

Somerton Parish Council received the staithe report which was used as evidence for the proposed Policy PODM7 Staithe in the Broads Local Plan, on the 9th January 2017. This was 6 days after our meeting on the 3rd January 2017 when we agreed the Parish Council's responses to the Broads Local Plan. In our initial response, the Parish Council was unable to comment on Policy PODM7 as the report had not been made available to the public. Having now received the report, the Parish Council wishes to make the following addendum to our original response.

The staithe report was completed without any consultation with Somerton Parish Council or Somerton Staithe & Boat Dyke Charity Trustees, the body who administer our staithe on behalf of the Parish Council. The report acknowledges that the staithe at Somerton belonged to the Drainage Commissioners in 1841 but, by 1910, it was considered the property of the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the reference at the end of the section covering Somerton Staithe is incorrect. It would have been ideal to have included a map clearly showing the areas owned by the Parish and the separate section of nearby riverbank used as 24hours Broads Authority moorings.

Can we first suggest that the report be corrected to read;

“ The Parish Staithe at Somerton is now administered by the Somerton Staithe and Boat Dyke Charity (Reg.No.801536) on behalf of Somerton Parish Council. The Charity was established with a Charity Commission scheme sealed on the 8th July 1988. The mooring and launching of boats is restricted for the owners of properties in West & East Somerton and Winterton-on-Sea.

The nearby Broads Authority 24hrs moorings are not owned by Somerton Parish Council.

The Parish Council strongly objects to any proposal in Policy PODM7 to change the existing mooring and boat access arrangements at Somerton Staithe which could be included in the policy statement “Their access being obstructed”.

The Broads Authority should clarify just what this statement refers to and whether it includes boats owned by the general public or not. Access for and moorings for boats at Somerton Parish Staithe remains limited and is not open to the general public.

Somerton Parish Council further suggests that all Parishes mentioned in the Staithe report have the opportunity to access the report and comment on it's contents before Policy PODM7 is formulated.