

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021

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Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Julia Beeden- Water Resources East, Dave Cobby-Jacobs, Donna Dean- Natural England, Peter Doktor- Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Rob Goodliffe- Coastal Partnership East, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, Andrea Kelly- Broads Authority, Sarah Luff- Norfolk County Council, Alison Old- South Norfolk and Broadland District Council, Phil Pearson – RSPB, Matthew Philpot- Water Management Alliance, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes).

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Charlotte Hounsell, Gavin Rumsey, Kevin Hart, Rob Leigh, Simon Curl, and Rob Wise.

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed attendees to the remote meeting.

2. Update on communications and community engagement

The online survey and virtual exhibition were live from 18 January to 31 May 2021. The results were presented to the Initiative Project Team (IPT) by Kellie Fisher (KF).

- 167 full responses to the online survey.
- The stakeholder list now stands at 400, this is up from approx. 300 stakeholders at the beginning of the online consultation. The total number includes individuals, Parish Councils, organisations etc.
- 924 visitors to the virtual exhibition space. The number is a lot higher than what was anticipated in a face to face village hall setting.
- 2000 leaflets we sent out to targeted properties within the BFI Plan area.

Media

- The [BFI website](#) received 2009 page views and 740 link clicks to study reports and accessing the virtual exhibition
- 4,096 people reached on twitter with 123 engagements
- 12,600 people reached on Facebook with 515 engagements
- This does not include social media activity shared through BFI partners

Virtual village hall events

- Copies of the recordings can be found at the following links:
 - [17 February 2021](#)
 - [10 March 2021](#)
 - [24 March 2021](#)
- There were very good questions during the three events. The Q&A will be made available on the website.

Insights from survey

The majority of questions provided consolidation to the themes and trends identified through the interim analysis. A full summary will be shared with the IPT and publicised on the BFI webpage.

Sections

1. Features of the Broadland Area- no change between the interim and final results.
2. Flood risk and Climate Change - saltwater intrusion saw a jump in comparison to other features. At the midpoint it was fifth highest impact of flooding people were concerned with, by the end it was joint third. This could be due to recent incidents relating to salt water intrusion.
3. Vision and Adaptation- the trends and themes identified at the midpoint remained the same upon final review.
4. Decision making and funding- both the interim and final results confirmed that the proposed statements were mostly accepted by the respondents. Of interest was the agreement for more information on the funding challenges of the BFI.
5. About You- highlighted early on, young people were not the demographic engaging with the survey. A young person's survey has been trialled with East Norfolk Sixth Form and will be shared online and with youth organisations once completed.

A forward look

- Sharing results of survey via webpage and email to stakeholders
- Progress Newsletter to accompany survey results
- MP briefing update
- Broads Museum exhibition space – BFI to have an exhibition similar to the virtual exhibition for visitors to view
- Plover Rovers charity walk and talk events – BFI invited to participate.
- Young person's online survey.
- Evaluation of engagement activity so far, including review of engagement plan and objectives.
- Explore potential development of focus/liaison groups

Comments

- An introduction to BFI was presented to the Norfolk Public Sectors Leaders forum. The Forum consists of leaders of district councils and the Broads Authority. MPT agreed to share the contact list with Mark Johnson (MJ).
- There is an opportunity for overlap and/or collaboration with Plovers charity walk and RSPB. KF agreed inform Gavin Rumsey. (GR).

3. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) provided an update for the following outstanding products:

Existing data sources/indicators (Product 8)

Review and collation of existing data sources for the plan area that can be used later in the project. A draft technical report will be circulated soon with the IPT.

Draft BFI plan objectives (Product 11)

See agenda item 6 for a detailed discussion. There is a draft note due early July for the IPT to review in advance of the next Elected Members Forum (EMF).

Appraisal methodology (Product 12)

The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection. There is no update since the previous meeting. PD is awaiting contact from the Open CLIM (Open Climate Impacts Modelling Framework) team.

SEA scoping (Product 13)

The draft SEA scoping report is being finalised and will be sent out to statutory consultees in mid-July for a 6 week consultation.

Salinity investigation (Product 17)

Jacobs have been instructed to completed a feasibility study looking at the following:

- What are the key receptors vulnerable to salinity?
- What do we need to know to understand the impact?
- Can we undertake the modelling and prediction through existing tools?

The next step is a series of meetings with key organisations and individuals in late July.

Coastal data analysis (Product 18)

It was agreed with Jacobs that a new coastal process model was not required, instead a new analysis on the existing coastal data will take place. Details for the scope of the work is expected soon.

Hydraulic modelling

Work on the hydraulic model has commenced and is due to be completed by mid 2023. PD is drafting a business case to secure funding from other sectors of the Environment Agency who will also use the hydraulic modelling.

