

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	River Hamble Management Committee
Date:	20 September 2024
Title:	Marine Director and Harbour Master's Report and Current Issues
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to record formally RHHA patrol operations and inform the Duty Holder of significant events and trends having a bearing on the Marine Safety Management System.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended by the River Hamble Management Committee that the River Hamble Harbour Board supports the contents of this report.

Executive Summary

3. This report summarises the incidents and events which have taken place in the Harbour and addresses any issues currently under consideration by the Harbour Master.

Contextual Information

Patrols

4. The Harbour has been patrolled by the Duty Harbour Master at various times between 0700 and 2230 daily. Mooring and pontoon checks have been conducted daily throughout the period.

Issues

5. **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Each Summer brings anti-social behaviour to known hot spots around the River. Patrol records show disappointingly high levels of anti-social behaviour this year. The experiences of Patrol Officers have led to two applications being made for criminal charges to be brought against a minor and an adult. Our messages, agreed with the Police and social professionals have been safety-focused and clear but often wilfully disregarded with open disdain and threats by youths and their parents. Body Worn Camera has proved to be a vital tool in preventing the worst excesses of mob activity and a defence for patrol officers from a broad range of vexatious and false accusations as well as threats of violence contrary to either Section 4 or 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. Priorities remain protection of our staff and the collation of evidence for action under existing legal instruments by the Police. Our challenges include getting the Police message across that ASB MUST be reported and managing the expectations of a small and understandably frustrated but vocal cohort of members of the public who have difficulty in understanding the limitations of the powers of Patrol Officers as fellow citizens. Priorities as this season draws to a close will be to commend the effectiveness of Section 34 Dispersal Orders when implemented and enforced and also the importance, reiterated by the Police and Crime Commissioner, for members of the public to report antisocial behaviour so that it can be acted upon.

6. **Storm Nelson Incident** – A Harbour Authority investigation into the failure of a temporary pontoon securing arrangement and damage to vessels during Storm Nelson overnight 27/28 March has been concluded. Pontoon disconnection is only to be conducted by professional contractors whose risk assessments will now be required to include specific assessment of unusual or strong forecast weather conditions.

Annex A to Marine Director and Harbour Master's Report

- 7.01 3 Jul. Man-overboard (MOB) recovery system trial. Check of anti-social behaviour sites (daily – not recorded further). Support to evening dinghy sailing. Clearance of a large amount of broken shell from mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon.
- 7.02 4 Jul. Maintenance of mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. MOB recovery trials. Boatyard liaison. Assistance given to the owner of a small yacht with tender propulsion defect.
- 7.03 5 Jul. Liaison with HM Coastguard regarding report of Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) activation. Liaison meeting with new manager of BP Hamble fuel jetty. Tow of a small yacht to a marina for defect rectification.
- 7.04 6 Jul. Commercial making-up of safety lines. Routine inspection of Aids to Navigation.
- 7.05 7 Jul. Assistance given to the owner of a small yacht with propulsion failure off Warsash. Pump out of inundated tenders at Warsash. Tide gauge clean Swanwick.
- 7.06 8 Jul. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit regarding stolen vessel. Assistance given to a visiting yacht. Light traffic in rain.
- 7.07 9 Jul. Support to a marina in the investigation of a collision. Persistent rain. Light traffic.
- 7.08 10 Jul. Boat coding work. Oil spill response training support. Tow of a tender with propulsion difficulties to Swanwick for recovery. Light audit.
- 7.09 11 Jul. Continuation of oil spill response training evolution. Liaison with a mooring holder reporting a neighbour's mooring defects. Tow of a yacht with propulsion failure to HM Jetty Warsash. Attended Lands End to disperse swimmers in Main Channel.
- 7.10 12 Jul. Preparation for a visiting rally at Warsash. Boat coding work. Maintenance of the Fishermens' Pontoon. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit regarding theft.
- 7.11 13 Jul. Liaison with HM Coastguard regarding a report of an overdue yacht. Later located.
- 7.12 14 Jul. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit. Check of a vessel on behalf of the owner with location device showing vessel off Dover. Attended Sea Sunday Service at Warsash.
- 7.13 15 Jul. Attended a fuel berth following a report of a small spillage of diesel fuel. Absorbent pads and booms used to surround a vessel with a fractured fuel pipe. Very small spillage into water column. Support to vessel and fuel berth while vessel bilge pumped into shore barge.

