

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 Million Ponds Project

Contact Officer: Andrea Kelly

- 1.1 The Ant Valley turf ponding project has been successfully completed. Funded by Biffa and administered by Pond Conservation, as part of the national Million Ponds Project, six new pond complexes have been created at How Hill, Catfield and Sutton Fen. Already wildlife is moving in with signs of water vole, otter and dragonflies using the new ponds. Pond Conservation has said that these are some of the richest wildlife habitats that have been created in the UK.

2 Expansion of Commercial Reed and Sedge in the Broads

Contact Officer: Andrea Kelly

- 2.1 As part of the ongoing work to assist the continuation of commercial fen cutting, the Authority are identify and map all existing and potential commercial reed and sedge beds in the Broads.
- 2.2 To do this the Authority has contracted Mr Gary Elliot, a reedcutter, to undertake the site surveys. His expertise, working alongside other cutters, is required to judge those sites that could again become commercially viable. Mr Elliot is using the latest survey information to focus attention on areas where reed or sedge dominates rather than areas that have botanically rich fen vegetation. Mr Elliot will be contacting landowners to identify expansion of commercial reed in the aim of keeping in step with new cutters entering the industry.
- 2.3 The Authority has a goal for a quarter of the open fen area in commercial management which is in accordance to the Broads Fen Strategy (produced by the Broads Authority and Natural England). We have a target of almost 50% expansion from 222ha to 399ha where this is compatible to the conservation designations of the site.
- 2.4 The Broads Action Plan for the Reed and Sedge Cutting Industry is on the Authority website at the following link:
<http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/authority/publications/conservation-publications.html>.

3 Investigation of Tributyltin and Other Heavy Metal Contamination of the Thurne Broads

- 3.1 Investigation of contamination of tributyltin (TBT) in sediment derived from historic boat antifouling paints and investigations of replacement alternative biocide additives is ongoing in the Broads.
- 3.2 In 2012/13 the Authority will be supporting Imperial College London to investigate the evolution of TBT degradation in the Broads using core samples collected and dated by University College London (UCL). The chemical analysis of TBT would form a student project, and the data analysis would be part of a continuing investigation. It is also hoped that it will be possible to link the planned analysis with some existing polyaromatic hydrocarbons PAH data to build a bigger picture.
- 3.3 It has been reported that Cu and Zn compounds associated with biocides have caused contamination of harbour and marina sediments, with negative consequences for aquatic organisms. However, relatively little is known regarding antifoulant-derived metals contamination in freshwater lakes.
- 3.4 UCL have already determined that the concentration of antifoulant-derived heavy metals, particularly Cu and Zn which have increased in the in parts of the boated system of the Broads since the banning of TBT (post-1987). Also, recent studies suggest that current levels of sediment contamination by Cu may have negative ecological effects for aquatic ecosystems including inhibition of aquatic macrophyte germination and performance.
- 3.5 In Hickling Broad, post-TBT increases in Cu and Zn are also evident. This student study is proposed to achieve a fuller understanding of recent metal contamination in Hickling Broad up to the present day and extend the data beyond the Thurne Broads. The results of the student study will be provided to the Forum.

4 Angling Platform Enhancements

Contact Officer: Adrian Clarke

- 4.1 The Broads Authority is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to install 10 angling platforms adjacent to the Authority's 24-hour mooring on the River Waveney at Worlingham. The Environment Agency has paid for the construction costs and the Broads Authority has obtained the necessary permissions and paid for the materials to build the platforms. The site is extremely popular with anglers and was identified as a priority site for angling access improvements by the Broads Authority as angling is restricted on the mooring during the main boating season. The project is supported by the Broads Angling Strategy Group

5 Volunteering

Contact Officer: Beth Williams

- 5.1 Volunteers' Week (is an annual event which celebrates the fantastic contribution that millions of volunteers make across the UK. The week plays a huge part in

raising the profile of the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to society, while inspiring others to get involved too. This year the week will be held between 1-7 June.

