

## BRITISH WATERWAYS ADVISORY FORUM

### Consultation Processes – a paper for the BWAF, October 2005

#### ➤ Background

For about ten years BW has operated consultative mechanisms which at a national level included:

1. An annual meeting between BW's chair and national representatives;
2. User Group meetings for Corridor and Boating issues.

#### ➤ Current Situation

During 2004 these existing mechanisms were strengthened as a result of the 2003 consultation *Improving Openness & Accountability*. Three key developments arose from the consultation:

1. The annual meeting with the BW chair was replaced with two annual meetings under the auspices of the BWAF, with a further two (smaller) meetings for discussion of forthcoming agenda items;
2. Local consultation practices between individual Business Units and local representatives were formalised – a set of minimum standards for local consultation was agreed with User Groups and implemented. (Attached);
3. BW pledged to abide by the Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Written Consultations when conducting written consultations of a national relevance.

With these measures in place, BW believes there is a robust framework in which matters of interest and concern to its stakeholders can be aired and considered. A diagram showing the relationship of these various meetings to each other is attached.

#### ➤ When to consult?

BW's Board decides the policy and strategy of the organisation within a framework set by Ministers and on the basis of recommendations made by its Executive Directors. The consultative framework described above is there to make sure the views of waterway stakeholders are taken into account.

Statutorily, BW has only a few obligations to consult. For example there is an obligation to consult IWAAC over proposed reclassification of waterways. This is set out in the 1968 Transport Act.

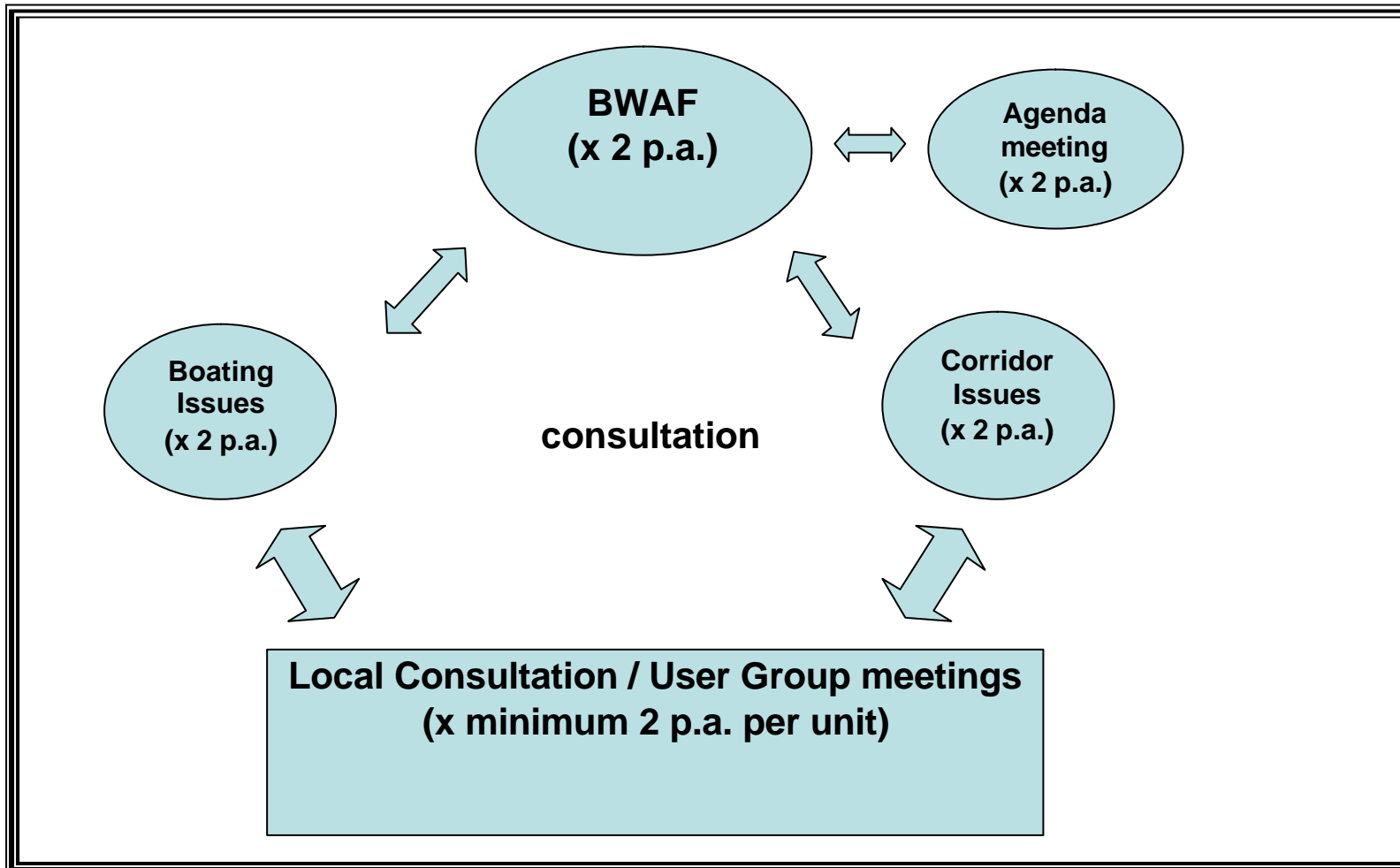
However, BW recognises the benefits that consultation can bring and regularly consults on issues of wide significance. BW is committed to consulting:

- **Nationally** on major changes to policy that affect a wide range of users;
- **Locally** on changes that affect local users significantly.

BW recognises that the current licence fee and structure consultation has caused concern amongst user groups and welcomes the opportunity to debate issues to do with consultation process with the BWAF so that improvements can be made in the future.



## BW's Consultative Mechanism 2005





## Invitees to BWAf & National Boating / Corridor Issues Meetings

Amateur Rowing Association  
Anglers' Conservation Association  
Association of Pleasure Craft Operators  
APCO Hotel Boat Section  
Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs  
Boat Museum  
British Canoe Union  
British Hire Cruiser Federation  
British Horse Society  
British Marine Federation  
Canal Boat Builders' Association  
Commercial Boat Operators' Association  
Country Land & Business Association  
Electric Boat Association  
Historic Narrow Boat Owners' Club  
Horse Boating Society  
International Mountain Bike Association (UK)  
Inland Waterways Association  
National Association of Boat Owners  
National Association of Fisheries & Angling Consultatives  
National Community Boat Association  
National Federation of Anglers  
Ramblers' Association  
Residential Boat Owners' Association  
Royal Yachting Association  
Steam Boat Association of Great Britain  
Sustrans  
The Yacht Harbour Association  
The Boating Association  
The Barge Association  
Towpath Action Group  
Wooden Boat Association

Central Council for Physical Recreation (observer)  
Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (observer)