- 7.14 16 Jul. Check on vessel at 8.13. Response to call from member of public reporting vandalism at River Hamble Country Park Jetty. Reporting a group of youths attempting to break handrails. Patrol attended and called Police. Rain caused youths to disperse.
- 7.15 17 Jul. Contact with a mid-stream mooring holder for non-compliance with mooring standards. Liaison with owner of yacht at 8.13. Commercial make-up of mooring lines.
- 7.16 18 Jul. Patrol recovered a tender, adrift in the Main Channel and returned same to owner. Attended Hamble Jetty in fine weather to disperse a group of youths swimming and climbing on the Pink Ferry. Compliant. Commercial make-up of mooring lines.
- 7.17 19 Jul. Liaison with SIFCA regarding a group of commercial bait diggers South of Swanwick. Re-stock of Tier 3 Oil Spill equipment following use at 8.13. Attended Lands End to disperse a group of swimmers using mid-stream moored vessels and pontoons as swimming platforms. Assistance given to a visiting vessel using the Warsash black water pump-out facility. Assistance given to a small yacht with fouled propellor. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse the same group of swimmers from the pontoon. Again, compliant. Returned to Lands End, following a call from a mooring holder reporting the gathering of a large group. On arrival, 2 remained swimming inshore. Advised not to climb on private vessels or pontoons. Receptive. Returned to mouth of the River and witnessed a kayaker impeded the safe passage of an inbound commercial vessel. Kayaker advised and compliant. Responded to a call from a mooring holder reporting a nearby yacht foul on a mooring picking-up rope. Yacht freed and placed on her mooring. Received a further call from a contractor working at a boatyard near the A27 Bridge to report theft of his tender by three youths. Theft already reported to the Police. Returned to Hamble Quay following a report from the Harbour Office team of youths climbing on both the Pink Ferry at the Jetty and also the Life boat dock. Police report made. Patrol unable to move youths on – non-compliant. Activity captured on CCTV and BWC for Police follow-up.
- 7.18 20 Jul. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse a group of very polite swimmers. Compliant. Attended a local Marina for Hampshire Marine Police Unit liaison visit. Liaison with a marina at Swanwick, reporting the theft of an inflatable tender. Advised to call Police to register theft. Tow of a yacht with propulsion failure from Warsash to a Marina for defect rectification. Increasingly heavy rain, light traffic.
- 7.19 21 Jul. Overcast. Light traffic. Assistance given to a tender with propulsion failure. Re-secured failed mooring lines on a mid-stream moored vessel.
- 7.20 22 Jul. Warsash slipway cleared of weed. Liaison with HM Coastguard and Hamble Lifeboat regarding a reported collision in the Solent. Vessel had returned to her marina berth. Pump-out maintenance work. Received a telephone call from Hampshire Police requesting Patrol assistance at Lands End. A group of youths had climbed aboard a mid-stream moored yacht and thrown fenders into the River. Incident reported

by a local resident who had also reported trespass ashore and criminal damage. Fenders recovered and returned to yacht owner. Patrol returned to Hamble Jetty to disperse a group of youths from the pontoon and gantry. Compliant.

- 7.21 23 Jul. Attended a mid-stream mooring with broken chains. Liaison with the mooring holder and the Crown Estate mooring contractor.
- 7.22 24 Jul. Tow of a yacht with propulsion failure to her marina berth. Further liaison with Hampshire Police regarding Lands End incident 22 July.
- 7.23 25 Jul. Overcast, rain. Light traffic. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit. Stopped and verbal warning given to the rider of a jetski speeding from Warsash slipway. Attended Lands End to disperse a small group of swimmers from pontoons and vessels.
- 7.24 26 Jul. Further attendance at Lands End to disperse a group of swimmers and trespassers. Recalled to Hamble Jetty to disperse a group of around 50 young people from the Jetty and gantry. Youths completely disregarded safety advice and defended by parents who saw Patrol Officers' as targets for verbal abuse. Recorded on Body Worn Camera. Reported to the Police. Broke up a light sheen of diesel off A pontoons. Liaison with a Club to remove a visiting yacht illegally moored on their pontoon. Liaison with Solent Coastguard to locate a motor vessel sinking on a Club mooring. Vessel located and seen to be taking on water from a leaking seacock. Leak stopped and pump-out offered. Coastguard updated.
- 7.25 27 Jul. Attended Hamble Jetty in attempt to disperse a large group of youths. Groups on both Ferries and reluctant to leave. Police called. Body-worn camera footage taken of group for follow-up identification. Police availability reduced with local officers forward based for regional strategic response to wider events.
- 7.26 28 Jul. Speed enforcement at the mouth of the River at the end of the weekend. Support to Eastleigh Fire Brigade in extinguishing a fire caused by barbecue on farmland North of the M27 Bridge.
- 7.27 29 Jul. Attended Hamble Jetty following report of youths on Life boat and pontoon. Youths reluctant to leave but did so after 20 minutes. Remained at top of Quay waiting for patrol departure before returning. On proceeding upstream, dispersed a group of youths from vessels and moorings South of Mercury Marina. Compliant. Re-called to Hamble Jetty by the Harbour Office in response to calls from members of the public reporting anti-social behaviour and further trespass on/damage to the moored Pink Ferry. Members of public advised to report ASB to the Police but none spoken to had done so. Group of around 30 children, most regular attendees, refused to leave and threatened patrol staff verbally. Patrol forced to depart for safety reasons. Body-worn camera footage taken. Crime report (Public Order Act 1986 Section 5) submitted for Police action against one individual, whose actions were clearly identifiable on BWC footage. The Parish Council reported life belts removed from their housings, damage to and mess in local toilets as well as verbal abuse to members of the public ashore. Police attendance and

