

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	16 July 2010
Title:	Asset Enhancement Reserve
Reference:	1829
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on progress towards agreeing a shortlist of projects for consideration as candidates to be supported by the Asset Enhancement Reserve, and to seek the views of the Harbour Board.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Asset Enhancement Reserve is a fund set aside to enhance and improve the assets of the River Hamble for all who use it. The money in the Reserve (currently about £312,000) derives mainly from the sale of the mid-stream mooring piles to the Crown Estate in 2002.

- 2.2. A wide range of projects have been considered and a shortlist has been prepared by a combined Management Committee/Harbour Board sub-group. The sub-group consisted of the following:

Councillor K Evans (Chairman, Harbour Board)

Dr Susie Tomson (Harbour Board member)

Mr Tony Lovell (Harbour Board member)

Councillor S D T Woodward (Chairman, Management Committee)

Mr David Jobson (Management Committee member)

Mr Rupert Boissier (Management Committee member)

Mr David Evans (Marine Director) facilitated the discussion.

- 2.3. The shortlist, as it currently stands, is at Appendix 1. It was presented at the Annual Forum in March 2010 and to the Hamble Estuary Partnership meeting in May 2010. Comments from each are included as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively. A poster seeking additional ideas has been on display in the Harbour Office for several weeks but has, so far, generated nothing. The shortlist was considered by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2010. Their comments and recommendations will be included in the Minutes of the meeting and should be read in conjunction with this report.

3. Further consultation

- 3.1. The shortlist remains open and suggestions for additional projects are sought. Members are invited to consider what further consultation is required.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board:

- a. Decides which of the proposed projects merit further detailed work on costings and possible funding partners.**
- b. Decides on requirements for further consultation.**

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

Shortlist of proposed Asset Enhancement projects

The following projects were shortlisted by the combined Management Committee and Harbour Board sub-group:

1. Improve slipways and associated safety signage
2. Provide a 'foot-dry' dinghy launching pontoon at Hamble
3. Extend the public jetty at Hamble (with electricity and sewage pump out)
4. Improve disabled access to the water
5. Provide more tender storage (ashore and afloat)
6. Purchase oil spill and debris clean-up vessel
7. Enhance re-cycling facilities
8. Improve riverside interpretation boards
9. Provide facilities for more school and youth group visits to the river
10. Funding for SSSI enhancements
11. Repairs and improvements to Hook-Swanwick footpath

As a general principle, it was agreed that adopted projects should provide a blend of facilities which, taken together, should benefit a broad range of river users; should be risk-free; should avoid ongoing revenue costs; and should not involve building or operating public toilets or showers.

Feedback on Asset Enhancement proposals – Annual Forum 2010

Scoring.

Rather than commenting on individual proposals, attendees were invited to score potential projects from 1 (low) to 5 (high) in response to two questions:

1. Would the proposed project be of benefit to Harbour users?, and
2. Would you support this project?

Combined scores were as follows:

Improvements to slipways 18/20 = 90%

Hamble dinghy launching pontoon 14/15 = 93%

Extend Hamble Jetty 8/10 = 80%

Improve disabled access 11/20 = 55%

Tender storage improvements 20/20 = 100%

Oil spill clean-up vessel 6/10 = 60%

Enhance re-cycling facilities 1/5 = 20%

Improved interpretation boards 5/15 = 33%

More school/youth visits 8/10 = 80%

SSSI enhancements 9/15 = 60%

Footpath improvements 12/25 = 48% (There were several comments to the effect that this is not Harbour Authority business and should be paid for by Fareham Borough Council exclusively)

The following additional ideas were submitted:

More storage facilities for dinghies and rowing gigs on the river bank.

Capital dredging.

Dramatic reduction of Harbour Dues.

Improve path on east side of River to make a surfaced cycle path from Warsash to Swanwick, and on west side from Swanwick to Botley.

The following potential funding partners were identified:

Fareham Borough Council for footpath enhancements

Hamble River Sailing Club or dinghy launching pontoon

Exxon and BP for oil spill clean-up vessel

Veolia for re-cycling facilities

Other comments made were as follows:

Do not include a sewage pump out if Hamble Jetty is extended

Feedback on Asset Enhancement proposals – Hamble Estuary Partnership

The following comments (in italics) were received from members of the HEP:

Improve slipways and associated safety signage

Improvements to signage supported, provided that they provide meaningful advice, rather than just Health and Safety warnings.

Funding for Improvements to slipways should come from the organisations which own them.

Provide a 'foot-dry' dinghy launching pontoon at Hamble

Supported as an asset which would enhance accessibility, but more thought required about on-going maintenance costs. Associated pressure on car and trailer parking facilities should also be considered

Extend the public jetty at Hamble (with electricity and sewage pump out)

Supported if legal (a question was raised regarding current ownership of the jetty – see general comments below)

Improve disabled access to the water

Supported, subject to there being sufficient evidence that such a facility would be used extensively. It was suggested that the Hamble could become a local centre of excellence for disabled access to water-based recreation.

Provide more tender storage (ashore and afloat)

Supported. The yard of the former Solent School of Yachting, and the area outside Warsash Sailing Club currently used to stow fishing pots were suggested as potential tender storage sites. A floating facility ('toast rack' storage on a pontoon) adjacent to the Swanwick slipway was also proposed.

Purchase oil spill and debris clean-up vessel

Supported on the grounds that it would benefit the widest range of river users (by ensuring a cleaner river), but concerns about the amount of use it would get. Partner funding essential.

Enhance re-cycling facilities

Currently there is no re-cycling provision at Land's End and Swanwick hards. Concern about ongoing costs (for emptying). Signage, indicating nearest re-cycling points, needed throughout the river

Improve riverside interpretation boards

Consideration could be given to 'interactive' interpretation boards (eg brass rubbings), but HEP has mixed views on funding.

Provide facilities for more school and youth group visits to the river

Focus should be on local schools and youth groups. HEP broadly supportive but more work required on scoping. The Asset Enhancement Reserve could be used as seedcorn funding. The Thames Explorer Trust was mentioned as an example of good practice.

Funding for SSSI enhancements

Need to identify the areas and type of works involved. Would need partner funding

Repairs and improvements to Hook-Swanwick footpath

This should be funded exclusively by the local authority

A general comment was made about the illegality of expending Harbour Authority funds on projects which do not lie wholly within the jurisdiction of the Harbour Authority (ie on the river side of the Mean High Water Mark) and that any proposals to spend funds outside the jurisdiction may be cause for a judicial review.

Other project suggestions were raised by HEP members, as follows:

Provide initial funding to help establish a River Hamble Conservation Society (with charitable status) to facilitate work by volunteers on conservation of the river (particularly the upper Hamble).

This was generally supported, but work programmes carried out by volunteers would have to be supervised by Harbour Authority staff

Build a wave screen(s) on the Warsash Spit at the mouth of the River, to protect the river from southerly gales, particularly at high tide (linked to potential future sea level rise)

Unlikely to be sufficient funds available. Research into likely effectiveness and the costs of environmental assessment could account for huge sums

Assist with funding the construction of public access toilets and showers in the proposed new Hamble Inshore lifeboat station at Hamble, for use by visiting yachtsmen (raised outside the meeting)

Note the sub-group's principle on funding the building of public toilets