

NAG Meeting notes

MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2021

Teams meeting

Attendees

Navigation Advisory Group members: Michael Carter (MC) (Chair), Sue Cawson (SC), David Fletcher (DF), Lee Wilshire (LW), Gareth Jones (GJ) Steve Wood (SW), Kevin East (KE), Nigel Stevens (NS),

CRT: Julie Sharman (JS), Matthew Symonds (MS), Gareth Chen-Rees (GC), David Baldacchino (DB), Rachel Hayward (RH), Jon Horsfall (JH), Matt Aymes (MA), Peter Rodriguez (PR).

Apologies

CRT: Sarah Lee, Peter Birch

	Action
<p>1. Minutes of last meeting / matters arising Navigation standards: PR: that is still being reviewed. Should be done by end of March. PR, DF, DB to meet to discuss at a meeting before the next NAG on 15th April. Action: PR to set up meeting</p>	PR
<p>2. Managing areas of high demand update MS: Report on stage one 'listening exercise' has been distributed. Survey responses and engagement session attendance were predominantly boaters without home moorings. The main feedback from the survey and engagement sessions: the impacts on CC boaters, impact on facilities, mooring space, that the London Mooring strategy should be fully implemented before further considerations, shouldn't make further changes until Covid-19 impact is fully realised. Stage two engagement is currently running, this consists of further in-depth work with boaters in London. We expect to publish proposals in late March. We will set up a session with NAG before publication. Action: RH to arrange meeting</p>	RH
<p>3. Pre-booked passage GC: Following the separate meeting there has been progress with enhancing the system. The system now has flexibility to be able to set bookings for a range of times (e.g. a morning or afternoon), rather than a set time slot. Several structures now have 12 months of availability online, GC will be working with other</p>	

teams to make this available for all structures. Harecastle will be running non booked passage in the morning, set bookings in the afternoon. Further improvements will be followed up. GC will liaise with SC to do some testing once Y&NE structures are on stream. We will be getting customer service team used to administering the system.

Bridgewater Canal agreement JH: we are ready to sign an agreement with Peel. The aim is to keep the booking as simple as possible. We are waiting for a few pieces of info about Peels IT system before it is finalised. The system will be test before we go live. JH will get an update out to NAG when that happens. Boaters will have 7 days to go out, but can take a further 3 days to come back. Booking will be required. The Trust has a data sharing agreement with the Bridgewater. Booking will available online but also by phone. NAG suggested that signage at Dutton Lock may be useful, as well as on the end of the Leigh and the Rochdale. Discussion regarding 24 hours notice suggested this was not useful. Short term licence would still be available. The agreement is reciprocal.

GC

JH

3. Boat Licence Terms & Conditions consultation MA: 3300 respondents to the consultation. Over 1000 free text responses which have all been analysed. One driver was to make this a clear, easy document to understand. We have pared the language back so scores well on Flesch Kincaid, we have amended some conditions, and have now drafted this into a final document. The draft report will be sent to the executive. We will pull together a 'you said, we did' document. This will explain what we are doing. Once signed off, we expect it will be released in the next couple of weeks. The complete T&Cs are now in draft form. We are looking for a 1st May start date. NAG suggested a chance to look through the final T&C before publication. RH to arrange a separate meeting to consider this and London proposals.

RH

4. Update on construction standards and Tumblehome MC has been working with boat builders (CBA) - looking at the ratio of cabin tops to whole widths to make it more difficult for boat builders to build boats of inappropriate sizes. Most are not affiliated with British Marine which will make it a bit more difficult requiring them to comply to BM standards. JS: It could become an established standard, part of T&Cs.

5. NAG terms of reference (ToR) There was a discussion around fixed terms for NAG members. A suggestion of possibly bringing in a new NAG member 6 months before an existing member leaves to ensure continuity was being considered. The ToR document does not cover the sub-groups. JS, MC looking at how it can be implemented - a staggered plan for a managed transition when fixed terms end will be developed. Where terms end on the main NAG, people can be co-opted onto a sub-group to retain their input and expertise.

6 Sustainable Boating position statement MS: The Trust's Sustainable boating position has not been developed with the intention of being published later in the spring. In line with legislation, all sectors (including inland boating) will be required to reduce emissions, with a target of the UK being zero emissions by 2050. The sector will need to have a plan for achieving the 2050 target agreed by 2025. We are engaging with other navigation authorities to agree a consistent approach. The environment bill this year will give LAs greater powers to reduce air pollution, this will include being able to create clean air zones that will also cover boats within these zones. We are supportive of reducing emissions, but more work needs to be done to understand how this can be done, what the impacts will be and how these can be mitigated. The cost of

the changes required will need to be shared and cannot fall on the Trust alone. The annual boater survey includes a question about sustainability to help us get a better understanding of boaters' views on the subject of tackling air quality and reducing emissions. NAG: There is a need for a climate change lead in the Trust. Need for greater resilience on the network. Important that BSS is aligned with changes. British Marine are working hard on this, but not yet possible to outline a clear vision for the future of boating. Bio-fuels may offer an alternative for propulsion in the medium term whilst waiting for a viable alternative. Understanding where there are power points currently, and how they are used should help inform plans for further power points.

