

Public Question Time

Question submitted by Mr Robert W McNaughton

The following is contained in the Chief Executive's Report to the Navigation Committee meeting of 28 February 2013 – "Establish Member/Stakeholder Working Group to progress national park status".

I would like to know what value there is in expending effort in this regard and in what direction the working group may direct their activities. At present there appears to be an irreconcilable conflict between the Broads Authority's twin primary responsibilities and adoption of the Sandford Principle which governs the national parks. The notion that any stakeholder consensus could be won that would allow the navigation responsibilities to be subordinated to the Sandford Principle is frankly risible. Moreover this fruitless pursuit of national park status only serves to reinforce a widespread, even if erroneous, view amongst toll payers that the Authority is partial in its policy making and operational decisions.

The Authority's response will be reported at the meeting and read out by the Chairman.