfolk Local Access Forum.

The sad passing of former member Charles Swan was highlighted and a one minutes silence was held in remembrance.

2. Declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 4 December 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Reedham permissive footpath

The Broads Authority, Reedham Parish Council and the landowner are in agreeance. All three parties are awaiting the final agreement document from the solicitors to sign and complete.

Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve

The landowner has been approached to discuss a bridleway to link the nature reserve to the ferry, and is currently not in favour.

Officers will continue to look at alternative options for the bridleway and update at the next meeting. The Forum will recommend this to the Broads Authority in due course if no progress can be made.

How Hill footpath

The footpath is in excellent condition and has been well kept by the Broads Authority. The area and path have been very popular over recent weeks.

River Wensum Strategy

Currently there are no members of Broads Local Access Forum on the River Wensum Strategy Group.

Dan Hoare agreed to contact the River Wensum Strategy Group to discuss formally appointing a member to the group.

Footpath extinguishment

The consultation for the extinguishment orders had begun, but have since been put on hold due to Covid-19.

All three paths are currently unusable, either underwater or unsafe. The extinguishment order will ensure they can be removed from the definitive map and they will no longer be a responsibility for Norfolk County Council to maintain.

Lewis Treloar agreed to share the consultation with Forum members.

5. Consultation on BLAF Constitution

Dan Hoare thanked members for their feedback and agreed to make the following amendments to the final constitution:

- 1.1.3b Issues relating to public access to and from water.
- 2.4 The Forum will meet at least twice, and aim to meet four times in the year.
- Appendix 6. Any member of the public may attend meetings of the Forum and, by giving four working days' notice, may ask any question on any matter in respect of the Forum's Terms of Reference.

Comments and answers to questions

- The Authority will assist the Chair with setting the agenda and conducting meetings, however the Chair and members are responsible for setting the agenda items (6.2.iii).
- Riparian rights were discussed in the Forum, and will not be separately referenced in the constitution. The Chair suggested the subject can be discussed in further detail if raised as an agenda item at a future meeting.

There were 11 votes in favour and none against to endorse the consultation. The consultation will now go to the Broads Authority for adoption.

6. Setting the agenda

To make sure all members have an opportunity to raise items of business for the agenda, a revised administrative workflow for agenda setting was proposed. The workflow will provide

resilience to the Forum, as and when members and officers change. The Chair highlighted the importance of calling for agenda items and welcomed presentations from all Forum members.

The Forum agreed with the proposed administrative workflow.

7. Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Lewis Treloar provided an update on the Broads Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) and Action Plan, highlighting some of the work taking place throughout the current COVID-19 lockdown.

The seven strategic objectives in the IAS against which projects are measured are:

- To improve links between land and water and to the water's edge.
- To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points.
- To improve access for all in the Broads.
- To encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating, and improve links between public transport provision, visitor destination points and access routes.
- To deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership.
- To encourage provision of access routes that relieve visitor pressure on internationally designated sites, avoid disturbance of protected species and help to accommodate growth.
- To provide appropriate information on access and interpretation about recreational sites.

Comments and answers to questions

- Interactive map of angling platforms and slipways available for public use is due to be published on the Broads Authority website over the next 6 months once third-party data agreements have been signed by landowners. The Forum agreed that they would support the map expansion in the future which will provide information on all aspects of access and recreation within the Broads.
- Interactive map highlights there are gaps in provision of facilities and can be used to identify areas for improvement, which can be used as agenda points for future meetings.
- Some of the project suggestions have come from the Broads Engage events, River Wensum Strategy and Norfolk County Council.
- Access to funding and grants are considered the biggest challenge with new projects.

Lewis Treloar agreed to circulate a copy of the IAS projects prioritisation action plan to members. Project prioritisation to be discussed at a future meetings, with a regular “traffic light” progress update of the IAS Action Plan to be brought to each BLAF meeting.

8. Project updates from Norfolk County Council

Lewis Treloar gave an update from Norfolk County Council on behalf of Mike Auger who could not attend the meeting.

River Wensum, St Georges Street to Duke Street Missing Link

As part of the Paths for Everyone Funding, Sustrans have been awarded funding by Department for Transport (DfT) for £900,000 for the creation of a new link to complete the riverside walk between Duke St and St Georges St.

The project is being led by Norfolk Country Council and a recent piece of work with Hudson’s Architect is currently being completed (which the Broads Authority have been feeding into). The next steps of the work is to complete the detail design and secure the necessary permissions to deliver the scheme.

Bure valley path

Improvements are planned on the Bure Valley Path as part of the Interreg FCE funded Experience project. Capital funding has been secured for works and Norfolk County Council are currently completing the feasibility on what improvements can be made during the Experience project timeframe (2019-2023).

Wherryman’s way

Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority are working together to identify and progress key schemes to improve access on the Wherryman’s Way including identification of suitable funding and preparation of feasibility in advance of funding bid submissions.

Norwich to Wroxham cycle route (Broadland Way)

Following completion of the new NMU paths as part of the Northern Distributor Road, Norfolk County Council are planning to review and update the previous feasibility study undertaken for the Broadland Way route from Norwich to Wroxham as part of the ongoing Greenways project.

Hoveton Cycling Hub

As part of the Interreg FCE funded Experience project and Cycling UK a number of cycling hubs are planned, with Hoveton being designated as a pilot site.

Registering rights of way in Norfolk 2026

Preparing map modification orders are currently on hold due to Covid-19, with no access to records or the ability to visit locations.

9. Any other business

Pathmakers, a new charitable incorporated organisation that is helping people get out into the Norfolk countryside, is looking for more trustees. For further information please contact Martin Sullivan.

Easing of lockdown restrictions has brought an increase of visitors in areas of the Broads. Lessons can be learnt from this moving forward and this could be discussed further at the next Broads Local Access Forum.

Broads Engage meetings will continue with a targeted topic at each meeting. The next engagement meeting is scheduled for summer 2020 and will be held online. It will focus on flood risk with Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI).

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broads Local Access Forum would be held on Wednesday 2nd September at 2.00pm, venue TBC.

The meeting ended at 15.45

Signed by

Chairman

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Contact the River Wensum Strategy Group to discuss formally appointing a member to the group.	03/06/2020	Dan Hoare
Circulate a copy of the IAS projects prioritisation action plan to members	03/06/2020	Lewis Treloar
Contact the Environment Agency asking their opinion as a follow-up from the publication of the staithe report	04/12/2019	BLAF Chair
Circulation of Reedham Permissive Footpath maps with NLA	04/12/2019	Ken Hawkins

Completed actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Share extinguishment consultation with forum members	03/06/2020	Lewis Treloar
Present the outcome from the consultation at a future BLAF meeting.	04/12/2019	BA Officers
Forum members to provide feedback and suggestions on amendments to the Broads Local Access Constitution	04/09/2019	BLAF members
Circulate a copy of a previous staithe report from 1986 with forum members	04/12/2019	BLAF Chair