- 5.2 The Authority is looking at running an event on Friday 1 June at Hoveton Riverside Park. Invitations will be made to MPs and members. The Authority's volunteers and staff will show case the different types of volunteering activities and invite the public to come along for a taster session. This day/week will be about highlighting volunteering and informing MPs and members of the opportunities.

6 Draft Strategic Priorities 2012/13

Contact Officer: John Packman

- 6.1 Following the consultation of the Broads Forum on 9 February 2012, the Navigation Committee on 23 February 2012 and the Parish and Town Councils during January and February, the Broads Authority adopted the Strategic Priority objectives, projects and key milestones for 2012/13. A copy of these are detailed in Appendix 1.

Author: John Organ

Date of report: 19 March 2012

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 - Strategic Priority Objectives, Projects and Key Milestones for 2012/13

Strategic Priority Objectives, Projects and Key Milestones for 2012/13

Priority 1 - Planning for the Long-term future of the Broads in response to climate change and sea-level rise

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
1.1	CC2 Develop Broads climate change adaptation plan to identify policy direction and 'no regret' actions	Head of Strategy and Projects	a. Run initial programme of community engagement over climate adaptation by Autumn 2012; b. Review progress and identify next steps to expand spread and depth of engagement and understanding at community level by Dec 2012	Establish with the public an improved understanding of climate change and its potential impacts.
1.2	CC4.4 Development of options for expanding the production of renewable energy	Landscape Officer	Complete a Landscape Sensitivity Project study on the capacity for renewable energy for the Broads by June 2012	Published guidance on locations suitable for renewable energy

Priority 2 - Working in Partnership on the Sustainable Management of the Broads –

(a) Landscape and Cultural Heritage

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
2(a)1	LC2.1 Listed and Locally significant buildings	Historic Environment Manager	Complete Conservation Area Appraisals for Geldeston, Ellingham and Ditchingham by December 2012 Publish adopted list of local heritage assets on Broads Authority Website by July 2012	Improve the protection of the area's special qualities and buildings.
2 (a)2	LC3 Promote sustainable development to meet local needs and	Planning Policy Officer	Progress Local Development Framework - Site Specifics Development Plan Document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication September 2012 	Provide an up-to-date framework for the determination of planning applications

	encourage sustainable communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission January 2013 	
--	-----------------------------------	--	---	--

**Priority 2 - Working in Partnership on the Sustainable Management of the Broads –
(b) Biodiversity**

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
2(b)1	BD1.2 Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan to enhance ecosystem services	Head of Strategy and Projects/Senior Ecologist	Agree conservation management priorities with key stakeholders and present report to the Broads Authority on a collaborative programme of action by March 2013	Improved management of the natural resource through greater collaboration
2(b)2	BD3.1/2 Improvements in catchment management	Head of Strategy and Projects / Senior Ecologist	Hold a catchment workshop/conference with partners in Autumn 2012 to inform and stimulate a Broads catchment approach to water management	Improved water quality in the Broads
2(b)3	BD4.2 Management of fen and drained marsh	Head of Construction and Maintenance and Environment and Design Supervisor	<p>Increase the amount of commercially managed fen by 8 ha by March 2013.</p> <p>Increase fen under agreed management by Broads Authority by 80 ha by March 2013</p> <p>Investigate replacement options for the Fen Harvester and award contract by September 2012</p>	<p>Improve the management of the Broads key natural resource</p> <p>300 ha of fen in conservation management with Broads Authority involvement</p> <p>New equipment in place to manage fen</p>

**Priority 2 - Working in Partnership on the Sustainable Management of the Broads –
(c) Management of the Navigation Area**

