

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	28 January 2011
Title:	Environmental Update
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Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this update is to provide a summary of issues relevant to the environmental management of the Harbour.

2. Topics

2.1. River Itchen, Western Shore, Netley and Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy

The public consultation for the coastal defence strategy closed on 5 November 2010. This strategy outlines in further detail the coastal defence policies for each section of coastline for the short (0-20 years), medium (20-50 years) and long term (50-100 years). The suggested policy for the majority of the Hamble coastline is 'no active intervention'. This means that an area of coastline will no longer have public money spent on coastal sea defences although private landowners will still be able to maintain defences at their own expense. The suggested policy for the stretch of coast around the Swanwick bend was to maintain the current level of defences for the 3 epochs. Managed realignment (the rolling back of sea defences), was suggested as a policy for the area of coast from Warsash to Hook Park in the medium term and in the long term for Universal Marina and for the coastline between Hamble Common Point and Satchell Marshes. The details for each section of coastline will now be considered in further detail at scheme level. The RHHA had no objections to the suggested policies within this consultation document.

2.2. Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) meeting

The latest meeting of the HEP was due to be held on 3 December 2010, however it was cancelled because of the snow. The meeting will now be rearranged for a date in the new year.

2.3. Streamlined Consents Group Meeting

The streamlined consents group met on 15 December 2010 to discuss 3 proposed developments for the River. The meetings are designed to help applicants through the complex world of marine consents and is recognised by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as best practice. Staff from consenting authorities including the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Local Planning Authorities provided free and confidential advice to the applicants.

2.4. Hamble Maintenance Dredging Baseline Document

In many estuaries, maintenance dredging is essential to ensure that harbours and marinas can operate safely and efficiently. Maintenance dredging is regularly carried out in Hamble marinas to ensure there is sufficient depth for boats to navigate and berth safely. Under the Habitat Regulations, when issuing a license to permit maintenance dredging, the MMO must consider the impact of the dredge upon sites designated for nature conservation. The RHHA is currently working on the production of a baseline document which will determine whether the current maintenance dredging regime in the River Hamble is having a negative impact upon these sites.

Much of the work for this baseline document was undertaken in 2004 and 2005, however some revisions and updating is required before the document can be signed off. Once the document is approved by Natural England, it will be much easier for the MMO to determine the likely impacts of any future dredging. The revisions and updates to the document are being funded by the RHHA, and the marinas and boatyards according to the proportion of harbour dues contributions. It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken by ABP Marine Environmental Research (ABPmer) and will be completed in Q1 of 2011.

2.5. Maintenance Dredging Works

Maintenance dredging consent was granted under the Harbour Master's delegated powers to Marina Developments Limited who wish to undertake dredging of sections within Hamble Point Marina and Mercury Yacht Harbour in January 2011.

2.6. Associated British Ports (ABP) Capital Dredge

ABP is planning to undertake a major capital dredge operation of the Solent and Southampton Water in 2012. Work to secure a legal agreement between ABP and RHHA is proceeding well and is now in the final stages. The legal agreement details the remedial actions that will be undertaken should the capital dredge cause a loss of depth in the Hamble and/or the migration of the main navigation channel. ABP do not believe that this is

likely but are willing to enter into this agreement to remove the RHHA's concerns.

3. Recommendation

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.)

DocumentLocation

None