

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	River Hamble Harbour Management Committee
<b>Date:</b>	24 June 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Marine Director and Harbour Master's Report and Current Issues
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business 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 that the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee supports the contents of this report to the Harbour Board.

#### **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

6. **6 Monthly Audit by the Designated Person of the Marine Safety Management System** – The MSMS was audited by the RHHA Designated Person on 18 May. As part of our drive for continuous improvement, a number of new initiatives will be pursued to ensure that River Users are informed better of trends in the River and also, in so doing, reminded of the Bye Laws. The Designated Person has affirmed continued compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.
7. **Annual Trinity House Audit** – An officer of Trinity House conducted an annual light inspection on 22 March to confirm compliance with the River Hamble Harbour Authority's status as a Local Lighthouse Authority. Records had previously been inspected on 28 October. All Aids to Navigation were found to be in good order. Two light lenses on third-party Aids to Navigation have faded and show whiter characteristics than specified. They are in the course of replacement.
8. **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Joint preparations have been taking place with Hedge End Police, the Marine Police Unit, Eastleigh Borough Council and Hamble Parish Council to support the Police in their duty to protect the public from anti-social behaviour. Hedge End Police have made arrangements to provide an enhanced presence at Hamble Quay through the working day. The Harbour Office has assisted in the maintenance of continuity by the provision of planning which takes account of high tides and favourable weather to assist the Police in optimising effective deployment. Several legal instruments to counter anti-social behaviour are at Police disposal, including Section 5 of the Public Order Act and Section 35 dispersal orders. Other criminal behaviour such as violence, criminal damage, the use of narcotics and under-age drinking are addressed by other legislation. The Harbour Authority will continue to support the joint campaign in a manner similar to that in previous years. The locking of the jetty was discussed again but, for reasons of wider safety, this remains impracticable. Two fatalities this year, caused by heart attacks (the most recent in May) have demonstrated clearly the need not to introduce obstacles of any sort to First Responders. Secondly, locking the gate would not be effective as those so minded can easily access the jetty by swimming the 15 yards to the pontoon. An analogy might be the farmer who, wishing to prevent access to his field, fits a locked gate, forgetting that the hedge either side is missing. Specific signage advising against swimming and jumping from the jetty is in place. The importance of such signage was identified crucially in a recent Marine Accident Investigation Branch report into a collision between a ferry and a Swimmer. Anti-climb paint was deployed last year but to no effect. The Harbour Authority is also exploring the fitting of metal mesh fencing to the inside of the bridge in an attempt to make the upper parts inaccessible to more determined jumpers.

9. **Annual Forum** – This year’s Annual Forum was advertised on the Harbour Authority website and held as an online conference on Wednesday 31 March. There were no attendees. The Harbour Master’s Annual report has been published on the Harbour Authority’s web page at <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Hamble/MarineDirectorsAnnualReport2021.pdf>. The Annual tender draw for free spaces at both Hamble and Warsash has been made and those successful have been notified. The purpose of the Annual Forum remains to give those who wish to ask questions the public opportunity to do so. All River Users are encouraged to contact the Harbour Office at any time if they have a question on matters relating to the Harbour Authority’s responsibilities.
  
10. **Solent Marine Sites’ Survey** – The Board will be aware that the Harbour Master chairs the Solent Marine Sites’ Group, the Aim of which is to manage the Solent’s designated sites in an integrated and sustainable way. Last Autumn, the Group surveyed its membership to gain evidence of significant increases in activity having an impact on the sites, which include the Hamble. Clear commonality has been identified. Most recreational activity increased last Summer. The most significant increases across the region were in paddleboarding, jet-ski activity and dog-walking. The need to manage the additional pressure on navigational safety and the environment has been felt keenly. The report is at the Annex for information and will be discussed at the next Heads of Group session in July.

**Appendix 1 To Marine**  
**Director Report**

**Incidents and Events**

- 11.01.17 Mar. Maintenance of Aids to Navigation. Stopped and gave a written warning to a jet ski for speeding at the mouth of the River. Patrol boat maintenance.
- 11.02.18 Mar. Patrol boat maintenance.
- 11.03.19 Mar. Marina liaison. Pump-out of inundated tenders at Warsash. Light audit.
- 11.04.20 Mar. Internal audit of Aids to Navigation.
- 11.05.21 Mar. Maintenance of Aids to Navigation. Assisted a new mooring holder onto his berth. Stopped the owner of a motor car from conducting 'doughnut' manoeuvres of Warsash slipway. Tide gauge maintenance.
- 11.06.22 Mar. Liaison with a mid-stream mooring holder regarding missing mooring cleats. Paddleboard signage liaison with a Marina. Trinity House Light Audit.
- 11.07.23 Mar. 'B' Pontoon maintenance. Marina liaison regarding anti-social behaviour.
- 11.08.24 Mar. Stopped and warned a jet-ski owner for speeding off Crableck. Liaison with Southern IFCA regarding bait digging off Crableck.
- 11.09.25 Mar. Commercial tow of a yacht from a marina to HM Pontoon Warsash.
- 11.10.26 Mar. Liaison with HM Coast Guard regarding a yacht taking on water at the mouth of the River. Yacht escorted to HM Pontoon Warsash for investigation, defect rectification and pump out. Defect found to be a displaced transducer. Removal of ladder at Hamble Pontoon to discourage anti-social swimming.
- 11.11.27 Mar. Pontoon maintenance work. Preparations for seasonal staff interviews.
- 11.12.28 Mar. Pontoon maintenance work.
- 11.13.29 Mar. DHM to Hamble Jetty to obtain payment from a visiting yacht following verbally abusive treatment of patrol officer. Liaison with the Crown Estate mooring contractor regarding future pile maintenance work.
- 11.14.30 Mar. Patrol to Curbridge to ensure integrity of Main Channel following earlier removal of a fallen tree. On passing under the A27 Bridge, patrol witnessed unauthorised construction work to build up the River bank at a local restaurant. Contact made with Eastleigh Borough Council Planning Enforcement Team and the owner. Liaison with HM Coast Guard regarding

