

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 Asset Management Plan: Plant Vessel and Equipment Strategy – Purchase of Replacement Equipment

Contact officer/Broads Plan Objective: Rob Rogers/NA1.1

- 1.1 At the Authority's meeting on 30 September 2016, Members considered the update on the Vessel and Equipment Strategy and approved the additional expenditure of £166,000 from the Plant, Vessel and Equipment Reserve for the purchase of a second hand weed harvester, link floats and the replacement of small equipment to reduce hand arm vibration impact leaving the reserve at £77,535 at the end of the financial year.

2 Draft Policy on Waste Collection and Disposal in the Broads National Park

Contact Officer/Broad Plan Objective: Angie Leeper/TR1.1

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30 September 2016, the Authority approved the Draft Policy and proposed actions on Waste Disposal considered and supported by the Navigation Committee at its last meeting on 8 September 2016 i.e. that the Authority will work with the constituent County, District and Parish Councils and local businesses to encourage visitor and residents to minimise the creation of waste and recycle as much as possible. With those bodies it will also work to ensure that a network of strategic sites are in place; the Authority will fund the costs of appropriate facilities and disposal of rubbish from such strategic sites that it owns or controls and will work in partnership with the County, District and Parish Councils as well as commercial operators with the area to make appropriate provision. Members accepted the priority list of strategic sites identified within the report.

3 Planning Application with Navigation Implications: BA/2016/0228/COND Hoveton Great Broad and Hudsons's Bay, Haugh lane, Lower Street, Hoveton: Variation of Conditions 2, 3 and 19 and Removal Conditions 7, 11, 12, 20 and 24 from Permission BA/2014/0248/FUL

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objectives: Cally Smith/Nil

- 3.1 The application considered by the Navigation Committee at its last meeting was determined by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2016. Members will recall that the removal of the conditions, the subject of the application, in effect would remove any work associated with Wroxham Island

and the disposal of sediment in the area, the result of which required amending the phasing schedule for the project. The Committee approved the application subject to conditions. They recognised that the project had been and was politically controversial but required a judgement to be made on the planning merits of what was before them. It was considered that in terms of public interest and on the basis of the scientific evidence, there would be considerable conservation benefits from the proposals especially bearing in mind the important designations of the area – Ramsar, SPA, SAC and SSSI.

4 Broads Authority Code of Conduct for Members

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: David Harris/Nil

- 4.1 At its meeting on 30 September 2016, the Authority adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Members. This was following recommendations by the Auditors to review the code, consultation with the Authority at its meeting in July and scrutiny by the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee in July and September as well as review by the Authority's two Independent Persons. The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer will be issuing this to all Members including co-opted members for all to sign.

5 Appointment of Navigation Committee

Contact Officer /Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Nil

- 5.1 Members will be aware that Bill Dickson, who was originally appointed to the Navigation Committee in 2015, has now been appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State. There is therefore a vacancy on the Navigation Committee and procedures need to be put in place to appoint a new member to the Committee. When examining the procedures for this to take place, it was considered opportune to look at ways of streamlining and improving the process. Consultation was undertaken with the officers of the Broads Hire Boat Federation (BHBF) and Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA) and advice was taken from Richard Card, President of the NSBA and former Professor of Law. A report was then taken to the Authority on 30 September 2016 and Members agreed to adopt a series of minor changes to the appointments procedures for the eight co-opted members on the Committee, naturally being mindful of the Broads Act.

The minor amendments include:

- (i) Point of consultation with listed organisations amended so that they are informed of the process and timetable at the outset but then consultation on the appointments takes place only once, when the Appointments Panel has short listed the applicants.
- (ii) The Independent Chair of the Appointments Panel to be one of the two Independent Persons of the Authority.
- (iii) The Navigation Committee to be consulted once, at the shortlisting stage, before the Panel interviews the shortlisted candidates.

- (iv) The maximum term of office amended to ten years for Co-opted members of the Navigation Committee to realign it with the return to the arrangement for Secretary of State Appointees.
- (v) Appointments to the Committee to be made from 1 April and the timetable for the process designed to meet that deadline.
- (vi) The Authority to continue to interpret category (d) of the Act (“bodies appearing to it to represent persons who are likely to be required to pay ship, passenger or goods dues”) as referring to organisations representing the payers of tolls on craft in general.

