

BROADS SOCIETY

Notes on an informal discussion with Trudi Wakelin, BA Director of Operations Tuesday 21 July 2015 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee

Trudi reported on the following issues:

1 Improvement of Water Quality - Hickling Broad

A workshop had been held involving the Upper Thurne Working Group. Proposals will be considered by the Broads Forum prior and then proceed to the Navigation and Planning Committees. It is anticipated that the document will be on the agenda for the Authority's meeting in September. A bid for external financial support will be required.

2 Broads Hire Boat Federation Meeting

The meeting decided that further investigation was required into boat waste disposal. A survey was under way and data being compiled. A stakeholder workshop will be held in November. Funding for work required will not be available until next financial year, if agreed.

3 Survey of Staithes

The contract has been let and the report is expected by Christmas.

4 Ludham Bridge Footpath

Solicitors representing individual landowners have confirmed that their clients are all willing to sign the final agreement. All that is now required is the actual signing of the documents. A start date for work will be announced as soon as this has taken place.

5 Footpath Diversion Order – Thurne Mouth

The diversion relates to the lease of Boundary Farm mooring. No objections have been raised so far.

6 Mutford Lock

One of the gates has been taken down and debris removed. The remaining gates will be taken down and given similar treatment over the winter subject to budget approval.

7 Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

Once the legal agreement has been signed, the Broads will take over formal management of Mutford Lock and the surrounding area.

8 River Wensum Strategy

The consultation period is nearing its end. A successful Open Day was held and a number of responses received.

9 How Hill Footpath

A meeting with Natural England is to be arranged to discuss feasibility.

10 Turn Tide Jetty

The main work is complete but additional scour protection will be carried out. It is proposed to investigate disposal of the dredgings behind the structure to see if this would assist restoration of the salt marsh.

11 Landscape Partnership Bid to Heritage Lottery Fund

A site visit has been arranged on 31 July for assessment before submission of the bid to the funding board. The results of Stage 1 will be announced in October.

Issues raised by Committee members

Moorings opposite Surlingham Ferry

David Capp reported that disputes, sometimes violent, had occurred between fishermen and boat users over rights of access to moorings opposite Surlingham Ferry. The problem could be alleviated by clear delineation of the section reserved for fishing.

Trudi undertook to investigate.

Colin Dye suggested re-locating the boat mooring to the opposite bank

Paul Savage pointed out that there would be opportunities for improving mooring if the Heritage Lottery bid was approved and suggested that discussion should take place before doing any work.

Mutford Lock

Colin Dye asked whether Mutford Lock was financially viable.

Trudi said that it was not but the BA believed it was an important access route to the sea. Charges would need to double to achieve break-even.

Research was required into the nature of the traffic before raising charges.

Peter Horsefield suggested a comparison with charges at Teddington Lock and Windermere.

Houseboats

Keith Bacon drew attention to an increase in the number of houseboats mooring in the rivers and wondered whether they were creating a navigation problem.

Trudi pointed out that any change of use needed to be referred to the Navigation Committee.

Q. What Impact will there be on navigation during work on Turn Tide Jetty? – Colin Dye

A. None

Q. Is small scale dredging at Hickling (Whispering Reeds) and Catfield Dyke likely to proceed? – Keith Bacon

A. Not this summer as Natural England has concerns over dealing with prymnesium responsibly, but hoping to undertake the work early winter

Q. What progress had been made with negotiations with Network Rail about bridges over the Yare? – Nick Balls

A. A meeting has been arranged with Network Rail officials in May. The BA has received confirmation that Network Rail is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Q. How Hill – is there any possibility of the bridge being re-opened? - Peter Horsefield Keith Bacon?

A. Don't know, will need to check with Adrian Clarke

Q. Why are channel markers needed in Barton Broad? Paul Savage

A. This is a contentious issue within the Navigation Committee. The Barton Liaison Group believes they are necessary for those unfamiliar with the area, particularly when transiting the Broad in poor light conditions.

They also help to restrict the passage of motor boats to the central channel, thus reducing the disturbance of wildlife and leaving space for sailing activities.