

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

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| <b>Committee</b>    | River Hamble Harbour Management Committee              |
| <b>Date:</b>        | 23 June 2017   |
| <b>Title:</b>       | Environmental Update                                   |
| <b>Report From:</b> | Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services |

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary from mid-February to mid-May 2017.

### 2. Updates

#### 2.1. Port Waste Management Plan

The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) has commenced consultation for the 3-yearly review of the River Hamble Port Waste Management Plan (PWMP), as required under The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 as amended. Marinas and clubs have been contacted directly. Any river users wishing to comment on the provision of waste facilities in the Hamble Estuary provided for the disposal of waste produced by boats which berth in the Hamble should contact the EDM, as advised on the website and in the Hamble Directory.

#### 2.2. Oil Spill Response & Planning

The EDM and Marine Director have met with representatives from BP Hamble Oil Terminal, who requested a briefing on the Hamble Estuary and the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) oil spill response plan and oil spill response capability. Benefits were gained by both parties through improved understanding of each other's control measures, response plans and communication strategies.

#### 2.3. Pile replacement Consents

Pile maintenance permissions have been granted for the following sites: Hamble Point Marina, Warsash Sailing Club, Cabin Boatyard, and Prince Philip Yacht Haven. The latter two are yet to be completed.

#### 2.4. Sea View 2027 Project

The EDM represented RHHA at a workshop of the Southampton Water Users Group (SWUG) section of Sea View 2027, a DEFRA initiative to improve the marine environment on the Solent and Sussex coast to agreed goals and a Vision by 2027, ensuring that management is continued on from catchment partnerships on land to those at sea. Sea View assesses how various initiatives are contributing to an

increased understanding and improvement of 'health indicators' such as Shellfish Fishery, Shellfish Waters, Marine Litter and Special Area of Conservation Condition. Sea View also agrees and helps drive collective actions, such as the work to understand the sub- and inter-tidal physical environment around the estuary and how commercial needs, development and the environment can be balanced together. A next step is to agree a vision of the Southampton Water waterbody (which includes the Hamble Estuary) that embraces the aspirations of all these users in the estuary. The Environment Agency will present a further update at the Hamble Estuary Partnership Meeting on 29th June 2017.

#### 2.5. Planning & Consents – Implications for HCC lease

The EDM met with representatives of Knight Frank (agent for The Crown Estate) and Hampshire County Council's Estates team to provide information on the various consenting requirements and processes associated with estuary developments, and to assist them with an improved understanding on the implications these may have within their own roles and requirements, including HCC/RHHA lease arrangements.

#### 2.6. Conservation Advice Packages

Natural England delivered an interactive workshop, attended by the EDM, to train local coastal/marine decision makers to use Natural England's new 'Conservation Advice Packages' for the Solent European Marine Site (SEMS). Presentations and case studies demonstrated how this online tool makes it possible to access the information on which Natural England base their marine conservation advice. The web-based system enables anyone to enter details of a proposed activity and receive information about any potential impacts it is likely to have on protected marine sites. This new system should assist RHHA officers in not only determining external consent applications and responding to third party consultations, but also in assessing the environmental effects on the SEMS of RHHA's own development options and proposals.

#### 2.7. Secrets of the Solent Project

The EDM, along with other local stakeholders representing commercial and leisure maritime user groups, heritage, archaeology and the environment, contributed to a workshop and interview organised by HIWWT to help frame a Heritage Lottery Fund bid the Trust is preparing called 'Secrets of the Solent'. The grant could unlock a five-year £1m investment in inspiring local people to get involved in protecting the unique habitats and heritage within our local Marine Protected Areas.

#### 2.8. Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent

The contract for Phase 1 of the Solent Forum's 'Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent' (BUDS) Project has been let to ABPmer. This phase entitled "Project Scoping and Partnership Building" will run for approximately five months. The EDM is a member of the Steering Group, and this project compliments and builds upon the River Hamble saltmarsh restoration and sediment retention study recently produced for RHHA.

#### 2.9. Solent Forum - Current Issues and Updates

The EDM represented RHHA at the bi-annual Solent Forum members' meeting in March, giving a brief presentation on the RHHA saltmarsh and sediment study, attended the bi-annual Natural Environment Group in April, and attended the Solent Forum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in May. Updates on issues relevant to RHHA included the South Coast Marine Plan's next steps, the Solent Oyster Regeneration Project, Evidence and Management for Marine Recreational Activities, update on

Seaview project, The Green Blue Wildlife Guide for Boaters, Marine Litter, Solent's Importance for Habitats and Species, Recreational Boating Use of the Solent, Natural Capital, Advances and Applications of Coastal and Nearshore Monitoring, Sediment Management in Cowes, and Managing the Solent European Marine Site. Minutes and presentations for each can be found at <http://www.solentforum.org/networking/meeting/> and [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/) and [http://www.solentforum.org/networking/celebrations/Solent\\_Matters\\_Conference/](http://www.solentforum.org/networking/celebrations/Solent_Matters_Conference/)

#### 2.10. Solent Oyster Restoration Project

Representatives from University of Portsmouth and the Blue Marine Foundation met with RHHA staff to promote the Solent Oyster Restoration Project. The overall aim is to restore the Solent's native oyster population, *Ostrea edulis*, which has declined dramatically from what once was one of the largest oyster fisheries in Europe. Oysters have many socio-economic benefits as a food source, for filtering water and as a habitat for other species. Factors effecting *O edulis* are being investigated, including predation, parasites and water quality. Trial brood stock cages are being hung from various sites around the Solent, including in the Hamble, the aim being to develop an aquaculture method that can be easily used in commercial marinas and other suitable sites to house a protected population of adult native oysters that will produce juvenile oysters to repopulate the seabed populations across the Solent.

#### 2.11. New Wildlife Guide for Boaters

The RYA/British Marine's Green Blue have launched its new 'Green Wildlife Guide for Boaters' to promote good practice to help minimise any impacts of boating activities on marine wildlife and protected sites. See <http://thegreenblue.org.uk/News/2017/March/New-Green-Wildlife-Guide-for-Boaters>.

### 3. Recommendations

#### 3.1 It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee notes the contents of this report.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>          | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): |     |
| <b>Maximising well-being:</b>                            | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): |     |
| <b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>                   | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): |     |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

A full Equalities Impact Assessment for the River Hamble Harbour Authority's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (including environmental responsibilities) has been carried out and this report does not raise any issues not previously covered by that Assessment.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. This report does not deal with any issues relating to crime and disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? The contents of this report have no impact on carbon footprint or energy consumption

3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable to this report.