5.2 The interpretation of category (d) was given particular attention since this is the category under which the vacancy exists. A concern had been expressed that this should be filled by those representing or being from the commercial sector. However, the Broads Authority has, since the Committee was first established in 1988, consistently interpreted this section as requiring consultation with Toll Payers in general. From the evidence in the minutes of the Broads Authority since 1988, the established practice, in line with the legal advice, has been to consult a wide range of organisations on category (d) appointments including, for example, the Norfolk and Suffolk Yachting Association (now the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association) and the Norfolk Canoeing Association. Similarly the individuals appointed under the category have been from private as well as commercial backgrounds. Members were of the view that the most important element of the procedures was that it allowed for many different organisations to be alerted to a vacancy, such that a wide range of individuals are invited to apply and the best candidates appointed in line with requirements in the 1988 Act.

5.3 In addition, the Authority agreed that the current vacancy on the Navigation Committee be advertised for a replacement in October with an appointment running concurrently with the existing appointments until March 2019.

6 Bridges Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Angie Leeper/NA5

6.1 Network Rail’s consultants are currently drawing up final reports of the Multi Criteria Stakeholder Analysis consultation. The outcome will help inform consideration of the options for the renewal, replacement or repair of Somerleyton and Reedham bridges. The final reports are expected sometime in November 2016.

7 Navigation Patrolling and Performance Targets

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/NA4.3

7.1 The report of the significant use of powers by the rangers is displayed in Appendix 1. The average navigation/countryside splits are higher on the navigation side as would be expected following the summer when patrolling is a priority. Achievement against targets remains good even with a large number of new staff who have undergone training this season.

7.2 There are no cases to report from the Magistrate Court for this period. A significant number of tolls cases are currently being processed and evidence on two navigation offences is being compiled.

8 Sunken and Abandoned Vessel Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Lucy Burchnall/NA4

8.1 The sunken and abandoned vessel update is contained in Appendix 2. Seven boats which had either sunk and/or were abandoned have been removed from the system or sold since the last report. A further one is at the dockyard while investigations into ownership continue.

8.2 Two boats remain sunk upstream of Trowse bridge and will be removed when our work boats are in that area later this year. One vessel has recently sunk at Pyes Mill Moorings. The owner is aware and the situation is being monitored.

9 Planning Enforcement Update

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Cally Smith/None

9.1 Following queries raised by a member, it was agreed to provide regular updates on the position regarding relevant planning enforcement actions. There are no outstanding enforcement actions with navigation implications to report to this meeting.

Background papers: None

Author: Sandra Becket / Esmeralda Guds
Date of report: October 2016

Broads Plan Objectives: Multiple

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Report on the Significant Exercise of Powers by the Rangers during
APPENDIX 2 – Report of Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

Rangers Exercise of Powers Analysis <i>(Bracketed figures are running totals, April 2016 to March 2017)</i>							Date: SEPTEMBER 2016	
	Wroxham Launch	Irstead Launch	Ludham Launch	Ludham 2 Launch	Norwich Launch	Hardley Launch	B.St.Peter Launch	Breydon Launch
Launch Patrol Areas	Wroxham and Upper Bure	Ant	Hickling, P.Heigham, Upper Thurne & Womack	Lower Thurne, Lower Bure & South Walsham	Norwich and Upper Yare	Reedham, Chet & Middle Yare	Oulton Broad and Upper/Middle Waveney	Breydon Water, Lower Waveney and Yare
Verbal Warnings								
Care & Caution	2 (24)	1 (27)	12 (28)	(124)	61 (69)		1 (8)	4 (17)
Speed	513 (3137)	459 (1635)	120 (623)	(654)	6 (136)	9 (123)	15 (201)	10 (134)
Tolls offences	(9)	(44)	1 (12)	(88)	51 (62)		(4)	(3)
Other	4 (57)	3 (34)	6 (27)	(83)	4 (12)	(5)	1 (21)	(5)
Blue Book Warnings								
Care & Caution	(16)	(5)	1 (1)	(1)	(1)			1 (1)
Speed	23 (77)	5 (30)	2 (5)	(9)	7 (11)	(4)	(7)	(5)
Other	3 (16)	2 (16)	1 (6)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(10)	1 (11)
Reports for Prosecutions		(1)						(1)
Special Directions	(2)	(143)				11 (68)	26 (155)	(18)
Toll Compliance Reports								
Non Payment	27 (120)	22 (126)	2 (76)	(26)	17 (96)		10 (120)	7 (49)
Non Display	13 (22)	1 (5)	(7)	(2)			6 (6)	(3)
28 Day request for information							2 (7)	
BSS Hazardous Boat Inspections		(1)			(1)			(1)
Enter Vessels Under BSS					(1)			
Launch Staffed (by Ranger)	30 (174)	27 (128)	26 (133)	19 (126)	26 (122)	20 (111)	23 (110)	30 (183)
Country Site Inspection Reports Percentage Compliance	100% (100%)	43% (90%)	(Combined figure)	100% (100%)	(Combined figure)	(83%)	(67%)	n/a
Best Value Patrol Targets Percentage Compliance	69% (95%)	(83%)	(83%)	(83%)	(64%)	(69%)	(74%)	(78%)
Volunteer Patrols	(3)	1 (13)	1 (2)	(1)		(8)		
IRIS Reports	(94)	(55)	(23)	(20)	(33)	(23)	(50)	(60)
Broads Control Total Calls	TOTAL	2,140 (22,040)			Telephone 1,799 (18,110)		VHF 341 (3,930)	

