

BROADS SOCIETY

Notes on an informal discussion with Trudi Wakelin, BA Director of Operations Tuesday 26 January 2016 prior to the formal meeting of the Main Committee

Trudi reported on the following issues:

1. Broads Authority DEFRA Grant Settlement

Following the Autumn Spending Review, the grant settlements to all National Parks had been protected and budgets allocation for next four years had been announced which includes provision for inflation. The Authority was now in a good position to be able to support the requirements of the DEFRA 25 year strategy. Due to the short notice however, it had been decided to defer presenting the draft budget to the Authority until the March meeting.

2. Broads Authority – last meeting

The agenda included the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the Broads Plan Consultation Document, which would now be published for public comment.

3 Project Work

Hickling

The programme was progressing well. The first lagoon had been completed and it was anticipated that the work would be complete by the end of February.

Mutford Lock

Work was ongoing but it was hoped to have the lock fully operational by Easter.

Thorpe Island

The Broads Authority had prepared a position paper setting out the facts of the case to correct misrepresentations in reports to the press. Committee members agreed that this had been a helpful initiative.

Tree Clearance

Work had been carried out along 4.4 km of the banks for the River Ant including Broadsword contribution

Ludham Footpath

The path would be open by Easter

4 General Operations

Broads Rangers

Recruitment of a new Head Ranger Services and a Broads Control Operator was in progress. The local ranger was monitoring live aboards at Loddon. The Authority would find it helpful to be alerted to any problems requiring attention by phoning Control on 01603 756056.

Moorings at Pyes Mill

There was no news from South Norfolk District Council about possible Byelaws.

Breydon Water

The Hire Boat Federation is planning to develop a new video about crossing Breydon Water.

- 4.4 Closure of part of Wherryman's Way at Hardley Flood
No further communication had been received from Norfolk County Council
- 4.5 Footpaths
Agreement had been reached with Natural England for Clayrack footpath.
- 4.6 Staithe Report
To be presented to the next meeting of the Broads Forum
- 4.7 River Wensum Strategy
The draft was now ready for signature by all parties.
- 4.8 New moorings
Navigation Committee has approved negotiations for new moorings at Rockland Short Dyke and Berney Arms

Matters raised by members

Peter Howe – A boat has been stuck at Paddy's Lane for some weeks.
TW – will investigate

Peter Howe – Waste disposal problems

TW - North Norfolk District Council proposed to remove 13 of the 16 waste disposal facilities. The Broads Authority was attempting to discuss alternative provision but had been disappointed by the lack of response from North Norfolk District Council. Norman Lamb had become involved. Paul Rice added that a member of NNDC had asked for the matter to be brought to Committee. Parish Councils had reacted strongly to the proposed closures and hoped that some kind of a financial arrangement could be agreed to resolve the problem before the beginning of the tourist season.

It was agreed that the Society Chairman should write to NNDC pointing out that withdrawal of waste disposal facilities would encourage fly tipping. If a satisfactory response not was forthcoming, it would be appropriate to write to the EDP.

Peter Howe – Hoveton Riverside Park moorings and flooding problems.

TW - Work on the mooring was planned but no funds were available to deal with Park flooding. The Authority would be supportive of a partnership project but none was in place. However, she undertook to refer the matter of flooding to Simon Hooton.

Paul Savage – Moorings at Scare Gap

TW - It was hoped that these would be ready by Whitsun. No dredgers would be moored at weekends.

Colin Dye – River Chet removal of steel posts

TW - The Broads Authority was struggling to get a commitment from BESL to remove the posts and would welcome support from the Society and BHBF.

