

# Navigation Committee

14 January 2021

Agenda item number 7

## Chief Executive's report and current issues

Report by Chief Executive

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### Purpose

To give a briefing on significant matters relating to the maintenance and management of the waterways and allow members to raise any such issues.

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### 1. Broads Authority – 20 November 2020

- 1.1. Members unanimously agreed with the recommendations of the Navigation Committee to raise navigation charges for 2021/2022 by +4% to maintain services and provide for continued funding of the safety package in the financial year 2023/2024. Defra has agreed to a one-off use of £250,000 of National Park Reserves over the next two years to support the Navigation safety package.

## **2. Online training package**

- 2.1. Excellent progress is being made, in collaboration with the Broads Hire Boat Federation and Archant, on developing an online training package for visitors. Nine short videos are already in production and due to be completed by the end of February, in time for use and distribution by hire boat companies for the 2021 season.

## **3. Reedham and Somerleyton swing bridges**

- 3.1. Navigation Committee members were consulted in November on the operation of the swing bridges on Christmas Day and Boxing Day 2020. Network Rail requested that no operatives be stationed at the bridges during this period as there had been no requests to open or close the bridges to vessels in the last few years. All other duties were automated. Following consultation with the Committee, officers took the decision to inform Network Rail that the bridges could be unmanned during this period and requested that the Somerleyton swing bridge be left open to river traffic. This is not possible for the Reedham swing bridge as the operator needs to use it to access the signal box.

## **4. Trowse Swing Bridge and East Norwich development sites**

- 4.1. Authority officers are involved in meetings to discuss the future of Trowse Swing Bridge and the development opportunities in East Norwich presented by three large brownfield sites, namely the Carrow Works, the Deal Ground and the Utilities Site. The Chief Executive and Director of Operations are members of a working group looking at the Trowse Bridge (along with Network Rail, Abellio Greater Anglia, Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council and New Anglia). The Head of Planning and the Senior Planning Officer sit on another group looking at the development sites. There is an important relationship between the two issues and our officers are making sure that navigation interests are considered.

## **5. Navigation patrolling and performance targets**

- 5.1. The latest update on the significant use of powers by the Rangers is shown in Appendix 1, and reflects the continued busy period since the easing of lockdown restrictions. Appendix 2 shows the average navigation/countryside splits up to 6 December. As noted in the last report, this year the percentage time spent on Navigation duties is above average. Patrolling was considered a priority task during the Covid-19 lockdown period and, combined with the extended season, Rangers have patrolled more often this year. Rangers are now prioritising Countryside tasks that were delayed earlier in the year, but the variance will not be fully closed over this time. It was agreed at the Broads Authority meeting on 20 November to adjust the split at the end of the financial year to accurately reflect the time spent. This is expected to be 30/70% National Park/ Navigation.

## 6. Sunken and abandoned vessel update

6.1. The latest position on abandoned and sunken vessels is shown in Appendix 3.

## 7. Planning enforcement update

7.1. There are no further enforcement matters with navigation implications to report.

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Date of report: 10 December 2020

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions

Appendix 1 – Rangers exercise of powers analysis: October-November 2020

Appendix 2 – Ranger duties total time allocated and actual days

Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels - position at 07 December 2020

Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 24 October 2019

## Appendix 1 – Rangers’ exercise of powers analysis: October-November 2020

**Table 1**

<b>Verbal warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b> Wroxham and upper Bure	<b>Irstead launch</b> Ant	<b>Ludham launch</b> Hickling, Potter Heigham, upper Thurne	<b>Ludham launch 2</b> lower Thurne and lower Bure	<b>Norwich launch</b> Norwich and upper Yare	<b>Hardley Launch</b> Reedham, Chet and middle Yare	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b> Oulton Broad and upper/middle Waveney	<b>Breydon launch</b> Breydon water, lower Waveney and Yare
Care and caution	8	9						
Speed	377	144	53	43	4	4	21	15
Other	10	16	5	2		6		6

**Table 2**

<b>Written warnings</b>	<b>Wroxham launch</b>	<b>Irstead launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch</b>	<b>Ludham launch 2</b>	<b>Norwich launch</b>	<b>Hardley Launch</b>	<b>Burgh St Peter launch</b>	<b>Breydon launch</b>
Care and caution								
Speed	7	1	1	1				
Other	2	3	3		1	5		3
Special directions	9	15					5	1

**Table 3**

Launch patrols	Wroxham launch	Irstead launch	Ludham launch	Ludham launch 2	Norwich launch	Hardley Launch	Burgh St Peter launch	Breydon launch
Launch staffed by ranger	31	22	24	28	21	28	23	45
Volunteer patrols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRIS reports	5	2	5	1	5	3	1	9

**Table 4**

Broads Control total calls

Contact method	Number of calls
Telephone	4153
VHF	461
<b>Total</b>	<b>4614</b>

## Appendix 2 – Ranger duties: total time allocated and actual days

**Table 1**

Broads Authority corporate duties

Work area	Actual days to date
Training	95.54
Broads Control	137.09
Team meetings, work planning	249.80
Partnership working	3.78
Assisting other sections	19.86
Billets and boatsheds	2.70
Launch – general	1.35
Trailers - general	0
Vehicle maintenance	1.69
Other equipment repair	1.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>513.43</b>

**Table 2**

Navigation duties

Work area	Actual days to date
Patrolling	539.97
Escorts	20.14
Prosecution files	17.43
Bankside tree management	27.77
Obstruction removal	6.96
Channel markers and buoys	1.01
Signs and boards maintenance	15.88
Adjacent waters	37.03
Reactive mooring maintenance	4.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>670.85</b>

**Table 3**

Conservation, recreation, countryside maintenance

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Actual days to date</b>
Fen management	2.43
Lake, riverbank restoration	0.61
Invasive species control	3.99
Other conservation work	6.28
Pollution response	1.15
Visitor site maintenance	115.14
Public engagement	0
Public footpath work	3.78
Education work	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.38</b>

**Team total up to 01 December 2020**

Percentage Navigation: 83%

Percentage National Park: 17%

### Appendix 3 – Sunken and abandoned vessels - position at 07 December 2020

Description	Location found	Action	Notice affixed	Result
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, old River Thorpe	Vessel sunk at owner's mooring	No	Not affecting the navigation
Motor Cruiser	Sutton/ Stalham cut	Liaising with landowner, vessel not in navigation channel	No	Monitoring
Motor Cruiser	River Yare, Thorpe Marshes	Vessel raised by owner	Yes	Vessel removed
Yacht	River Yare, near Chet Mouth	Vessel raised	No	Vessel Raised
Workboat	River Yare, Thorpe Island	Vessel sunk at mooring	No	Owner
Motor cruiser	Thorpe	Sunk vessel	Yes	Will raise when dredging equipment is in the area

### Appendix 4 – Prosecutions dealt with in court for non-payment of tolls since 24 October 2019

Type of vessel	Vessel name	Fined	Costs awarded	Victim surcharge	Compensation
Motor Boat	Swallow	£750.00	£150.00	£75.00	£530.01
Motor Boat	Loch Leven	-	£150.00	-	£380.52