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
2(c)1	<p>NA1: Deliver a strategic catchment approach to sustainable sediment management to achieve a balance of inputs with outputs, securing defined waterways specifications for the navigation area.</p>	<p>Head of Construction & Maintenance</p> <p>Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer</p>	<p>Implement PRISMA Project Plan by end of March 2013 Dredge 50,000m³ of sediment from the navigation area by end March 2013 Identify, secure and prepare priority strategic disposal locations to deliver future dredging projects by March 2013 Identify significant sediment sources and develop projects to reduce the inputs by Dec 2012 Complete Sediment Management Strategy Review and update 5 year Action Plan by September 2012; review & agree appropriate performance indicators Dec 2012</p>	<p>Ensure the standard of the navigation area is enhanced in a cost effective and efficient way</p>
2(c)2	<p>NA2: Manage trees and scrub along the river corridor in line with agreed management guidance and criteria.</p>	<p>Head of Construction & Maint</p>	<p>Identify priority tree clearance sites, and secure all necessary consents by Sept 2012 Complete 80 days of river bank tree clearance works by end March 2013, including providing opportunities for volunteers Support and facilitate community or users groups to complete appropriate tree clearance work</p>	<p>Encourage reed fringing vegetation to reduce erosion risk and improve safety and sailing conditions within the navigation area by creating a 10m clear width of riverbank where possible.</p>
2(c)3	<p>NA4: Implement, manage and promote safety management measures for the navigation and boats, to minimise risk and</p>	<p>Head of Construction and Maintenance</p>	<p>Complete legal transfer of Breydon Water to Broads Authority jurisdiction by July 2012 Complete programme of identified immediate maintenance requirements by March 2013</p>	<p>Improve safety on the water particularly for novice hirers</p>

	reduce environmental impact		Investigate sediment modelling of Breydon Water to inform Turntide Jetty replacement options by Sept 2012	
--	-----------------------------	--	---	--

Priority 3 - Encouraging the Sustainable Use of the Broads – (a) Promoting Understanding, Enjoyment and Wellbeing

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
3(a)1	PE1.2 Further develop Broads Authority websites	Head of Communications	Re-launch BA website to encourage greater understanding and involvement in the work of the Authority by the public by March 2013	Improved information in a more user friendly format.
3(a)2	PE2.1 Develop the network of Visitor Information Centres	Head of Communications	Revamp Great Yarmouth Yacht Station customer area by Dec 2012 with increased interpretation and stock/leaflets Create additional interpretation and signage for Hoveton TIC and Norwich, Reedham and Gt Yarmouth yacht stations by March 2013	Better facilities for staff and improved information provision for the public
3(a)3	PE2.3 Increase range of audio visual material to illustrate the cultural history and special qualities of the Broads	Head of Communications	Make 3 additional videos for tourism website to include at least one video history by Sept 2012 Develop QR code technology for use with smart phones at Whitlingham Country Park by July 2012	
3(a)4	PE 3.2 Provide opportunities for 'hard to reach' groups to experience the Broads. PE3.3 Improve delivery of educational experiences	Education Officer	Implement Education Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train at least 6 teachers to deliver Forest Schools programme for new audiences with BA messages by December 2012 Provide 2 new educational resource packs on BA website with emphasis on teenage audience by Oct 2012 	Greater engagement with schools and a wider understanding of the Broads by schoolchildren

3(a)5	PE3.4 Deliver and increase opportunities for active engagement through volunteering;	Volunteer Coordinator	Implement Volunteer Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one Members Volunteering Day to have been run by September 2012 • Four training workshops run for staff who work with volunteers by December 2012. • Four corporate volunteering days identified and listed on the BA website for 2013 by December 2012. • Two external events attended by the BA to advertise volunteering opportunities by April 2013 	Volunteers who are positively engaged in contributing to work that sustains and maintains the Broads environment.
--------------	---	-----------------------	--	---

**Priority 3 - Encouraging the Sustainable Use of the Broads –
(b) Tourism, Recreation and Access**

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
3(b)1	TR 1.4 Establish initiative for visitor support for conservation	STEP Project Manager	Implement the STEP Programme according to the Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce report on options for visitor conservation fund by June 2012 • Subject to the BA decision in June 2012 support the Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust to allocate the first parts of this fund by March 2013 	Revenue stream from visitors for the maintenance of the Broads
3(b)2	TR3.1 Develop a strategic approach to sustainable access in the Broads	Head of Strategy and Projects and Senior Waterways & Recreation Officer	Publish for public consultation the Integrated Access Strategy for the Broads by September 2012 Publish action plan for implementing access priorities by December 2012	Framework for managing public access in the Broads

