

BROADS SOCIETY

Notes on an informal discussion with Trudi Wakelin, BA Director of Operations Tuesday 18 March 2014 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee

Trudi reported on the following issues:

1 Whitlingham Country Park

The Authority had mounted a public exhibition at the Whitlingham Information Centre to promote ideas for developing the site. Brochures had been published and feedback would be welcome via the web site or in writing. Trudi hoped the Society would contribute its views. The ideas generated would be used to support a proposed funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

2 Broads Authority Agenda – Friday 21 March

The Authority would be signing off its Strategic Priorities.

Water ski-ing on Breydon would continue under the present management arrangements which were working well. It was likely that a decision to approve wake-boarding would be made following the recent trial.

The financial strategy to address reductions in the DEFRA grant over the next three years would be discussed as a confidential item. The outcome would be published once agreement had been reached.

3 Operational Matters

- 24 hour moorings at Hardley Cross were now open.
- Dredging of the River Chet at Loddon was complete.
- Flood embankment trials with the Environment Agency were to be carried out using dredged material combined with cement.
- Breydon Bridge was now operational.
- The report on Reedham and Somerleyton Bridges by consultants, Mott McDonald, was anticipated on Monday 24 March.
- Navigation through Mutford Lock had been temporarily reduced due to flood damage. A contract for repairs had been let and hopefully Defra would pay

4 Miscellaneous

The Yare Parishes Forum would be held at Reedham along similar lines to the Ant & Bure Forum. Andrea Long, John Packman and two Broads Authority rangers would be in attendance. In addition, Lesley Marsden would be on hand to talk about landscape issues, Adrian Clarke on the Access Strategy and Simon Hooton on Climate change. Trudi would be publicising the Whitlingham Park Exhibition.

Adrian Clarke was involved in discussions about funding with the Wensum River Parkway and Norwich City Council about future cycling initiatives.

Comments and Questions from Committee members

Robin Godber drew attention to the two breaches of the river bank at Hardley Flood. He was aware that one was being repaired. Trudi confirmed that the Authority would deal with the second breach as part of their maintenance programme. However, Norfolk County Council would need to make an assessment to ensure there is no impact on the exchange rate of water for any more major works, as required by Natural England.

Trudi confirmed that the “hump” caused by a submerged tree root in the Chet should be being dealt with.

Paul Savage enquired about progress on fixing a date for the proposed Workshop on Moorings. Trudi explained that the Environment Agency had written to four landowners regarding transfer of ownership of piled sections of river bank. A date for the Workshop would be fixed once responses had been received. It was hoped that the event would be held no later than May or June.

Keith Bacon pointed out that Stalham Library had been omitted from the Libraries currently exhibiting the Site Specific Proposals .