

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	18 July 2014
Title:	Proceedings of the Annual Forum
Reference:	5951
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to report on the proceedings of the River Hamble Annual Forum, held at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash on 26 March 2014.

2. Background

- 2.1 The ninth River Hamble Annual Forum was held on 26 March 2014 at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash, and Chaired by Councillor S D T Woodward. Some 25 members of the public were present, along with members of the Harbour Board, Management Committee and Harbour Office staff. Details of the proceedings are at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 No formal deputations were made but there were a number of questions from the floor. Where possible, these were answered at the time. A brief synopsis of the answers is provided (in italics) at Appendix 1.

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:	yes
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.)	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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 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. Not applicable to this report.

3. Climate Change:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

APPENDIX 1

Proceedings of the River Hamble Annual Forum 2014

The meeting opened at 1930

Present:

Cllr Sean Woodward (Chairman) and 3 members of the Management Committee
Councillor Keith Evans (Chairman, Harbour Board)
David Evans – Marine Director and Harbour Master
Alison Fowler – Environment and Development Manager
And 25 members of the public

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Keith House, Chris Moody, David Jobson
Cllr Suzy Hamel
Wendy Stowe, John Tickle

Questions and contributions from the floor:

John Mitchell

Asked about the circumstances surrounding the recently reported collision between a large power boat and one of the newly installed pontoons off Mercury Gardens.

The Marine Director provided a detailed account of events.

Michael Sterne

Asked why the Harbour Authority had been involved in clearing gravel from the road outside the Rising Sun, when this area clearly lies above the mean high water mark.

The Marine Director replied that a number of people had been involved in moving the gravel, including Harbour Office staff. This was to ensure access along the road and onto the slipway. Further, the Harbour Authority had benefited by moving the gravel to the Harbour office yard where it has been used for re-surfacing. Cllr Woodward added that the clear up after the winter storms was a case of 'all hands to the pumps' and was not the time to worry about whether it was the specific responsibility of any one organisation.

Robert Hughes

Asked if the gravel which had been deposited at the head of Warsash slipway/hard during the winter storms was a result of longshore drift and whether the proposed changes to the slipway would help to reduce the problem in future because the longshore drift would be able to move the gravel further upstream to the fisherman's slipway adjacent to the Harbour Office.

The Marine Director replied that he did not have sufficient expertise in the processes involved to provide a complete answer but that the County Council's consultants would be asked for a thorough assessment of the likely processes and risks before any works are started.

Dave Anderton

Picking up on the Marine Director's statement in his Annual Report that the Deacons Marina development has been completed, Mr Anderton asked why the signs and navigation marks stipulated in the Harbour Works Consent had not yet been erected, and whether the Y pontoon was positioned in accordance with the plan. He also asked whether the Harbour Authority had a role as 'building inspectors' for works being carried out on the River.

The Marine Director responded that Deacons was structurally complete but agreed that the signs had not yet been installed. Post meeting note: The Marine Director had previously approved the design of the signs and agreed their intended location. They have now been manufactured and fitted.

With regard to the navigation marks, there is currently no requirement for lights to be installed as there were none prior to the development, but the pile at the extreme upstream end of the marina has been fitted with a red pile cap to indicate that it should be left to port.

Following the meeting, the Marine Director has checked on the position of Y pontoon, which is in accordance with the plan, although the piles had to be offset from the centreline for practical reasons.

With regard to the 'building inspector' role, the Marine Director explained that the Harbour Authority has no such statutory role but that regular checks are nonetheless carried out by Harbour Office staff during all construction works on the River. The Marine Director also explained that if any statutory inspection of the structure was required, this would be a matter for the Local Planning Authority.

Norman Francis

Asked whether it was known what had caused the two boats to sink during the Christmas Eve gales.

The Marine Director gave a detailed explanation of the most likely cause in both cases, based on the best information available. He was then asked who was responsible for maintaining the slipway/hard at lower Swanwick. Cllr Woodward explained that it was actually a Fareham Borough Council responsibility but that Premier Marinas would be carrying out resurfacing works as a condition of their planning permission for re-developing Swanwick Marina.

Colin Brookes

Asked if reports that the newly installed pontoons at Hamble River Sailing Club were the wrong size and in the wrong location had any merit.

The Marine Director replied that the pontoons had been installed in accordance with the approved drawings, except that the upstream pontoon had been installed about 0.5 meters from its design location due to difficulties driving the pile. This had been done with his approval.

Rory Kemp

Asked if it was fair and reasonable that the Harbour Authority charges £30 per year to be on the moorings waiting list, and suggested that local people should be given priority on the list.

The Marine Director responded that it is The Crown Estate's waiting list and that they set the level of charges. Similarly, it is for The Crown Estate, not the Harbour Authority, to determine who, if anyone, should get priority on the list.

Tony Blewett

Questioned whether the current Crown Estate rules which require that boats should occupy their moorings for a minimum of 3 months in any calendar year and cannot be sub-let for more than 9 months (even if this spans two calendar years) were reasonable.

The Marine Director explained that this was a matter for The Crown Estate. He further explained that demand for mid-stream moorings was so high that it was only fair that someone who was unable to occupy a mooring should make way for others who could.

Jeremy Clark

Mr Clark read out prepared notes regarding the beneficial re-use of dredged material in the River. He suggested that the Harbour Authority should engage consultants to review existing studies on this matter and to consider the viability of such a project. He also suggested that the Harbour Authority (working with others if required) should make applications for marine consents to re-use dredged material at a suitable location along the River, in order to stimulate the necessary environmental assessments.

The Environment and Development Manager responded that she was aware of these suggestions and that she was already looking at ways in which such a project could be taken forward.

Mike Stoner

Asked for more details of the proposed Hamble Jetty extension and whether it would restrict access to the Hamble public slipway and maintenance piles.

The Marine Director gave an assurance that the design was such that the width of the access to the slipway would be maintained.

Phil Clifford

Asked about a fallen beech tree near Brooklands. The sawn timber has been left near the River bank and was causing concern that it might be washed into the River at the next spring tides.

The Marine Director suggested that this constituted 'fly-tipping' since the disposal of fallen trees is the responsibility of the owner of the land on which the tree was growing. Cllr Woodward agreed to report this to Hampshire County Council's Rights of Way team.

Tony Blewett

Asked a question concerning terrestrial planning permission at Swanwick Marina. This was answered by Cllr Woodward but is not reported here because it was not Harbour Authority business.