

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	16 January 2015
Title:	Environmental Update
Reference:	6302
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Alison Fowler

Tel: 01489 576387

Email: Alison.fowler@hants.gov.uk

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 2014.

2. Updates

- 2.1. The Maritime & Coastguard Agency conducted an audit of RHHA's oil spill response training, exercises, equipment and Plan on 4 November. RHHA was found to be fully compliant with all requirements. An update will be made to the Oil Spill Contingency Plan to include details of the new fuel berth facility at Swanwick Marina.
- 2.2. Associated British Ports has given formal notice to RHHA of completion of its capital dredging activities in the area of Southampton Water to which the River Hamble Safeguarding Agreement applies. Dredging ceased on 3 November. Data analysis is underway, and post-dredge monitoring within the Hamble will continue for a further 6 months. The channel widening element of the consented project, which may have similar potential siltation implications for the River Hamble, did not take place and is unlikely to occur for a number of years, at which time the Agreement will be re-started.
- 2.3. Maintenance consents have been granted under the Harbour Master's delegated powers for routine maintenance dredging at Mercury Marina and Hamble Point Marina scheduled for early 2015, and also for the like-for-like replacement of the bridge structure on Manor Farm Country Park jetty which is now complete.
- 2.4. Further to the Harbour Board's agreement to progress research into the potential for a project involving the beneficial re-use of dredged material, the Environment & Development Manager (EDM) has approached leading experts and regulators in this field. All parties are interested in the proposal and will meet in late January 2015.

- 2.5. The EDM attended the bi-annual meeting of the Solent Forum's Natural Environment Group (NEG) and annual meeting of the Solent European Marine Sites Management Group. Attendance at these meetings ensures that RHHA remains up to date on emerging issues, and that the RHHA's environmental legal obligations continue to be met. The NEG meeting was followed by a site visit to the Medmerry managed realignment scheme which, at 500 hectares, is the largest realignment of the open coast ever undertaken in Britain. In addition to protecting over 300 homes and major infrastructure from flooding, the scheme also creates vital new wildlife habitats which compensate for habitat loss elsewhere in the Solent. It has won many awards including the 2014 Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss challenges and good practice associated with habitat creation and improvement projects which was of value given RHHA's current investigation into potential for reuse of dredged material.
- 2.6. The Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (an executive agency of Defra) undertook an annual inspection of the Harbour Authority's compliance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 regarding International Catering Waste from vessels. RHHA's facilities were found to be fully compliant with requirements.
- 2.7. The EDM and officers from harbour authorities and water companies across the Solent area met with the Environment Agency (EA) as part of the 'Love Where You Sail' project. The project's objective is to reduce the risk which recreational boating poses to designated Bathing and Shellfish Water compliance in the Solent. Several success criteria have been proposed including "There will be a 100% increase in pump out use within the project area by 2021 from a 2014 baseline". This may require an increase in pump out facilities within the River.
- 2.8. The EDM assisted Environment Agency (EA) officers with a fish survey of the Hamble Estuary near Manor Farm Jetty, conducted in line with Water Framework Directive requirements. Two pulls of the seine net caught around 400 fish which were measured and identified before being returned to the river. Fish were predominantly goby, bass, mullet and flounder but also included an unusual deep snouted pipefish. Significant numbers of sea trout have also been recorded migrating up the estuary this autumn, supporting reasons behind the timing conditions RHHA and the EA place on harbour works consents for certain activities.

3 Recommendations

- 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:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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 under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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.