

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	10 January 2014
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	5406
Report From:	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 during September, October and November 2013.

2. Activities

- 2.1 The Harbour Authority has undertaken a bathymetric (underwater depth) survey of the Harbour Master's Jetty in advance of the commencement of the Associated British Ports capital dredge of Southampton Water, proposed for early Spring 2014. Other marinas, clubs and mooring providers were advised in July to do the same prior to the dredge. This is to ensure adequate evidence is available should changes in depths been seen. ABP's baseline monitoring programme of depths and suspended sediment levels is on-going.
- 2.2 Routine maintenance dredging has been approved for Hamble Point and Mercury Marinas. The work is due to be undertaken during January and early February 2014 respectively.
- 2.3 The Environment and Development Manager (EDM) chaired a meeting of the Consent Advice Panel on 9 October. This was well attended with several potential projects tabled. It provides an opportunity for potential applicants with a proposal for a development within the Hamble Estuary to meet informally with consenting bodies for advice prior to an application being made and consents sought. Authorities giving advice were Natural England, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Chesterton Humberts (representing The Crown Estate) and River Hamble Harbour Authority.

- 2.4 The EDM attended the bi-annual meeting of the Solent Forum's Natural Environment Group. The Marine Director attended a meeting of the Solent European Marine Sites Management Group. These meetings, also attended by other harbour authorities, local authorities and environmental organisations, provide an opportunity to give and receive updates on topical issues and activities, and to work with other authorities and organisations to ensure that RHHA remains up to date on emerging issues, and that the environmental legal obligations of the RHHA continue to be met.
- 2.5 The Chairman of the Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) and EDM (in the role as Officer of the HEP) attended the free annual conference of the National Coastal Partnerships. This is the key networking event for CPN members and partner organisations, enabling links to be built and benefits to be gained from shared experience on a national scale. Up to date information on legislation and key issues affecting or affected by coastal management was provided through presentations given by senior officials from the Marine Management Organisation, Defra, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority.
- 2.6 A meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership took place on 3 December. A presentation by Natural England explained its role in relation to the Hamble's sites that are designated for nature conservation. A presentation given on behalf of the Highways Agency explained the risks, impacts and assessments carried out relating to drainage and pollution from the M27 bridge. Partnership members updated the group on the work of their own organisations. Members are encouraged to look at the minutes and presentations which will shortly be available via <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hambleestuarypartnership/hep-members.htm>
- 2.7 RHHA staff attended a Beach Supervisor training course at Warsash held by Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit and the Maritime & Coastguard Agency. The purpose of the course was to train delegates from local authorities around the Hampshire and Isle of Wight coastline to effectively supervise the clean up operations on a designated section of the coastline in the event of an oil and/or chemical incident. This has increased the number of qualified Beach Supervisors in the local area that could be utilised under existing mutual aid agreements. RHHA staff also assisted with boom deployment and safe management of river traffic.
- 2.8 Permission has been given to Southampton University's National Oceanographic Centre to undertake a survey of the clam population of the estuary this winter. No other shellfish dredging is permitted due to closure of the area's shellfish beds.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that this report be noted.**

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
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.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. 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.