

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	27 January 2012
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	3578
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 since October 2011.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Marine Licenses

RHHA wrote to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) following the Harbour Board meeting in September 2011, lodging concerns raised regarding the costs and requirements for certain categories of Marine Licences . There has continued to be some confusion within the industry regarding the MMO's Marine Licensing system for activities and developments that were introduced in April 2011. RHHA wrote again to the MMO in November seeking a formal response that would provide clear interpretation of the legislation, particularly in reference to exemptions from a Marine Licence that may apply when an applicant already has a harbour authority's consent. The MMO has undertaken to review of their new system in April 2012 and RHHA is preparing case studies to support comments on both the categorisation and fee structure of the system.

In light of the new system, the Solent Forum is drafting a new guide to the wide range of permissions required for developments and activities in the marine environment. The RHHA has contributed to the drafting of this, in particular the sections on harbour authority approvals. This will provide an invaluable guide to this very complex area for potential applicants throughout the Solent, and will aid the RHHA who can refer applicants to this guide for all other permissions they may require.

2.2. Harbour Works Consent

A significant update is being made to the RHHA website pages relating to Harbour Works Consent, which will include thorough guidance on the process, details of timings and costs associated with applying for consent, and a facility for the online viewing of applications.

2.3. Planning Consultations

RHHA has been consulted by Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) on the following planning application:

- 'Reconfiguration Of Pontoon With New Access Pontoons, Security Gates And Tubular Steel Piles Following Removal Of Existing Pontoons & Mud Berth' by Deacons Boatyard. This was granted Harbour Works consent in September 2011.

2.4. Southampton Channel Dredge – River Hamble Safeguarding Agreement

After two years of complex yet successful negotiations between RHHA and Associated British Ports this agreement has now been signed by both parties. RHHA has written to the Marine Management Organisation to inform them that our concerns regarding the granting of a licence for this project have been mitigated through the terms of this agreement.

2.5. River Hamble Maintenance Dredging 2011-2012

Maintenance dredging consent has been granted by RHHA to Marina Developments Limited to undertake their winter maintenance dredging programme. This occurred at Hamble Point Marina during December 2011 and Port Hamble Marina during January 2012.

2.6. 'Hamble Riverview' Map & Demonstration

The RHHA has been working with Hampshire County Council's IT team to set up a new interactive mapping system of the River Hamble that brings key geographic and photographic information together into one place. This will be used to allow all RHHA staff and other interested parties access to the following layers of information that have clearly defined boundaries:

- OS maps
- aerial photography
- all nature conservation sites
- main channel location
- boatyard and marina curtilages
- slipways
- mooring restriction areas
- areas licensed by RHHA for mullet netting and oyster dredging

The map also allows access to geo-referenced photographs at hundreds of locations along the River that will help staff, Members and the general public view specific areas of the River when researching areas of interest

and locations for proposed harbour works consents. 'Address point' data will also be displayed.

External authorities have also expressed an interest in the system, particularly the photographs, as it will aid officers with their research and understanding when determining various types of applications.

In due course it is anticipated that this map will also be used in support of the Strategic Vision.

It is hoped that a demonstration can be given at this meeting.

3. Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that:

The River Hamble Harbour Board notes this report.

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.