

Changes to waste facilities around the broads in North Norfolk

NNDC currently provides 16 refuse compounds across the Norfolk Broads with receptacles for waste from users of boats on the Broads. In 2012, Norfolk County Council began charging NNDC for the cost of waste disposal from waste from these facilities at a cost of around £10,000 per annum. The majority of compounds are located on private land and no formal permission or agreements are in place between the landowners and NNDC for the structures. Many of the structures are in a poor state of repair and would require significant investment to return to a suitable and safe standard for users. In addition, most of the facilities suffer regular abuse through the dumping of unauthorised waste from local residents and businesses.

There is no statutory requirement for NNDC to provide waste and recycling facilities for users of the Broads, as we are not responsible for the land. However, the Broads network is a popular tourist area and adequate facilities for waste and recycling are likely to encourage the continued use of areas of North Norfolk. To ensure that a consistent approach could be taken across all of the Councils currently providing Broads boat waste collections the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) asked officers to agree a common approach. (The provision of the service is an operational matter rather than one of policy.)

Since 2012, NNDC officers have worked with the Broads Authority and other Councils in the NWP, to develop and implement the Norfolk-wide approach to the provision of waste facilities for users of the Broads. The NWP agreed that Councils should not pick up the entire cost of waste collection and disposal and that other public and private landowners, including The Broads Authority, The Environment Agency, The National Trust and Norfolk County Council, should be expected to make arrangements for provision of services on their land. Similarly, Council waste facilities should not be provided at private moorings, unless the landowner enters into a commercial contract covering the cost of both emptying and disposing of waste. The owners of these moorings often make financial gain from both mooring fees and commercial services, such as food and drink sales and the existing service is an effective subsidy to their businesses.

Provision of facilities on other land, such as Parish Council land, should be determined locally based upon the extent of the facilities for mooring boats, including the number of moorings, any charging by the Parish Council, the ability to provide facilities and service them and the extent of actual/potential abuse by both commercial waste producers and householders. A number of these waste compounds are small and difficult to access and provide only limited benefit to communities and boat users.

This approach has been accepted by all Councils and already implemented in some areas. Great Yarmouth Borough Council removed all of their waste facilities in early 2014 and as of April 2015, Broadland District Council reduced their waste disposal provision to just two sites. NNDC will be implementing similar changes during the winter, prior to the 2016 tourist season.

In developing the way forward, discussions have been held with the wider boating and tourism community. The outcome of these discussions has seen the introduction of new, privately owned facilities for waste collections for the 2015 season (or at least newly advertised), provided at boat yards operated by hire boat providers. Hire boat operators have also put in place reciprocal arrangements, so that customers of one

company may use the facilities of other companies at boat yards across the Broads network.

Accordingly, NNDC will continue to provide waste collection services at 3 of the 16 Broads waste locations currently in use, as detailed in the table below.

Parish Location Probable Land Owner Proposed Action

Hickling Pleasure Boat PH Private Remove

Ludham Ludham Bridge Environment Agency Remove

Ludham Womack Staithe NNDC Remove

Horning Ferry Inn Private Remove

Horning Lower Street (Swan PH) NNDC Remove

Hoveton Riverside Road Private Remove

Hoveton Station Road Norfolk County Council Retain

Wayford Bridge Wayford Bridge Private Remove

Irstead Staithe Parish Council Retain

Neatishead Staithe Parish Council Retain

Neatishead Gaye's Landing Parish Council Remove

Stalham Staithe Parish Council Remove

Sutton Staithe Parish Council Remove

Dilham Staithe Broads Authority Remove

Horseley Mill National Trust Remove

Barton Turf Staithe Parish Council Remove

Prior to removal of those identified as such, relevant landowners, the Broads Authority and Parish/Town Councils will be offered the opportunity to take on responsibility for the structures and the continuation of NNDC's collection service for an appropriate fee.

The implementation of the proposals will commence with the sites most abused by commercial waste producers and we shall ensure that any Parishes affected by a service reduction have time to consider the budget implications if they wish to retain and pay for the services of the Council as a commercial waste collection. Should no organisation express an interest in taking over the facility, the bins will be removed and any structures in place will be dismantled.