

## Broadland Futures Initiative Virtual Village Hall Event 10.03.2021 – Summary of Question and Answer session.

**Below is a summary of the questions received from the public for the Broadland Futures Initiative Virtual Village Hall event at 19:30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

*Note: Questions and answers are paraphrased from those given verbally in the live event. For the full quoted responses from the event please view the published recording that will be made available to the public on the BFI webpage once the series of events has completed: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>*

### **Is salt water intrusion measured at Barton Broad?**

As part of the Environment Agency's routine monthly water quality sampling at Barton Broad conductivity measurements relating to salinity are taken. The results can be found by searching the website <https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/view/explore>. However, this monitoring will give no indication of conditions during a saline intrusion event unless the timing of the sampling happens to coincide with an event. There is continuous salinity at a limited number of monitoring locations within the Broads, but the nearest are some distance away from Barton Broad, located at Acle bridge on the river Bure and Repps on the river Thurne.

### **Re surface water, will BFI look at drainage ditches on roadsides, be they highways or landowners? Many have disappeared over time.**

The BFI must take into account all sources of flood risk, therefore, we will consider surface water and drainage. Furthermore, the BFI also benefits from a large stakeholder database and representation by a number of organisations each with their own plans and directives, including those with highways interests and responsibilities. Therefore, through good communication, partnership working and sharing of knowledge we will ensure that recognised local drainage issues are taken into consideration. Our partner organisations are all keen to ensure their work is informed by the latest findings of the BFI.

It is important to remember that the BFI is a strategic initiative, seeking to create a framework for flood risk management. The sources of flooding for a large and low lying area like Broadland can be complex and interconnected. Flood risk strategies describe what needs to be done, where and by whom in order to deliver flood risk management. They set out a framework that help communities, the public sector and other organisations to work together to manage flood risk. The BFI will support local decision making, engagement around flood risk management and ensure flood risks are managed in a coordinated way.

You can report a specific highways flooding problem in Norfolk via this [link](#). For Suffolk, please use this [link](#).

**During the floods experienced in Bungay over the Christmas period, we learnt the EA are trying to persuade land owners to take over the sluices along the Waveney. Do you have any views on this policy?**

The Environment Agency prioritises investment in flood and coastal risk management works according to Government policy and in line with Treasury guidance on economic appraisal. Investment criteria is designed to implement Government policy such that public money is spent on the works that provide the greatest benefits to society, is spent efficiently and effectively and reflects a partnership approach.

The Environment Agency assesses the costs, economic benefits, environmental impact and flood risk to set spending priorities. Maintaining some assets that have been maintained in the past may be economically justifiable no longer or the work may not have a high enough priority for central government FCRM funding over the longer term. Typically, this is only likely to happen when assets yield very little flood risk benefit. In these circumstances, the Environment Agency may not be able to maintain them in the future. When this occurs, the Environment Agency follows a set of principles to ensure that processes and procedures are clear to landowners and other affected parties when proposing permanent changes.

### **Regarding surface water flooding on roads – Will the BFI look at drainage?**

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### **I'm a business owner on the Broads and a Broad Society member. I'm keen to assist where possible as my business is suffering. Do you have any comments to pass on this point?**

Thank you for the offer of assistance. Active community support and in particular dissemination of information are critical factors in the success of the BFI, we hugely appreciate the efforts of local people in engaging with and supporting the BFI.

We are also very sorry to hear that your business is suffering as a result of flooding. You can check your local flood risk at any time by visiting the Environment Agency website [www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy](http://www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy). Here you will find practical advice and steps you can take before, during and after a flood. You can also sign up for free flood warnings either on the above website or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

In addition to the Environment Agency website, if you were affected by the flooding recently, or know someone that was, useful practical help is available from the following sources in the event of a flood:

- The British Red Cross – practical advice on how to prepare for a flood.  
<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/how-to-prepare-for-floods-and-flooding>
- Public Health England – advice and help to manage the mental health impacts of flooding  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-health-advice-mental-health-following-floods>
- Association of British Insurers - helpful advice around property insurance  
<https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/flooding/recovering-from-a-flood/>

**I see no reference to groundwater flooding. This is an issue already in parts of Gt Yarmouth presumably due to rising seawater levels. Residents are having to pump out water from under their floorboards. What studies have been done to date on this?**

The BFI must take into account all sources of flood risk, therefore, we will consider groundwater flood risk. Our study report *the sources and nature of flood risk within the plan area* contains more information on groundwater flooding within the BFI area and can be downloaded [here](#).