Breydon Water topographic survey

The final portion of the drone survey at Breydon Water has now been complete. The data has been merged with bathymetric data from Autumn 2020.

Breydon Water level gauges

Water level gauges are due to be installed at Berney Arms and Breydon Bridge in mid July. A third gauge will then be installed on the Bure Bridge.

Comments

- Existing gauge data can be used for the hydraulic modelling. Data collected over the next year by the new gauges will be used to fine tune the model.
- Product 8 and 11 will be the next reports for the IPT to sign off, followed by product 13 in mid July.

4. Elected Members Forum

MPT reported that there has not been an EMF meeting since the last IPT meeting. A meeting for July was considered but has been postponed due to forum members availability. In the absence of a meeting, an update via email will be circulated with a Doodle poll for meeting dates in September.

The IPT agreed for MJ, MPT and KF to agree the content for the EMF update and to make links to the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance.

Cllr Susan Lawn has been appointed as the South Norfolk and Broadland District Council representative to the EMF. An introduction will be provided to both Cllr Susan Lawn and new officer representative Alison Old, before the next EMF meeting.

MJ proposed that the continuity of EMF members is raised at the next meeting, whilst recognising that changes will occur due to the election process.

Rob Goodliffe (RG) agreed to confirm the representative for East Suffolk Council.

5. Norfolk Water Strategy

Julia Beeden (JB), Programme Manager for Water Resources East (WRE) presented the Norfolk Water Strategy Programme. The programme will run from February 2021 to September 2022. The objectives for the programme are as follows:

- Prepare a sustainable Norfolk Water Strategy looking at opportunities for freshwater management
- Establish a Collective Action Platform for implementing the Plan: Norfolk Water Fund

Core partners

- Norfolk County Council (NCC)
- Water Resources East (WRE)
- Anglian Water (AW)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Nature based Solutions (NbS) to address flooding

- Floodplain reconnection or restoration
- Interception and vegetation management
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Leaky Dams
- Wetlands

NbS implemented in a targeting manner can unlock multiple benefits beyond water security. Benefits include:

- Water security,
- Climate change adaption,
- Biodiversity conservation,
- Climate change mitigation
- Human health and well being
- Jobs and social cohesion

Collective action platforms can cover multiple areas for example:

- Engage stakeholders- joint consultation, communication and governance
- Set objectives- define common goals and agree joint targets
- Prioritise- science based prioritisation of locations and interventions
- Implement- coordinated and joint implementation
- Funding- coordinate funding streams and mobilise new ones
- Monitor and learn- monitor, evaluate, learn and disseminate

Water Funds

Water Funds unite public, private and civil society stakeholders around the common goal of contributing to water security through NbS and sustainable watershed management. Some water companies, cities or beverage manufacturers across Europe are engaging with upstream users to protect their water sources and reduce risks.

- Upstream communities- stewards and providers of watershed services
- Watershed services- water purification, flood risk mitigation, aquifer recharge, erosion reduction
- Downstream water users- beneficiaries of watershed services; source of upstream funding
- Incentives- cash, technical, assistance, materials

Norfolk can become an example for water management in the UK and beyond. Some of the incentives have been highlighted below:

- Access to TNC global network working on these issues
- Access to the Water Fund network
- Stronger attractiveness for domestic and international funders & financiers
- Serve as an example for other work undertaken with WRE and/ or with TNC support in other parts of the UK or elsewhere in Europe
- Joint communication activities to disseminate the experience through TNC network

Water Fund Development Lifecycle

- Programme preparation- eligibility, feasibility and design. Due to be completed by September 2022
- Programme implementation- creation, operation and maturity

Summary: Key questions to answer

Nature based

- Which Norfolk's water assets need to be protected, restored and enhanced to deliver "ecosystem services" and enhance Norfolk's water security?
- Which nature-based solutions can be deployed to deliver such benefits?
- Where investing in nature-based solutions at county scale can help deliver substantial benefits, with demand management and grey infrastructure?

Collective action

- What are key areas that would benefit from Collective action collective action?

Funding mechanism

- What funding can be pooled together or jointly mobilised?
- Is there a need and potential for leveraging repayable finance?

Comments

- JB has been in contact with IDBs to discuss delivery mechanisms and partner opportunities, and will be visiting potential sites.
- Recently there was £15million of government funding made available to trial NbS across the country (E.G Bacton Sandscaping). These projects have now concluded and interest in NbS remains high. The Norfolk Water Strategy Programme is looking at existing framework and funding to see if there is a way NbS can help with future government funding for flooding on a larger scale.
- Norfolk is the being used as the pilot site in the UK. If the model is successful in Norfolk, Defra can then replicate throughout the UK.
- Natural England have lots of small pieces of work being carried out through the Nature Recovery Network which focus on more than just water quality. There is an opportunity

to bring these together, and the work being carried out for the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan.