RANGER TEAM ACTIVITY

as at 18 October

	Navigation Activity								Countryside Activity							
September 2016	Nav Patrol Launch	Nav Patrol Foot/Road	Incident Working	Admin - Navigation	Training (Navigation)	Escort	Moorings Maintenance	Bank work	Country Patrol	Country Maintenance	Admin - Country	Training (Countryside)	Equipment Maintenance	Tree/Ground work	Group Activities	Education/School Visit
Percentage Total	39.03%	3.63%	1.14%	0.30%	0.57%	0.09%	0.82%	0.75%	2.13%	6.54%	0.10%	1.24%	4.72%		0.50%	0.43%
Wroxham team	20%	44%	11%		10%	35%	64%	27%	36%	21%	70%		28%			46%
Thurne team	27%	20%		52%	39%		34%	73%	23%	24%	10%	18%	25%		16%	
Yare team	17%	5%	53%	41%		29%			22%	45%	20%	15%	17%		37%	
Waveney team	10%	4%	29%		51%				4%	4%		30%	10%			54%
Breydon team	20%	21%					15%			3%		18%	17%			
Control Officer												20%				
	48%								13%							

Month Percentages	
Navigation	73%
Country	27%
Total	100%

Time Off not included

	General Support												Time Off					
	Broads Control	Travel Time	Bank Work - Split	Activity Unknown	Training - Split	Meeting - Staff	Meeting - Public	Admin - Split	Admin - Volunteer	Training - (Volunteers)	Public Relations Event	Site Visit third party	Other Task	Time off in Lieu (not accurate)	Breaks (not including un-notified breaks)	Annual Leave		
Percentage Total	7.86%	3.30%	0.16%	5.96%	0.62%	3.02%	0.23%	8.16%	0.10%	0.06%	0.14%	0.04%	1.02%	0.12%	2.86%	4.36%		
Wroxham team	6%	24%		30%	23%	25%	2%	19%		25%	100%		3%	175%	16%	26%		
Thurne team	4%	18%		26%		18%	7%	21%	95%				17%		28%	21%		
Yare team		21%		5%		13%	30%	32%	5%	25%		100%	44%	13%	16%	16%		
Waveney team		12%		1%	78%	10%		11%					14%		2%	5%		
Breydon team		23%		5%		9%		11%					6%		2%	32%		
Control Officer	67%														21%			
	7%	4%		26%												5%		

Percentage with apportioned split	
<i>Year to date (Apr - Mar)</i>	
Navigation	72%
Country	28%
Total	100%

Time Off not included

Team percentages equal team contribution to activity

APPENDIX 2

Sunken and Abandoned Vessels

Description	Location found	Action	Abandoned /Sunken Notice Affixed	Result
Sunken and abandoned wooden sailing cruiser	River Yare, Trowse	No known owner	Yes	Deadline expired and BA team will raise and remove when the programme allows (scheduled November).
Sunken cruiser	River Yare Old River Thorpe.	Vessel sunk at owners moorings	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Sunken Wooden Cabin Cruiser	River Wensum Norwich	Vessel sunk at moorings.	No	Owner has pumps in position ready to raise the vessel.
Abandoned Vessel	Beccles	Abandoned vessel on moorings	Yes	Ownership claim unfounded, being brought to Dockyard
Abandoned Cruiser	Hickling	Vessel abandoned on Hickling Broad	Yes	Investigating ownership claims
Wooden Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Postwick reach	Vessel sunk on owners mooring	No	Not affecting the navigation owner will raise in due course
Sunken cruiser	Pyes Mill	Vessel sunk on moorings	No	Owner aware, ongoing monitoring of situation