

# BROADS SOCIETY

## Notes on an informal discussion with Trudi Wakelin, BA Director of Operations Tuesday 21 January 2014 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee

Trudi reported on the following issues:

### **1 Dredging**

Dredging plant has been mobilised to carry out work in the River Chet starting at Pyes Mill.

The work at Hardley Dyke has been completed.

The trial of new technology for dredging was not a success and the material extracted has been applied to adjoining fields.

An additional £12k has been secured by dredging of private moorings in the dyke at Hardley.

Mud pumping in Heigham Sound is being carried out by Goodchild Marine. Work has to stop if the temperature falls below 8°C because of the risk of Pymnesium growth.

### **2 Mooring**

Mooring for de-masting has been provided in the Bure mouth area and layby moorings created between the bridges. Positive feedback has been received and the situation will be kept under review.

New moorings at Hardley Cross are being constructed and there is potential for creating a circular walk.

### **3 Breydon**

A tow through Breydon to Cantley resulted in damage to four marker posts and a mooring fender but use of Breydon for commercial transport was to be welcomed and this was being pursued with insurers.

### **4 St Benet's Abbey**

Access works are complete and the Archaeological Trust is working with the BA to install interpretation facilities, subject to planning application.

Agreements with landowners to secure footpath access from Ludham Bridge are almost complete and it is hoped to open the footpath at the start of the Outdoor Festival in May (17<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>). A small section of fencing and a culvert are required.

### **5 Tree Clearance**

Work is being carried out along the Upper Bure between Belaugh and Coltishall and also on sections of the River Ant.

### **6 Boat Sales**

Two River Inspectors' Launches have been put up for sale. The proceeds will be used for future purchases of launches.

### **7 Criminal Incidents**

The incidence of boat crime has increased, particularly in the Southern Rivers and meetings with the police are taking place next week.

### **8 Trinity Broads**

Management of the Trinity Broads has been passed to Norfolk Wildlife Trust on behalf of Essex and Suffolk Water.

## **9 BA Investment Strategy**

The Asset Management and Investment Strategy includes a register of all the Authority's assets including land, buildings and equipment. The document shows a significant shortfall in funding for the repiling of 24 hour moorings and this will be addressed in the next 3-5 years. More work is to be carried out on the mooring strategy to prioritise sites according to use. A workshop for members of the Authority and stakeholders is to be held in the Spring to agree the priorities. Re-piling has been put on hold until 2014/2015.

## **10 National Park Grant**

The Broads Authority has identified 41 sites conservation and countryside sites for which it is responsible. To address the progressive reduction of the National Park, the Authority is considering the possibility of passing responsibility for some of these sites to other organisations/partners. The sites under consideration include car parks, slipways, boardwalks, permissive path agreements etc. all of which are essential for maintaining public access. The Authority has sufficient funds to delay significant changes until 2015/2016. A cut in SDF funding will be being considered by BA members in March.

## **11 Network Rail**

Network Rail has commissioned Mott McDonald to develop a whole life management strategy for its bridges at Reedham and Somerleyton. A range of options will be proposed and a report will be presented to the Navigation Committee and the full Authority. Among the options for consideration will be the possibility of replacing swing bridges with fixed bridges. However, any changes are constrained by navigations rights enshrined in the Act of Parliament and bridges would need to be of sufficient height to allow the passage of vessels. This would have a considerable impact on the landscape and might not be a cost effective option. The Navigation Committee has consulted the River Cruiser Class regarding the possibility of installing a fixed bridge at Somerleyton.

### Responses to Questions/Requests from Members

The Authority has decided that renting out the Ludham Field Base would be a better use of the asset than offering it for sale. A tenant is in residence.

Trudi will let the Administrator have details of the launch of the Outdoor Festival. (see above)

The Society will be invited to send a representative to the Stakeholders Workshop on the Mooring Strategy.