

Press release: Partners work together on day of action along Norfolk river

Following complaints over several months from Norfolk Broads residents living along the River Yare in Norwich about illegal fishing, littering and general anti-social behaviour, Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officer Nick Beardmore took action. He raised the matter with partners including Norfolk Police and the Broads Authority at the monthly Norfolk Police Broadsbeat Partnership meeting.

As a result a multi-agency day of action was arranged for the Heron Island area, led by the Norfolk Police Broadsbeat team. The day saw new information signs installed, a big clean-up of the area and rod licence checks carried out.

Nick Beardmore said:

The residents were overwhelmed with the support they received and I want to thank everyone who joined us on the day, which was a real success. Hopefully the problems encountered in the past won't be repeated.

Norfolk Police Broadsbeat officers Derek Rutter, Martin Chapman, Paul Bassham and Amy Barrell used 2 police boats to transport everyone over to the island and carry out hi-visibility patrols along the Rivers Wensum and Yare. They also explained their role to the cadets, who were split into 3 groups and rotated throughout the day.

Broadsbeat officer PC Paul Bassham said:

It was recognised that if we didn't all pull together to tackle the emerging issues, the problems would continue to escalate once the weather turned warmer. This would take up valuable resource time and make life miserable for residents around Heron Island.

PC Barrell co-ordinated the follow-up response, supervising North Norfolk and Broadlands Police Cadets, and Officers Tina Wright, Peter Davison, Andy Mason and Ian Kennedy while they cleared the area and installed the new signs. The team worked alongside Broads Authority Rangers, local residents, a tree surgeon and the Environment Agency throughout the day.

Environment Agency Enforcement Team Leader Lesley Robertson said:

Working together in this way means we can pool our resources and tackle a number of issues at the same time. I am very pleased that

local residents felt supported and urge anyone with information about illegal fishing activities to report it to our 24-hour Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

For updates and pictures, follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyAnglia @Broadsbeat @BroadsAuth

News story: UK Government holds 'helpful' Brexit talks with First Minister of Wales

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster David Lidington MP is encouraged by the bilateral discussion he had in Cardiff today with the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones AM on the UK's preparations for leaving the EU.

Mr Lidington said the talks were helpful and thanked the Welsh Government for their constructive efforts in trying to find an agreed way forward in relation to the EU Withdrawal Bill that is currently going through the UK Parliament.

The talks were also attended by the Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns MP and Welsh Government Minister Mark Drakeford AM.

Speaking after the meeting David Lidington said:

I would like to thank Carwyn and the Welsh Government for their constructive approach on the EU Withdrawal Bill.

We both agree it is absolutely essential that all parts of the UK are ready for the day that we leave the EU. We need to protect the benefits of the UK internal market, making sure that there are no new barriers to living and doing business for people in Wales and other parts of the UK on the day we leave the EU. And as we've always been clear on, we expect that as powers are returned from the EU a substantial number will transfer directly to the Welsh Government.

We want to do all of this in a way that takes account of the concerns that have been expressed by the Welsh Government. We have had a helpful discussion today and I am encouraged that we can make progress in trying to find an agreed way forward on the EU Withdrawal Bill. Ministers and officials from both Governments will continue to work closely on these issues over the coming weeks.'

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

I have always been optimistic that we would be able to work constructively with the Welsh Government to address any concerns about the detail of the EU Withdrawal Bill. That conversation continued today in the most positive spirit.

We will reach an agreed solution that respects the devolution settlements, but moreover that is right for the people of Wales. Work will now intensify over the days and weeks ahead as we take further positive strides towards achieving that goal.

[News story: Witness appeal: Notting Hill Gate, 31 January 2018](#)

At around 16:05 on Wednesday 31 January 2018, a passenger at Notting Hill Gate Underground station was dragged along the platform after becoming trapped in the doors of a Central Line train.

Did you witness this incident or have any other information you consider relevant? If so, we would like to [hear from you](#).

[News story: Time to Talk about mental health](#)

Approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem at some point in life.

For an organisation as large as Sellafield Ltd, that means that around 4000 employees will encounter issues with their mental health.

To mark 'Time to Talk' Day, Euan Hutton from Sellafield Ltd talked to employees about his experiences.

The culture of silence associated with discussing mental health makes these issues worse and opening up to a colleague or friend is often the first step to recovery.

From now on, I am encouraging everyone to open up to talking about mental health. To managers and team leaders: create the environment for open conversation on this topic and reassure your team that they will not be judged for reaching out. To everyone in the organisation: look out for your team mates; step in if they don't seem themselves or if they are behaving differently and let them know you're there for them.

I'd never ask anyone to do something I wouldn't do myself...so here goes nothing.

In the past I've had issues with one of my kidneys which I've had treatment for. It comes up in conversation sometimes, and I've always been happy to talk about. I've got a bit of arthritis in my ankle which I've openly talked about, it's painful. It is as a result of breaking my ankle playing rugby when I was younger.

These are health issues which aren't exactly public as such, but which I'm certainly comfortable talking about openly.

What I have struggled to talk about openly is that in 2012, not long before I came back to work at Sellafield, I had counselling to help me deal with stress and anxiety.

I had the counselling because I was ill. It was medical treatment for an illness. Just like my kidney and my ankle.

On the face of it I didn't have anything to be anxious about. I was doing okay at work, I'm happily married and have three great kids and a loving family. I'm not unique or special. But I was ill. I needed help and treatment, and I got it, and I got better.

Mental health is the same as physical health. Any one of us can be affected at any time. We don't choose it, it chooses us.

That's why we're encouraging people to talk in the workplace, and directing people to where more help is available.

[News story: Education Minister unveils new support for schools](#)

A new service offering schools advice on how to get the best value for money when buying support from businesses has been launched by the Department for Education.

The new scheme – which is being trialled initially in the north-west and south-west – will provide free advice and guidance to schools looking to

procure services from local or national businesses. This could include catering, cleaning or technology support.

School Systems Minister Lord Agnew said:

Academic standards are rising, with 1.9million more children now in good or outstanding schools than in 2010 and nine out of ten schools given this rating at their latest inspection. We know that how schools use their money is important in delivering the best outcomes for pupils and this new service will help School Business Professionals to make better financial decisions. It builds on our wider package of support to help schools to be more cost effective, with the aim of ensuring every child can access a world-class education.

The service is free for schools in the chosen regions to join immediately, with service delivery beginning from today (1 February) offering:

- expert advice and guidance on buying;
- template documentation for buying;
- help with complex contracts, particularly services such as catering, cleaning, premises and technology services;
- promotion of local collaboration, where there is an opportunity to reduce costs on areas such as learning resources and administrative supplies;
- market intelligence; and
- contract management support.

This service will add to the existing range of government tools, information and guidance already available to schools as part of our plans to help them improve their efficiency and save £1bn on non-staff spend in schools by 2019-2020.

It is part of the Department for Education's drive to ensure every child has the opportunity to make the most of their lives, no matter where they live or their background.

The new initiatives build on the work already being done by the department to support schools to improve their financial health and efficiency. This includes:

- a top 10 planning checks for governors. This checklist sets out key metrics for school and academy governors to help make sure schools manage their resources efficiently; and
- team of school efficiency advisors who provide expert support to the schools that need them most.

Interested schools can find out more [here](#)

Schools in other regions around the country are not able to apply currently, but can look for support from their local School Business Professional

Network instead. The Networks provide opportunities to share good practice and knowledge and can provide the opportunity to potentially save money, for example joining together to bulk purchase.