

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. It does not include matters which are already on the agenda for this meeting of the Committee. Members are asked to note the report.

1 Development of Whitlingham Country Park

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/None

- 1.1 At its meeting on 18 January 2013, the Authority received a report that considered the next stage of the development of the education and visitor facilities at Whitlingham Country Park and how best the Authority could engage with the process. The expectation by the Whitlingham Charitable Trust is that the development of improved educational and visitor facilities will be a joint project with the Authority. If the Authority continues to rent the facilities and be responsible for their operation then there needs to be a clear input into the design brief and construction of any new or extended building. Members agreed to establish a small task and finish member working group to work with the Whitlingham Trustees and officers on developing the ideas for the expansion of the educational and visitor facilities at the site.

2 Breydon Water and Water Ski Zone Designation

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Steve Birtles/NA4.1, NA5

- 2.1 At its meeting on 18 January 2013, the Authority received a report setting out the results of the recent consultation on a proposal to designate a water skiing zone on Breydon Water and progress made on the proposed monitoring methodology. Members agreed in principle to designate a zone for water skiing on Breydon Water for a trial period of at least one year commencing from 1 April 2013 subject to cost assessments and timings which would be reviewed at the next Authority meeting in March. Members also agreed that the proposed zone is to be used for water skiing and a form of wakeboarding including/or involving manoeuvres and momentarily leaving the surface of the water during the trial period. Members also made it clear that the temporary designation must not have any detrimental effect on the site in accordance with the Habitats Regulation.

3 Wakeboarding Trial Findings and Review Panel Recommendations

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Steve Birtles/NA4.1, NA5

- 3.1 At its meeting on 18 January 2013, the Authority received a report setting out the findings of the trial of recreational wakeboarding including 'getting air' on the River Yare and River Waveney and the results of a consultation following the review panel recommendations. Members approved that the trial could take

place on the River Yare Zones 2 and 4 and the River Waveney Zones 3, 4 and 5 for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The form of wakeboarding would also take place alongside water skiing on the River Yare Zones 3 and 5 and the River Waveney Zone 1 from 1 April 2013.

- 3.2 Members also agreed to vary the times when water skiing can take place on the river Waveney following a recent consultation. The new times fall into line with those currently on the river Yare. The changes take effect from 1 April 2013.
- 3.3 The Water Ski Review Panel's findings, following a review of the remaining trial of wakeboarding, will be presented to the Authority for consideration.

4 Future Role of EA in Flood Defences and BESL Progress

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Adrian Clarke/CC3, CC3.1, CC3.2

- 4.1 Broads Authority officers have scheduled a meeting to discuss future management and liabilities concerning flood protection and mooring structures within the Broads area on 22 January 2013. The result of this meeting is to understand the future management of flood defence and mooring structures within the Broads area from an EA and BESL perspective.
- 4.2 A report will be authored offering detailed information regarding current and future management of these structures within the Broads area.

5 Broads Outdoor Festival

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Julie Lawrence/PE1.1

- 5.1 The Authority is currently planning the fourth Broads Outdoors Festival in conjunction with a number of other partners including Broads Tourism, RSPB, NT, Salhouse Broad, Archant and Hoseasons. The Festival will run on 4 - 19 May 2013 and be packed with a huge number of exciting events to get people out and about enjoying the Broads, trying activities they haven't tried before and experiencing special places not usually open to the public.
- 5.2 Publicity will again be provided via Festival brochures inserted into the EDP and a promotional event outside the Forum in Norwich will be held on 5 and 6 April 2013.

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Broads Plan Objectives: PE1.1, NA4.1, NA5, CC3, CC3.1, CC3.2

Appendices: Nil