- A visualisation tool aimed at the LEP and funders will show the work that is already available and will be live from the end of September.
- The types of water challenges will differ between core partners. For example, NCCs priority is on water availability for growth and flood risk. Integrating all 4 water challenges into schemes will be the most successful.
- The Norfolk Water Strategy Programme is an exciting new programme, however there are already several programmes running which could become complicated and generate stakeholder fatigue. JB acknowledges this and will be mapping an overview of all programmes, their objectives and timescales through 1-1 engagements.
- The carbon element should also be considered.
- Biodiversity net gain is another potential funding source to be considered.
- JB welcomes 1-1 meetings with BFI partners to discuss programme opportunities further.

6. Draft plan objectives (product 11)

PD presented the draft plan objectives and examples of some of the work undertaken to the IPT. A draft copy will be circulated to the IPT for feedback before being presented at the September EMF meeting for their consideration.

The BFI Vision

“Together, we improve the resilience of people and places to flooding, as we adapt to the changing climate”

This vision will be implemented through a series of objectives that will shape and monitor the BFI plan.

Three starting points

- Public consultation – what is important for the local community?
- Legalisation and guidance—what are the legal requirements and expectations government sets on public bodies?
- Technical studies- defining what is the nature and scale of the problems BFI are looking to address?

Ten Characteristics of Resilience

Ten common themes evolved which are key characteristic of the BFI area. Enhancing these characteristics will improve resilience to flooding and climate change.

- Integrated catchment management
- Healthy waters

- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Built environment
- Cultural heritage and sense of place
- Engagement & Participation
- Natural capital
- Economic viability and development
- Sustainable agriculture
- Recreation tourism and navigation

Draft BFI objectives

There are 13 objectives in total. Each objective has been grouped into the 3 national ambitions from the National Flood, and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

- Places are resilient to flood risk –integrated catchment management, healthy waters and climate, adaption & mitigation (2).
- BFI supports sustainable growth – natural capital, sustainable agriculture, recreation, tourism & navigation and economic viability & development (2).
- Communities are aware and involved – built environment, engagement and participation, and cultural heritage and sense of place (2).

Refining the Draft Objectives – Questions to the IPT:

- Do the draft objectives cover all important aspects of flood resilience for the plan area?
- If you consider the thirteen draft objectives to be too many, are there objectives which could be removed?
- Are the draft objectives observable and measurable, so that they are suitable for indicating the baseline level of resilience, for appraising options and for monitoring and evaluation?
- Do the objectives align with key findings from the recent public BFI consultation, from review of relevant legislation and strategies and from technical work undertaken in the BFI study?

Comments from IPT attendees:

- BE1 sets out two points; flood risks will be managed better and buildings will be more resilient to flooding as and when it occurs.
- People to become more resilient and learn to live in the water environment with its associated risks? Currently the objectives only mention buildings becoming more resilient and not behaviour change or increased social responsibility.

- CAM2 suggests carbon neutral flood resilience actions, is there an opportunity for carbon negative flood resilience actions? PD suggested proposing the questions to the EMF.
- NC1 lists benefit of the environment for all who, live, work and visit but does not list the environment itself as a benefit.
- There are frequent references to the different types of resilience characteristics. Simple examples of what this may look like are recommended.
- Recognition of the nature and climate emergency need to be included within the objectives.
- Natural capital objectives need to also focus on conservation and protection. WRE's systematic conservation planning communications focus on 'conserve, restore, enhance'
- The objectives are useful as overarching statements, but will require individual actions to ensure the work is being achieved.
- Coastal risks would fit well within CAM1 and could also be incorporated into catchment flooding in ICM1.
- Additional outputs such as; helping people understand flood risk, other strategies and future decisions making could be added for EP1.
- As the need for climate adaptation and mitigation increases, there will be a knock-on effect to areas outside of the BFI plan. Linking in and influencing with other strategies and plans early on will be important.
- Proposals are being drawn up for a focus/liaison groups for farmers and landowner to ensure their views are captured.
- A public facing and accessible format of the objectives will also be produced. MPT recommended requesting feedback from youth groups on the public facing document.

7. AOB

None

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 16 August 2021 10.30am via video conference.

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Share contact list for Norfolk Public Sector Leaders forum with MJ	28/06/2021	MPT
Q&A from the virtual village hall to be made available on the website	28/06/2021	GR
Confirm EMF representative for East Suffolk Council	28/06/2021	RG