Flooding from groundwater is classed as a local flood risk and as such is the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority which in Norfolk is Norfolk County Council. You can report groundwater flooding in Norfolk [here](#).

**Is it correct that the new River Crossing at Yarmouth may cause issues at Ebb tides?**

We are not aware of any specific issues concerning ebb tides. As part of the Development Consent Order process for the Third River Crossing the potential impact and changes in flood risk was investigated and this reviewed by the Environment Agency. The general principle in the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance is that new developments should not increase flood risk elsewhere. The documentation relating to the consenting of the Third River Crossing, including the flood risk assessment, is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/great-yarmouth-third-river-crossing/?ipcsection=docs>

**In earlier times the harbour at Gt Yarmouth was not dredged and resulted in occasionally silting over. As it is now dredged to 5 metres below chart datum, is the inward and outward flow at the Haven Bridge measured?**

The Environment Agency maintains a water level gauge at Haven Bridge but inward and outward flows are not measured. A velocity survey within the Haven was undertaken in 2018 by Norfolk County Council as part of the investigations in relation to the Third River Crossing. Flows were subsequently modelled to understand the impact of the new bridge on sediment patterns. This work comprised part of the Environmental Statement and can be viewed on the National Infrastructure Planning website mentioned in the previous answer.

**The Broads Society are keen to engage in this initiative including assisting in getting information out there. We have formed a working group on flooding which includes two Senior Flood Wardens. Do you have any comments on this point?**

Thank you for the offer of assistance. Active community support and in particular dissemination of information are critical factors in the success of the BFI, we hugely appreciate the efforts of local people in engaging with and supporting the BFI.

Flood Wardens are a valuable asset in our multi-agency response. They come from and represent communities, providing valuable intelligence on the local risks and impacts of flooding. They often know their neighbours and communities to a level of detail that risk management authorities cannot achieve. For example, who may be vulnerable and require additional assistance.

**Recent weather events and tidal locks have caused issues for properties on foreshore at Potter. 53 days water held alleviation scheme. BESL scheme needs review as part of BFI. Any comments?**

The perpetually high water levels in the Broads northern rivers and the issue of frequent flood alerts has been a notable feature this winter. However, preliminary analysis of river level data, for example from Potter Heigham, shows that the frequency of high water events has not varied a great deal over the past 16 years since the current monitoring equipment was set up. Nonetheless this matter is still to be properly understood and will be investigated as part of the BFI. With climate change and sea level rise it may potentially be that this type of low level nuisance flooding becomes more frequent.

**Is there, or is there going to be, a simple evaluation of what the work in the past 20 years has achieved and what has not met its aim?**

The Broadland Flood Alleviation Project (BFAP) that has run for the last 20 years and ends this year, has been a major exercise in raising and strengthening the flood risk management structures throughout Broadland. These structures largely comprise clay flood embankments, but there have also been new flood walls provided in locations such as Reedham. The objective has been that at the end of the project there will be the same standard of flood protection provided as existed in 1995, having included an allowance for embankment settlement and sea level rise. This pattern of new and improved flood risk management structures, and so the benefit of the BFAP, will be fully represented within the updated and new hydrological models that are being created for the BFI.

**Can we have a copy of this recorded event to circulate to the rest of the Town Council?**

All our Virtual Village Hall events will be publicised on our webpage: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative> . They will be published following our final event of the series which is due to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Please feel free to share the videos as you see fit. Each event's Q&A summary will also be posted on the website.