

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Notes on an informal discussion with Trudi Wakelin, BA Director of Operations Tuesday 3 November prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee**

Trudi reported on the following issues:

#### **1 Ludham Bridge Footpath**

The digger is due on site and work on the footpath would start the following week.

#### **2 Thurne and Bure Parish Forum**

Since the change to an issue-led agenda attendance had increased markedly compared to previous events and 80 people had come to the meeting held the previous week.

Hickling Broad had been included in the topics addressed. The Navigation Committee had given its support for dredging. The allocation of funds would be included as part of the Broads Authority's forthcoming discussion on tolls. A proposal to include 50% budget from the National Park grant for this project would also be discussed.

#### **3 Landscape Partnership Bid to Heritage Lottery Fund**

An award of £260k had been granted for the development phase. If the outcome proved satisfactory, a full application for funding would be submitted and there was optimism about the result. The Norfolk Windmills Trust had also been successful in a bid for restoration work at Stracey Mill and the intention was to develop a synergy between the two projects.

#### **4 Land Purchase**

The Authority had purchased land at Scare Gap Cottages for the deposit of spoil from dredging in the Lower Bure and the freehold transfer was now complete.

#### **5 Hardley Flood**

The footpath, which had been closed, was under review. Norfolk County Council had agreed to convene a partnership meeting. The Authority had requested a progress report. Keith Bacon reported that the issue had been raised at a recent NCC meeting and received a favourable response.

#### **6 River Chet**

The Authority had convened a meeting with BESL, the Environment Agency (EA), the Hire Boat Federation (HBF) and NSBA to discuss the removal of channel markers. The EA were unwilling to remove the markers to prevent vessels damaging the river bank. However, the other participants wished to stick to the original commitment for removal on the grounds that the hazard presented by the posts was of greater concern than damage to the river bank.

#### **7 Bramerton Moorings**

Negotiations for renewal of the lease would begin in 2016 in anticipation of the end of the current lease in 2017. Major refurbishment has been completed in accordance with lease requirements. There was no truth in the rumours that the BA planned to give up the moorings but cannot speak for the landowner; the source of this rumour was unknown but would be investigated, believed to be the Parish Council.

#### **8 Eel Sett**

There was a need for maintenance and it was likely that the BA would be approaching the Society for assistance with funding. Robin Godber said that the Society was trying to establish its financial and other responsibilities and John Packman had agreed to investigate. The Authority had not previously sought funding from the Society.

## **Matters raised by members**

Pat Simpson - Although some trees have been cut down on the banks of the Ant, those overhanging the river at How Hill have not been cut.

TW - The Ant has been given priority for work by the Rangers/Broadsword and contractors.

Paul Savage - Broadsword will have to poison stumps after work by contractors.

Paul Savage - Is there an intention to dredge Stalham Staithe?

TW - There are no immediate plans to dredge the Staithe. Although priority is to be given to the Ant for 2016, Stalham Staithe has not been included in the plans. TW will look into this. Post meeting note from Rivers Engineer Stalham Staithe, reed encroachment - Stalham Staithe and the dyke leading to it is shallow, although I wasn't aware of encroaching reeds. We have no immediate plans to dredge there; it is not high in the priority list and has no obvious disposal options. However this is in the longer term plan for about 5 years' time. The public staithe is small and not a BA 24hr mooring but if the issue is significant and in the navigation then we may have to look at this more closely when we are next in the area.

Paul Savage – Are there opportunities for including moorings in the HLF funded project as part of the public access strategy?

TW is taking this up with Will Burchnall and will ask him to contact Paul direct.

Peter Howe - The excellent moorings at the King's Head, Wroxham, contrasts with the poor condition of the BA 24 hour moorings.

TW – The BA plans to improve drainage by reducing the width of the footpath and increasing the grassed area. Post meeting note Design to be discussed at a meeting on Monday 19 Nov.

Keith Bacon – What progress has been made on moorings at Boundary Farm?

TW – The owner has been slow in signing the lease. A revised planning application will be submitted and as soon as this has been agreed should be signed.

Robin Godber – The Society has contacted South Norfolk District Council about the 5 live-aboards at Pyes Mill.

What is the purpose of the fenced off area?

TW will investigate. Broads Beat is keeping an eye on live aboards. NB post meeting update Fencing on the Chet, between Pye's Mill & Loddon Basin – The fencing between Pyes Mill and Loddon Basin, is just on the corner of the meadow closest to Loddon where we put dredging's earlier this year. The fencing was to keep cattle off while the dredging's were wet. The cattle should now be off the meadow and the material fairly dry. We are planning to take this down along with other bits of fencing etc. associated with the last dredging on the Chet soon, just awaiting some Op Tech time to do so.