persistence led to the eventual dispersal of the group at around 1900. Recalled to Lands End by a mooring holder reporting the theft of a tender. Advised to make report of theft to the Police. Conducted a search with no success.

- 7.28 30 Jul. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse youths throwing mud at the Pink Ferry. Body-worn camera footage taken. Same groups participating as at 8.27. Hampshire Marine Police Unit in attendance to disperse the group. Harbour Office received call from Hedge End Police Control to request assistance at Land's End following reports from members of the public reporting youths climbing on moored vessels and pontoons. Two patrol craft deployed – one to Lands End to support Police action there and prevent youths accessing the River through houses' gardens and the second to stop and warn three jet skis reported to be speeding North of Hamble. Verbal warning given – compliant. Attended Hamble Jetty to support Hedge End Police in dispersing a group of 30 youths. Liaison with members of the Public both at Lands End and Hamble to advise correct reporting of anti-social behaviour by calling 101. Received report from a member of the public of two jet skis speeding near the RHCP Jetty. On attendance, they were not to be seen.
- 7.29 31 Jul. Liaison with Hampshire Police and Hamble Parish Council regarding events of 29 and 30 July. Liaison with a Yacht Club at Hamble reporting youths had been seen climbing on and jumping from Club vessels and moorings. Report of a berthing collision between two yachts. Misjudgement by the berthing skipper. Owners placed in touch with one another. Call received from Hamble Life boat to report that youths had been stopped from removing (again) one of the life belts from its container at Hamble. Reported to the Police via 101. Attended Lands End to disperse groups of swimmers from moored vessels and private pontoons. Compliant.
- 7.30 01 Aug. Recovered an abandoned red kayak from Lincegrove Marsh and a large plank from the Main Channel to the Harbour Yard at Warsash. Attended Hamble Quay following a call from a member of the public whose house overlooks the Quay. He reported a fire which had been started at the Southern end of the Jetty at 0015. Fire brigade attended but no fire found. Boat coding work. Attended a small midstream moored yacht off Lands End following a report from a resident of trespass by youths. Youths had departed. Patrol collected and disposed of 'picnic rubbish'. No visible damage. Liaison with owner. Took a report from a boatyard between the bridges of youths trespassing on and jumping from pontoons. Youths had been 'aggressive' when asked to leave. Yard advised to report the matter to the Police on 101. On attendance, youths had departed. Further report made by the Harbour Office of anti-social behaviour at Hamble Jetty following attendance and a subsequent report by a member of the public (also advised to report via 101). Youths non-compliant with Patrol engagement. Following earlier verbal abuse (leading to Section 5 crime report), patrol departed.
- 7.31 02 Aug. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse swimmers. Compliant. Commercial fit of pile lines to a mooring. Responded to a call from a

member of the public reporting swimmers in the Main Channel North of Hamble. Patrol in Upper River and swimmers had departed on patrol's return. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse youths from the jetty as well as from private vessels moored at the jetty. Compliant.

