

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	19 March 2021
Title:	Environmental Update
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to summarise activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between December 2020 and mid-February 2021.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board notes and supports the content of this report.

Updates:

Harbour Office sea wall repair

3. Further to previous updates, a Marine Licence for the repair of the sea wall around the Harbour Master's Office has been granted by the Marine Management Organisation. The Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed that the licence covers its own requirements and conditions and so it will disapply the requirement for a separate application to be made to the EA for a Flood Risk Activity Permit. A harbour works maintenance consent has been granted to Hampshire County Council. Phase 1 of the repairs is expected during 2021 with Phase 2 in 2 or 3 years' time subject to budget.

Maintenance Works

4. Maintenance works consents have been granted for the following:
 - replacement of the existing pontoons at Quay Pontoon, Hamble Point Marina, expected April 2021.
 - replacement of the existing slipway sleepers and rails at Fairport, Lands End. Underway.

- maintenance dredging at Hamble Point Marina (completed)

Restoration of the European native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)

5. The Hamble Estuary has been put forward as one of three Solent locations each to be used for the next phase of the Blue Marine Foundation's Solent Oyster Restoration Project. This is a result of research into suitable subtidal habitat and detailed discussion with RHHA and other stakeholders and authorities. A marine licence application is now underway for a five-year programme to deposit shells and gravel (cultch) along with juvenile oysters and spat-on-shell. If granted, this next phase will complement the existing programme of mature oyster brood stock cages already in place.

Secrets of the Solent project

6. The Harbour Master's Office has been selected as one of several prominent locations across the Solent (including other Harbour offices) to host a small mural depicting a significant Solent species, to be painted by a professional artist. This is part of the previously reported Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's (HLOWWT) wider project objective to raise the profile of local native biodiversity among both river users and non-river users. The HLOWWT project team aims to engage local communities in the selection of the species for the murals. RHHA is a member of the project's stakeholder group.

M27 motorway bridge drainage update

7. Further to the update in the previous Environmental Update report, the Vice Chairman of the Harbour Board has written to Highways England, copied to local Members of Parliament (see adjacent Marine Director & Harbour Master's Report).

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

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.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) 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 protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are 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 in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An EIA is not required as no negative impacts are anticipated.