3(b)3	TR2.2 Maintain programme of expansion and improvement of moorings, slipways and yacht stations	Senior Waterways and Recreation officer	Refresh action plans for moorings and slipway strategies by Autumn 2012; Develop implementation funding options and priorities for development of new moorings and slipways to 2016 by Jan 2013	Better facilities for boating
-------	--	---	--	-------------------------------

Priority 4 - Governance/Organisational Development of the Authority

Ser	Objective	Lead Officer	Projects and Key Milestones	Outcome
4.1	Integrate our activities to deliver greater efficiencies and increased flexibility for the benefit of all our purposes and help the Authority respond to the changes in funding	Chief Executive/ Director of Change Management & Resources Director of Operations Director of Operations	New organisation transitional arrangements: - Complete organisational changes to the Authority by moving to a two Directorate structure in April 2013. - Relocate from the Ludham Field Base by end of March 2013. - Complete the development and improvement of the Dockyard site at Griffin Lane to meet the Authority's operational requirements by end of March 2013.	Financial savings combined with increased efficiency and effectiveness.
4.2	Increase the organisational and financial capacity of the Authority through effective partnership working	Chief Executive/ Director of Change Management & Resources Director of Planning and Strategy	Implement NPAPA Improvement Action Plan. - Undertake Review of Consultation and engagement arrangements with non-statutory stakeholders and local groups to improve feedback and two way exchanges: by December 2012	Improved performance Improved consultation processes consistent with reduced staffing resources

4.3	Obtain general stakeholder consensus towards a revised Tolls System, taking into account the Authority's Financial Strategy.	Chief Executive	<p>Undertake review of the tolls system by September 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey Broads boat owners and analyse results by May 2012. - Conduct workshop for members and stakeholders by end of June 2012. - Develop recommendations through a Working Group by end August 2012. - Consult Navigation Committee on recommendations by 6 September 2012, - Recommendations to be considered by Broads Authority by 21 September 2012. 	<p>Use feedback from boat owners in formulation of future priorities</p> <p>Respond to the concerns of some stakeholders in respect of the hire boat multiplier and the balance of charges between different sized craft.</p>
4.4	Increase the Authority's understanding of its assets to allow them to be used effectively and efficiently	Director of Change Management & Resources/ Head of Safety Management Asset Officer	<p>Asset Management</p> <p>Continue to develop Asset Management Plan to include all assets in addition to land and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete consolidated asset database project scoping – June 2012 - Review and approve revised Asset Management Strategy – April 2012 - Identify further liabilities and associated costs arising out of Broads Authority assets, and incorporate into capital programme – August 2012 - Complete countryside site prioritisation and associated actions by end of 2012 	To provide a comprehensive record of assets to allow them to be used effectively and efficiently and maintained into the future
4.5	TR2 Continue to improve the quality of the visitor experience, providing a consistent standard of facilities, services and welcome. Safety standards at land based sites will be	Head of Safety Management	<p>Implement the Safety Management System Audit Action Plan by end June 2012</p> <p>Develop Tree Management Policy by end May 2012</p> <p>Complete Hazard Review to cover land based activities on Broads Authority sites</p>	Improved safety cover for the public and staff

	consistent with published safety management System		by Sept 2012 Expansion of the Safety Management System to cover identified additional risks by March 2013	
4.6	Enable effective management of information		Continue to roll out the Document Management System across the whole Authority. Procure latest version of Microsoft SharePoint and associated software licences by April 2012 Scope requirements by June 2012 and implement priority actions including recommendations from the Safety Audit by March 2013	Improved efficiency through better handling and recovery of documents.