7 Water Safety Zones (River Lee) MS: two water safety zones are to be piloted on the River Lee. The intention is that these will come into effect once the lockdown ends. The two sections where these are being applied are very busy, with lots of rowing, other unpowered craft and powered boats in use. The water safety zones largely focus on existing guidance and good boating etiquette to ensure everyone on the water is safe. There will be signage to advise the different mooring requirements (e.g. single or double or no mooring). A comms plan is being developed to make all waterway users aware of the zones. As the proposals in the zone are primarily about safety, we will not be formally consulting on the plans but it will be monitoring for 12 months from its implementation.

8 Draft Boating and Angling code MS: we had a good meeting between angling advisory group and some of this group, to update the angling and boating sections of the waterway code. It will be drafted into a leaflet to be distributed online and to clubs. The group looking at this will meet to review the final draft before final publication. KE will be invited to join that group and provide feedback from the view of unpowered craft. NAG: this is a code of practice and should not be loaded too much. Fishing off boats was discussed, as were fires on the towpath. **Action:** MS to investigate whether there is a by-law about barbeques on the towpath. Safety: DB has been asked to look at that section.

MS

9 Strong Stream Warning – update MS: not a lot to report, working with Peter Lau and Victoria Spires on the specification to update the online system. This work is waiting in an IT queue. We have done site visits and will audit the fixed signage to ensure it is consistent with the website information. NAG: There was an issue at Shardlow, when EA shut and opened flood gates, but remained closed on the Trust site. Comms need to be improved.

10 Wide beam boats update MS: Notices for the north Oxford section are now on the website, signs are being installed at Braunston junction. Signage will also go up at Wigram Turn. Booking wide beams wishing to pass through the tunnels on GU is now live on the system. NAG: this has been very good for the Trust's reputation. Questions raised about marina putting widebeams in on T&M - the Boating Business manager has spoken to them regarding the craft limitations.

11 Sub Groups update

- Dredging. NAG: Update on hydrographic surveys, still waiting to see plan of forthcoming dredging. Winding holes data - there is an issue of priority of which WHs should be dredged based on usage. **Action:** Sue will share notes.

SC

- Vegetation. NAG: mowing regimes - maps to be produced for the season. Comms will go out to stakeholders. Work has been done on the South Oxford reeds and offside veg

- Mooring. NAG: All covered on agenda.

- Stoppages. NAG: Communication has been pretty good on problems in NW. Need to keep stoppages out of peak season. Possible to have reports on some of the small

stoppages, such as bridge, etc. JH: we do get reports through that could be used. Perhaps little videos, written by the people who did it. **Action:** JH to take forward JH

12 Asset Related Injuries Report. This had been distributed. DB: slow increase in 2017/18, but a large increase in 2020. Looking to see whether this is Covid related.

13. AOB Office closures: JS We have been consulting on moving people to home working. There will be 11 multifunctional spaces/hubs. We have always had too much office space. This should lead to cost saving of around £1million per year. NAG: concern over selling places such as Braunston Stop House and other heritage properties. BCSMs are giving a lot of thought to customer face to face service & welcome stations. Anything we sell goes through heritage assessment.

Signage: Foxton bottom lock - lengthy wordy sign in totally the wrong place. Too much information on that sign. Would be better as a diagram. Small sign on the passing pound which can flood. Trust to look at it. Also at end of Macclesfield. **Action:** SC to send through. DB to look at signage DB

Lockage: huge difference between Stonebridge and Tottenham lockage report- Trust will look at that. **Action:** RH RH

Volunteer reservoir inspector - is this useful/safe? DB explained that we used volunteers to accompany our inspectors. They are fully trained.

Annual survey - lack of branding on initial email. This has been rectified on the reminder email.

Student project Several members has a very positive meeting with the students from the University of York who are working on a boater App project. There was agreement that it would be very helpful to progress the final report they produce as is a significant opportunity for the Trust and boaters. Will bring back to next meeting.

Forums: They have been good, but all presentations and no opportunity for discussion. In the next round of forums there will be the opportunity to discuss local issues in breakout rooms.

Soft edge repairs for next meeting

IT - We are changing our systems; do we still need intranet? NAG thought that we did not need intranet.

Navigational standards on wide beams: they should have double chine hull to allow ease of mooring. **Action:** MC to take this forward. MC

British Canoeing will be sending out more advice ahead of the new system, and anticipated influx of new users this summer.

Future meeting dates

- Thursday 15th April 2021, 10.30-3pm, Virtual meeting
- Thursday 10th June 2021, 10.30-3pm Virtual meeting
- Thursday 8th September 2021 10.30 - 3 pm venue tbc
- Thursday 9th December 2021 10.30 - 3pm venue tbc