

BROADS SOCIETY

Notes on an informal discussion with Rob Rogers (Head of Construction and Maintenance, Broads Authority) held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee

Present: Robin Godber (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Chairman), Nick Balls, Colin Dye, Peter Horsefield, Ian Masters, Richard Reid, Paul Savage, Mark Wells, Jill Wickens

In attendance:

Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

Robin welcomed Rob Rogers who was attending in lieu of Trudi Wakelin and thanked him for coming to give members an informal update.

Rob's report covered the issues listed on the agenda as current issues of concern and other questions raised by Committee members. Comments in italics were provided by Rob after the meeting.

- 1 Pylons - Lowestoft to Norwich
No further developments since the Society's informal meeting with John Packman and Lesley Marsden.

- 2 Solar Farms
The application for a solar farm at Belaugh had been withdrawn and no re-submission had been made. Rob confirmed that the Broads Authority had no overall policy on solar farms but would consider applications on a case specific basis. *Police DP8 in the Development Management Policies covers all forms of renewable energy generation including solar. The key issues are scale, design and impact on the landscape and the impact of any ancillary infrastructure. The Authority must therefore consider each application for generation renewable energy on a case by case. If the criteria are met, the BA would have no case for refusal; however the bar in terms of impact is set quite high.*

- 3 Pegasus Site Development
The application had been considered by the Navigation Committee in February and it was anticipated that a revised application would go before the Planning Committee in April. Rob had not yet seen the revised proposals but understood that concerns raised about moorings, flood risk and the design of the boatyard would be addressed in the new application. Provision for 50 moorings (public and 24 hour) and a re-designed boatyard would be included. The developer had received two expressions of interest in the boatyard from potential tenants.

Robin Godber reiterated the Society's opinion that using the car parking space to provide winter mooring was not a practical option. Colin Dye said that the Society had pointed out the need to provide facilities for lifting as the majority of boats using the yard would require this service.

- 4 Water Ski-ing on Breydon
The BA had identified a trial zone to be used for one year starting 1 April 2013. Natural England required a habitat assessment. Skiers normally accessed Breydon via the Lower Bure with some boats launching from Reedham Ferry. It was noted that the bird population on Breydon was increasing and the number of skiers was declining

5 Tolls and Breydon Contract

The Broads Authority was working with NSBA with a view to developing a schedule of charges related to the size of vessel. Concerns had been expressed about the possible impact of the cost of the Breydon Contract on the toll rates and discussions were in progress with the Port Authority. *The contract cost of sub-contracting the work was queried but, following an audit by the Finance Committee, the Authority was found to have carried out correct processes and procedures as laid down in Standing Orders.*

6 River Chet

The Broads Authority recognised that the Chet was in urgent need of dredging and a small quantity of silt (5,500 cu m) had been removed between December 2012 and February 2013. However, before a major dredging programme could be implemented, it was essential for BESL to complete work on the south bank. A planning application had been submitted and was out to consultation. Strengthening the bank was made more difficult by the poor nature of the ground and the difficulty of establishing a firm base on which to create a soft edge. A proposal to sink existing piles to create such a foundation was to be trialled. Rob confirmed that the BA had raised concern about aspects of the planning application and pointed out the problem of disposing of dredgings.

Mark Wells expressed concern about the number of posts along the channel and hoped that these could be set back to improve navigation.

7 Mooring and Access Strategy

Rob undertook to check on the current status of the BA Mooring and Access Strategy. Keith Bacon reported that it has been considered by the Local Access Forum. *The Strategy will go to the Broads Authority on 22 March and it is hoped that it will be adopted, released for public reviewing an implementation will begin.*

