

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

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| <b>Committee</b>    | River Hamble Harbour Management Committee              |
| <b>Date:</b>        | 24 June 2011   |
| <b>Title:</b>       | Environmental Update                                   |
| <b>Reference:</b>   | 2931   |
| <b>Report From:</b> | Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services |

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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. Changes to the Marine Licensing System

- 2.1.1 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 introduced measures for a new system of marine licensing. This new system consolidates and replaces several pieces of legislation governing the deposit or removal of any structure below the Mean High Water Springs mark. Previously, those wishing to undertake works in the River Hamble would have required a Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) license and a Coastal Protection Act (CPA) license. As of 06 April 2011, only a Marine License is required and this is issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
- 2.1.2 The MMO are obliged to recover their costs through a system of license fees. The cost of a Marine License depends on the type and the overall capital cost of a project. The License fees range from £158 for very minor works such as laying of moorings up to £7200 for large projects costing between £5-10 million. For complex and/or non-routine works, the License fee is calculated on an hourly basis at a cost of £80 per hour.
- 2.1.3 When considering an application, the MMO will take into account the impacts upon the environment, human health, other legitimate users of the sea and any other matters they consider to be relevant. The MMO will make decisions in line with the new Marine Policy Statement and

within the framework established within the new Marine Plans (once complete).

## 2.2. River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan Update

2.2.1 The River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan has now been completed by ABP Marine Environment Research Ltd (ABPmer). This document has been funded by the River Hamble Harbour Authority and members of the Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association. This document strategically considers the impacts of maintenance dredging upon nature conservation sites within the River Hamble.

2.2.2 It is hoped that this document will meet the requirements of the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Maintenance Dredge Protocol. The next step in the process will be to present the work to Natural England and the Environment Agency, who will consider whether the document is satisfactory. If the document is signed off by these bodies then it will be used by the MMO when they are considering whether to issue a Marine License for maintenance dredges in the River Hamble.

## 2.3. Hamble Estuary Partnership Update

2.3.1 The latest meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) was held on 29 March 2011 at the Royal Southern Yacht Club. The HEP meets twice a year and is administered by the RHHA. The HEP gives an opportunity for those with a statutory or voluntary interest in the Hamble and its surroundings to meet to increase understanding and discuss management.

2.3.2 Shortly before the meeting, Dr. Steve Fletcher, HEP Chairman, announced that he would be stepping down after this meeting as he had taken up a new post at the University of Plymouth. A successor was appointed, namely Dr. Anthony Gallagher from Southampton Solent University. Dr. Gallagher is a Senior Lecturer in Marine and Coastal Management and was a member of the HEP prior to taking over the role as Chairman.

2.3.3 Since the previous meeting, the HEP have produced a guide to the many organisations and bodies which have an interest or say in the management of the River and local area. It has also produced a number of fact sheets on topics relevant to the Hamble such as climate change and pollution risk. The HEP will now focus on the ownership, condition and management of the public slipways and hards on the River.

## 2.4 River Hamble Annual Crabbing Competition

2.4.1 The River Hamble annual crabbing competition was held on 18 June 2011. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all those who took part. All of the proceeds raised by the competition were donated to

Simon Says, a charity based in Eastleigh which helps children and young people cope with bereavement.

**3. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that this report is noted.**

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

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>          | no  |
| 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>                   | 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