- 7.32 03 Aug. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit regarding a report of suspicious activity in the Upper River. Support given to a mooring holder who had punctured his inflatable tender and was stranded mid-stream. Rescued and disentangled a seagull from fishing line at Warsash. Assistance given to the skipper of a midstream moored yacht with a fouled propellor. Freed. Assistance given to a motor vessel. Towed to a boatyard for defect rectification. Assistance given to a mooring holder at Lands End whose pile lines had become submerged.
- 7.33 04 Aug. Response to several calls from members of the public reporting a speeding RIB in the Upper River. RIB had departed on arrival. Not found. Assistance given to a vessel which had run over and become foul on a mooring picking-up rope. Freed. Tow of a broken down yacht in the Main Channel to HM Jetty Warsash for defect rectification.
- 7.34 05 Aug. Liaison with Hedge End Police to upload Body Worn Camera footage from recent events at Hamble and lands End. Attended a minor berthing collision between two yachts near Warsash. Skipper error in tide. Details exchanged. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse swimmers. Small group on Jetty moved on. Compliant.
- 7.35 06 Aug. Overcast and wet. Police Dispersal Order (Section 34, Anti-social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014) in place from 1300 until 1300 08 Aug for Hamble. The Order means that it would be an offence under Section 35 of the Act, for any individual, having been ordered leave the area, to return within that timeframe. Section 35 Order issued to one 15 year old from Weston area of Southampton. Moved on a visiting vessel from a private mooring. Recovered a small abandoned inflatable tender from the foreshore in the Upper River to Warsash. Light audit.
- 7.36 07 Aug. Hamble Dispersal Order in force. Effective.
- 7.37 08 Aug. Hamble Dispersal Order in force until 1300. Investigation into reports of distress signals from Warsash area. Believed located and equipment issue addressed. Liaison with HM Coastguard. Re-furled a loose headsail on a midstream moored vessel. Visit from Hampshire Marine Police Unit to review effectiveness of Dispersal Order and discuss options for further orders over the coming weekend. While on patrol, observed a berthing collision in a marina (misjudgement of strength of ebb tide). Attended to ensure no-one injured and assure correct reporting.
- 7.38 09 Aug. Liaison with a visiting commercial vessel regarding the actions of a departing motor vessel. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse three (out of a group of around 20) swimmers. Warned of dangers and to desist. Reminded of Police Dispersal Order reasoning. On patrol in Upper River, warned small motor vessel about excessive speed and wash. Compliant. Attended Hamble Jetty once again on return to meet 2 Police officers and engage with youths. Further Section 34 Dispersal Order in place at Hamble from 1430 until 1430 Sunday 11 August. Youths departed.

- 7.39 10 Aug. Dispersal Order in force. Effective. Attended Upper River (Botley Arm) to inspect fallen tree South of Botley Mill and identify landowner for removal.
- 7.40 11 Aug. Dispersal Order in force until 1430. Immediately on expiry, the same youths returned. Patrol attended to disperse a large group (30-40) youths, engaged in anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and trespass (Pink Ferry) as well as verbal abuse to members of the public, the Life boats crew and also patrol. Patrol reported the matter Harbour Office, which used 999 to report the matter. The level of abuse faced came not only from youths but from parents who joined in. Patrol forced to withdraw following verbal threats. Body worn camera evidence taken for Police action and in defence of patrol staff faced with false accusations from minors of 'molestation'. Reports of ASB also from Bursledon (jumping from the A27 bridge. Police dealing with numerous similar events across the Borough simultaneously and facing lower officer levels because of regional riot-related strategic priorities.
- 7.41 12 Aug. Liaison with a landowner on the Botley arm regarding the removal of a fallen tree from the river. Black water pump out engineer on site – internal pump defect. Stores ordered for repair. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse a group of around 10 youths jumping from the gantry. Reluctant to move but eventually compliant. Stopped and warned the driver of a RIB off Swanwick for excessive speed and wash. Stopped at Lands End to disperse 4 youths, jumping and swimming from Lands' End House garden wall and private pontoon. Youths were accessing the River wall by through the house's gardens. Discussion with adjacent landowner about anti-social behaviour and the need to report it to the Police. Discussion with paddleboarders in the Upper River, reporting fallen trees blocking the River on the Botley arm. Informed of plans for removal. Attended Hamble Quay once more along with Hampshire Marine Police Unit Officer to remove youths from the pontoon and bridge. Youths dispersed and informed of new Section 34 Dispersal Order in place from 1600 until 1600 14 Aug.
- 7.42. 13 Aug. Assistance given to Oyster Restoration Project survey team. Tow of a broken down motor vessel off Lincegrove to his proper mooring. Targeted pile safety line inspection. Liaison with owner of defective arrangement. Section 34 Order in force all day. Despite this, 5 youths on Hamble Jetty climbing on moored boats (private property) and jumping from the gantry. On challenge, youths refused to leave. Report made to Police. Youths dispersed. Quiet at Lands End.
- 7.43 14 Aug. Section 34 Order in place until 1600. Light rain pm. Light traffic.
- 7.44 15 Aug. Patrol craft maintenance. Light rain again pm. Liaison with Crown Estate mooring contractor. Light traffic.
- 7.45 16 Aug. Stopped and warned skipper of a resident RIB for excessive speed and wash. Liaison with a mooring holder and the Crown Estate mooring contractor regarding a worn pile iron. Liaison with a Swanwick resident reporting a group of co-ordinated bait diggers at Swanwick.

