

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	20 April 2012
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	3807
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Summary

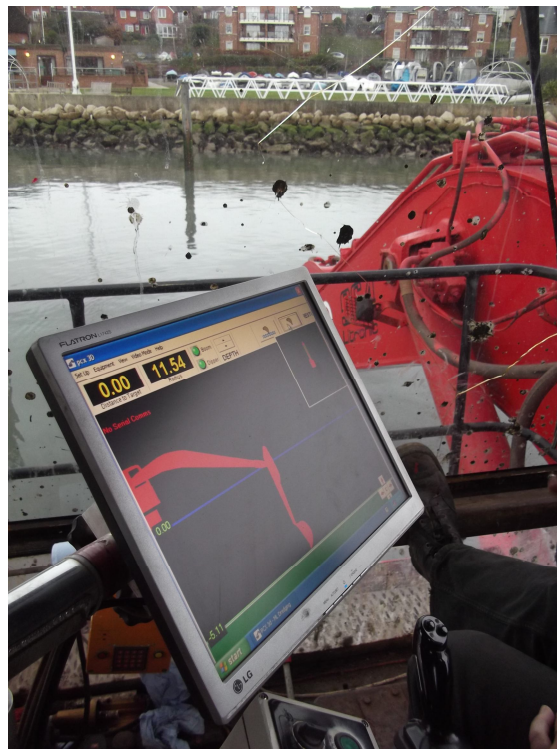
- 1.1. This report summarises activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary since January 2012.

2. Details

- 2.1. A multi-agency training session was organised by the Environment & Development Manager on 25 January. This was arranged for officers from the Environment Agency, Natural England and RHHA who are responsible for issuing consents for coastal developments in the local area. Visits were arranged to witness maintenance dredging at Port Hamble Marina and the construction of a lifting dock at RK Marine boat yard. A boat trip was then provided along the River to discuss many of the wider points of interest. It was extremely useful to all present to have the opportunity to improve knowledge of the details involved in such projects, from the application and granting of conditional consents through to the accuracy of plant operation. RHHA is grateful to the following companies for their demonstrations, talks and allowing access to their sites during the day: ML (UK) Dredging Ltd, Opus International, Lyminster Technical Services, RK Marine and Marina Developments Limited.



Above & below: Dredging at Port Hamble Marina



Below: Hoist Dock under construction at RK Marine



- 2.2. The following projects previously approved for Harbour Works Consent have now been completed:
- Annual maintenance dredging at Hamble Point Marina & Port Hamble Marina.
 - Replacement dolphin on Warsash Sailing Club's jetty.
 - New hoist dock at RK Marine.
 - The Crown Estate's mooring pile replacement programme.
- 2.3. The Government's Red Tape Challenge for the 'Water & Marine' theme was live until 12 April. This gave an opportunity for anyone involved with over 420 regulations relating to this theme to say which regulations are working and which are not, what should be scrapped, what should be saved and what should be simplified. The Harbour Authority has submitted a response, with particular focus on the Marine Management Organisation's new licensing system for marine development and activities. Responses can be viewed at:
<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/themehome/water-and-marine/>
- 2.4. RHHA has contributed information for the production of The Solent Forum's new edition of its Coastal and Marine Consents Guide. This was published in March in light of changes brought about following the introduction of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation. It is targeted at marine businesses and small private developers around the Solent, and explains which consents are needed to undertake works and development around the coast. It is free and available online at
http://solentforum.org/publications/coastal_consents_guide//Edition_4/
- 2.5. The Environment & Development Manager attended the following meetings of the Solent Forum which provided updates on the following issues of interest:
- Nature Conservation meeting:
- Invasive species in the UK marine environment.
 - Solent Oyster Group Initiative looking at the decline in the native oyster population.
 - Continuing work and consultation relating to proposed Marine Conservation Zones.
 - Saltmarsh restoration research.
 - Current research into the impacts of bait digging.
- Bi-annual members' meeting:
- The Government's two year extension to the transitional period for maintenance dredging licences (N.B. projects that previously required a marine licence, or its predecessors, continue to require one, and

RHHA consent is also still required).

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/licensing/>

- An Environment Agency pilot scheme is underway to increase awareness in the recreational boating sector of diffuse pollution issues. Future funding may extend this project into the Solent.
- The Marine Policy Statement and associated future production by the Marine Management Organisation of new Marine Plans around the UK coast.
- Formation of new county Local Nature Partnerships.
- Relationship between the use of intertidal areas by bird populations and for human recreation.

2.6. The Environment & Development Manager was invited to give a presentation to the Bursledon Rights of Way & Amenities Preservation Group on 16 March about RHHA's role in 'Protecting the Hamble Estuary'. There was a good turnout and the number and range of questions asked by the audience demonstrated how much local public interest there is in this subject.

2.7. Navitus Bay Windpark is the title of a proposed wind farm to the SW of the Isle of Wight. If approved, it could comprise up to 300 turbines across an area of 76 square miles. Information boards from the public exhibitions for the Navitus Bay Windpark held across Dorset, Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight from 21 February to 3 March are now available to view online. Please see link: <http://www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk/news-detail.aspx?newsID=478>. From this link there is an opportunity to complete an online survey about the proposed Navitus Bay Windpark and the potential offshore impacts of the development. The deadline for completing this survey is 17 April 2012, after which an assessment will be made of all the feedback from members of the public for this initial stage of public consultation. The Harbour Master and Environment and Development Manager attended exhibitions in Lymington and Christchurch respectively.

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.