

Broads Local Access Forum

05 March 2025

Agenda item number 8

Broads Local Access Forum meeting dates

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

A proposal to change the frequency of BLAF meetings from 4 to 3.

Recommendation

BLAF moves to having 3 meetings a year, one of which will be the AGM.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is proposed that the Forum moves from having 4 meetings a year to having 3 meetings a year. One in March, one in July, and then the AGM in November.
- 1.2. Recruitment can take place in April, as it did in 2024, so that new members experience a meeting of the Forum before they attend an AGM.

2. Constitution and Governance

- 2.1. Section 2.4 of the constitution states that “the Forum will meet at least twice a year and aim to meet four times in the year”. Dropping one meeting to 3 will mean that the Forum is still constitutionally correct.
- 2.2. The June BLAF meeting has been agreed with Broads Authority so should this change go forward, it would take effect in the 2025/26 season starting in July 2025. This could be taken to the Broads Authority meeting on 9 May, should it be seen that this needs to be formally accepted.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. Moving to 3 meetings year will have some positive financial implications as it will save Broads Authority Officer time and expenses for hall hire and travel.

4. Risk implications

- 4.1. There is the risk that topics will not have the same traction when the Forum meets 3 times a year, although there is the option to have additional meetings should a pressing issue become apparent, or to have break out group meetings outside of the regular BLAF meeting.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. If the meetings change from 4 to 3 the Forum will still be within the parameters of the constitution and would save time and officer expense. The option to add additional meetings if deemed necessary would remain.

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