

## Bures Sportsground Committee Paddleboard Response:

After careful consideration of two independent submissions to set up recreational paddleboard business operations on Bures Sportsground the Working Party recommends the governing committee reject both proposals on the following grounds.

**Overcrowding** – Year on year the number of recreational visitors to Bures has been increasing. The travel restrictions of last summer meant the number of visitors was more than the village (amenities and residents) could cope with. These restrictions are likely to continue into summer 2021 and an extra attraction is likely to attract even more people into the village.

**Parking** – Over the summer months available parking is a major problem within Bures with the Community Centre Car Park being the only realistic option for Paddleboard customers. As the car park operates on a first come first served basis the committee considered that Paddleboard customer parking could not be guaranteed and could only add to an existing problem.

**Site location** – Whilst the committee understands the need for an operational base on the sportsground, they were reluctant to allow vehicular access for reasons of safety. The committee also considered location could impact other amenities such as the BBQ area and access to the millennium bridge and adjacent jetty.

**Landing stage** – The logical portage point is the large jetty adjacent to the millennium bridge. This is used by multiple users throughout the day and in particular swimmers who tend to dwell within that locale. Whilst not intentional the Paddleboard operation may be perceived as dominating the facility which could lead to conflict. It was also noted that, whilst not promoted, swimmers do jump from the bridge which may create safety concerns with respect to paddleboard customers.

**Wildlife** – Promotion of additional activity on the river would have a negative impact on wildlife and the environment.

**Administration** – Bures is unique in having two parish councils who are both supported by only one parish clerk. Administration of the Paddleboard business and any associated issues or problems that may arise would be referred to the clerk. The governing committee are reluctant to increase the burden of responsibility on a clerk who has no capacity for an increase in work.

The Working Party also considers businesses should operate from privately owned riverbank such as those in Dedham, Flatford and Henny, rather than a public sports field.

Please find attached a map scoping the questions raised and benefits/ dis-benefits considered.