

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

<b>Committee</b>	River Hamble Harbour Management Committee
<b>Date:</b>	24 June 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<b>Reference:</b>	7491
<b>Report From:</b>	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 from March 2016 to May 2016.

## 2. Updates

- 2.1. The Harbour Works Consent application or a pontoon extension at Riverside Boatyard was withdrawn following refusal of planning permission by Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC).
- 2.2. As a result of this decision, the Environment & Development Manager (EDM) and Harbour Master (HM) held a meeting with planning officers from EBC to discuss the relationship between EBC's planning policies relating to navigation and RHHA's requirements under the Port Marine Safety Code. Clarity was gained by both organisations as to the way in which consultation responses and professional advice are used in the determination of both organisations' permissions. The impact of developments outside RHHA's jurisdiction which have the potential to impact the River were also discussed e.g. dry stacks. The EDM plans to arrange a similar meeting with Fareham Borough Council in due course.
- 2.3. A minor variation to the Harbour Works Consent (granted 25 September 2015) for a slipway extension to Brooklands Quay has been approved by the Harbour Board. The variation relates to the removal of the need for a concrete footing at the end of the slipway. The slipway remains the dimensions consented, with the concrete area replaced by a continuation of the wooden decking and associated piles. The variation is also for use of an alternate hand-piling system called Grundomat, which has allowed a reduction in the number of piles from 40 to 38, with a smaller diameter of 160mm (previously 300mm), giving a total piling footprint of 0.77m<sup>2</sup> (previously 3.6m<sup>2</sup>). The area of mitigation remains the same. All other

authorities have also approved the variation, viewing both the new design and method as improvements. Construction commenced on 13 May.

- 2.4. A Harbour Works Consent for the replacement of a hoist dock at Hamble Yacht Services had been granted by the Harbour Master under his delegated powers. The elements of the project within RHHA jurisdiction amounted to like-for like replacement of the existing structure.
- 2.5. The Harbour Master and Deputy Harbour Master have both now completed their accredited oil spill management training course in line with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's requirements for oil spill response and preparedness.
- 2.6. The EDM provided information to the Environment Agency to support its bid to Highways England for funding to address direct drainage into the estuary from the M27 bridge. The bid was not successful. The EDM has requested more information.
- 2.7. The EDM and HM represented RHHA at the bi-annual Solent Forum members meeting on 16 March. Updates heard included the continuation of the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme which underpins flood and coastal erosion risk mapping and is also used to inform research such as the RHHA sediment management study. Natural England set out its plans for a proposed new Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (see 2.8), progress of the Solent stretches of the England Coastal Path, and timeframes for release of its updated conservation advice packages for the Solent European Marine Sites. Land Rover BAR presented on how the Ben Ainslie Racing team had embedded sustainability into their America's Cup campaign. Minutes and all presentations can be found at <http://www.solentforum.org/forum/meetings/>
- 2.8. The EDM attended the Solent's Natural Environment Group meeting on 21 April. The group focused on the work required to take forward issues and actions identified by the annual monitoring for the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) management scheme. This will include developing new guidelines aimed at reducing certain impacts of environmental disturbance by paddlesports which are not addressed via other management measures.
- 2.9. The EDM responded to Natural England's (NE) consultation on the proposed new Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) which includes the Hamble estuary and covers a large area from Worbarrow Bay, Dorset, to Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex. The proposal is to protect important areas at sea used for foraging by common tern, sandwich tern and little tern during the time period March-September. Their nesting areas are already protected. NE proposes that the new designation will include the sub-tidal areas not currently encompassed in the existing SPAs. It will have its landward boundary at mean low water (MLW) where it abuts the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (which includes Bunny Meadows, Lincegrove & Hacketts Marsh, Upper Hamble) where terns are already a feature. Elsewhere the landward boundary will be mean high water (MHW) so as to afford the birds protection within the intertidal areas.

The EDM has sought reassurance that current levels of activities, particularly recreational boating, moorings management and maintenance dredging, will not be subject to additional measures as a result of the designation. These

activities are already subject to the Solent European Marine Sites management scheme. Whilst the EDM raised no objection to the creation of a new SPA in principal, concerns were put forward regarding the inclusion of boatyards and marinas, some of which are excluded from existing site designations.

NE responded to the EDM to confirm that the Vulnerability Assessment did not identify any activities that would require additional management measures to those already in place, particularly those related to the management and use of marinas and moorings.

- 2.10. AHTI Ltd consultants have submitted the draft report for the Hamble sediment management project viability study to the EDM. The draft report has been reviewed by the project steering group and AHTI are currently preparing the final report.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee notes this report.**

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes
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.)**

DocumentLocation

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.