Information passed to Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (SIFCA).

- 7.46 17 Aug. Recovered a tender, attached to its launching trolley from the River North of Hamble. Attended Hamble Jetty following reports of anti-social behaviour. Small group of known offenders present, climbing on and jumping from the Pink Ferry. Body worn camera footage taken for Police action as necessary. One male child present, subject to a previous Police report from the Harbour Authority. Group refused to leave the jetty and engaged in threatening behaviour. Child then brought a male adult around 30 down to the jetty who engaged in aggressive behaviour towards a patrol officer. Patrol Officer concerned for his personal safety and felt that an assault was probable by the male. Patrol left jetty to jeers of the male and the group of children. 999 called, BWC footage and still photographs passed to the Police. Crime report (under Section 5 Public Order Act 1986) submitted. Followed up by HM and DHM with Hampshire Police and subject of ongoing steps to identify the individual.
- 7.47 18 Aug. Support to a running event at Warsash Jetty. Commercial tow of a motor vessel from just outside the River into Warsash. Freed a yacht fouled on a mooring picking up rope. Towed a mooring holder with a broken down tender to Hamble Jetty. Work experience – all week. Support to ‘Splash Week’ all week.
- 7.48 19 Aug. Commercial tow of a resident yacht from her mooring to HM Jetty Warsash for defect rectification. Towed a second yacht adrift with failed throttle cable to her marina berth. Inspection of fallen tree at Botley to identify landowner. Follow up with Police on BWC evidence at 8.46.
- 7.49 20 Aug. Liaison with a mooring holder who had reported his tender missing a month ago. Tender recovered by Patrol matched the description given. Mooring holder to attend office to confirm. Commercial tow of yacht to a fuel berth. Stopped and warned the driver of a small RIB for excessive speed and wash at Swanwick.
- 7.50 21 Aug. Commercial tow of a yacht from its mooring to HM Jetty Warsash. Assistance given to a visiting yacht in coming alongside at HM Jetty Warsash. Liaison with the Crown Estate mooring contractor.
- 7.51 22 Aug. Marina liaison visit. Liaison with a member of the public who had left a tender at Hamble Quay. Tender recovered to Warsash two weeks previously. Arrangements made to return. No 15 Stbd Channel Marker off station for repair. Notice to River Users issued.
- 7.52 23 Aug. Re-secured loose boom cover on mid-stream moored yacht. Visit to Botley arm (by road) to inspect fallen trees following a further report. Attended a marina following a report of a unberthing yacht colliding with two moored motor vessels on a strong ebb tide. No injuries. Minor (scraping) damage to one motor vessels. The yacht (a ketch) had lost her mizzen stays causing the mast to fail. Owner and skipper shaken. Marina dockmaster in attendance. Patrol assisted in pulling the yacht away from the motor vessels to place her in an alongside berth. Initial investigation revealed a failure of a bowthruster intended to hold the bow up in a cross tide.

- 7.53 24 Aug. Routine liaison with Hamble Life boat. Light traffic in rain. Verbal warning given to the driver of a tender for excessive speed North of River Hamble Country Park Jetty. Commercial make-up of pile lines.
- 7.54 25 Aug. Call on Land's End residents, grateful for assistance in dispersing youths from trespass and ASB activity. Took a report of a minor diesel fuel spillage (approx. 1 litre). Dispersed by jet-wash. Fuel berth deployed its own tier 1 pads to absorb. Liaison with Solent Coastguard, reporting a vessel adrift in the River. Name of vessel taken and Patrol attended to find vessel secure at her mooring.
- 7.55 26 Aug. Liaison with Hampshire Police regarding a missing person. Cleaning of Tide Gauge at Swanwick. Liaison with a boatyard regarding antisocial behaviour and reporting.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:
Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

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

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

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

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

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An EIA is not required as no negative impacts are anticipated.