

## REPORT FROM ANGLIAN WATERWAYS GROUP MEETING.

Wed.10<sup>th</sup> Feb. 20121.

- **NEW TEAM LEADERS.** 2 new team leaders have been appointed, Mat Yallop will lead the Waterways Workforce Team on the Nene and Ouse and Katie Coddington is taking over Sue Cant's role as Team Leader on the Nene. She is new to the river but is keen to become familiar with its management.
- **SUE CANT.** For those who knew her, sadly suffered a stroke soon after her retirement in November and is a long stay patient in Peterborough Hospital. She is making a good recovery. Unfortunately she is unable to receive visitors but is keen to talk to friends and colleagues.
- **NATIONAL UPDATE.** (Please find attached with this report.)
- **INCOME FROM REGISTRATION.** This is down for powered craft but it is expected to be greater from unpowered craft as more people take to the water in canoes and paddle boards etc. Compliance checks are continuing with over 609 reminders have been issued and 3 removals notices issued. It has been a difficult year but the team are busy keeping abreast with existing cases.
- **PARTNERSHIP AND PROJECT UPDATES.** Not surprisingly the volunteering scheme has been put on hold across the region but the upgrading of the facilities at Denver will start in March. Refurbishment should take 7/8 weeks.

Nenescape. Chester House Estate mooring site downstream from Wellingborough is ongoing and plans for a floating pontoon are in place. Its construction is on hold because of high river levels but is planned to be completed by the end of February. The site is to be a major tourist attraction for the area. The EA are in discussions with land owners to add some more visitor moorings downstream.

QR Codes. These have been ordered to give a wide range of information for boaters for the River Nene.

- **B/MK LINK.** Strategy work is ongoing. Commercial opportunities continue to be investigated
- **ANGLIAN PASS.** This pass will allow boaters access across EA Anglian waters. The Cam Conservators and Middle Level Commissioners have approved the charges which have to be finalised by the 3 agencies. All the information needed will be in the registration packs when they go out including where to buy the Pass. The Anglian EA website will be updated and posters published.

- **UPDATE ON FLOATING PENNYWORT.** There has been continual testing on the weevil from Argentina which destroys this invasive plant and results sent to DEFRA and other agencies for approval.. If final approval is given then the EA would get supplies ready for release in late summer. DEFRA would supply funding. Other European countries are showing an interest. ( A pity it doesn't like eating the Coronavirus!) Scientists are also looking at strategies for taking out Himalayan Balsam. The Bedford Ouse is now largely cleared of Pennywort. The Ely Ouse is suffering from a lack of funding and needs funds from central government.
- **CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE.** Maintenance works are on target but some schemes have been moved to next year due mainly to the weather. Record flows on the rivers have been recorded leading to locks being checked.  
Nine Arches Bridge at Thrapston is to undergo major maintenance. The navigation is to be severely restricted and the road bridge will be closed for 6 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- **OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE.** This is aimed to go ahead for Easter weekend at Cambridge but without public attending.

Jenny Sullivan

SE Region Chair and Sec.

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.2021