a report of a missing rowing boat. Patrol stopped and warned a speeding RIB (6 persons on board) off Hamble Jetty. Abusive response from the group and Police called. RIB departed, having given home Marina, and followed. Patrol and Hampshire Marina Police Unit unable to re-locate despite search.

- 11.15.31 Mar. Follow-up enquiries with Hampshire Marine Police Unit to trace RIB at 9.14. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting a sinking yacht at her mid-stream mooring. On arrival, yacht's bowline had snagged on her pile iron – released and checked. Attended A27 bridge to disperse a group of children jumping into the River. Recovered a large post from the Main Channel.
- 11.16.01 Apr. Commercial tow of a vessel to a marina for lift-out and defect rectification. Pile survey with the Crown Estate mooring contractor. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit to locate a motor vessel reported as having created excessive wash off Swanwick.
- 11.17.02 Apr. New Harbour Due launch fees in place for jet-skis. Recovery of a marine flare from the beach at Swanwick for disposal. Assisted one kayak and two paddleboarders in difficulty on a strong ebb tide at Bursledon. Advice given – receptive. Attended a yacht with her owner apparently unable to descend from the mast after maintenance work. Owner eventually able to descend on his own. Investigation into a report, iaw Bye Law 9) of a collision between a yacht underway and a mid-stream moored yacht. Photographs of damage taken and liaison between owners to achieve resolution.
- 11.18.03 Apr. Attended a marina at Bursledon reporting that youths were throwing stones at his moored vessel. Patrol engaged the youths who denied the report and advised the vessel owner to call the Police in the event of a re-occurrence.
- 11.19.04 Apr. Attended Hamble Spit to assist a group apparently at risk of being cut off by the incoming tide. Group made shore safely. Heavy paddleboard traffic off Swanwick – Patrol assistance and advice given to paddleboarders not to impede the safe passage of larger vessels in the Main Channel.
- 11.20.05 Apr. Removal of old Pile lines from an unoccupied mid-stream mooring.
- 11.21.06 Apr. Bait digging observation off Badnam Creek. Aids to Navigation administrative work.
- 11.22.07 Apr. Patrol assisted a single handed sailor in coming alongside at HM Pontoon Warsash. He had lost his footing, almost falling overboard with no lines secure in a strong ebb. First Aid equipment checks.
- 11.23.08 Apr. Liaison with HM Coast Guard to assist alongside a catamaran with double engine failure at anchor outside the River. Catamaran towed to Warsash for lift-out and defect rectification.
- 11.24.09 Apr. Nothing significant to report.
- 11.25.10 Apr. Tow of catamaran at 9.23 to adjacent yard for lift out.

- 11.26.11 Apr. Attended a mid-stream mooring with a pontoon held up by its pile ring. Pontoon freed and owner informed. No vessel on either side of the mooring.
- 11.27.12 Apr. Both Patrol craft engaged to tow a 30m 65 tonne yacht to her berth following engine failure in Southampton Water.
- 11.28.13 Apr. Further liaison with Eastleigh Borough Council Planning Enforcement Team following discovery that River bank works at a Restaurant North of the A27 Bridge had continued.
- 11.29.14 Apr. Recovered a paddleboard paddle from the Main Channel and returned it to its owner. Check and replenishment where necessary of oil spill materiel.
- 11.30.15 Apr. General support to busy Easter Holiday traffic.
- 11.31.16 Apr. General support to busy Easter Holiday traffic. Recovered a large log from the Main Channel. Use of new electronic pontoon check facility.
- 11.32.17 Apr. Made up mooring lines (commercial).
- 11.33.18 Apr. Moved on a trimaran attempting to moor on a private Crown Estate mooring. Liaison with HM Coast Guard regarding a report of a Hamble-based RIB with steering gear failure off Calshot. Vessel skipper had lost control following the failure and he, along with two crew had been thrown overboard. The correct wearing of a kill-cord was again highlighted as the RIB stopped immediately. No injuries sustained and a nearby yacht towed the vessel back to her sailing club berth.
- 11.34.19 Apr. Observation of bait digging at Hamble Point. Moved on a small motor boat at anchor in the Main Channel opposite Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes. Sector light maintenance.
- 11.35.20 Apr. Liaison with a yacht charter company regarding a marina collision.
- 11.36.21 Apr. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting a yacht possibly sinking by the bow on a mid-stream mooring. On arrival, the vessel's pulpit was seen to have become fast on a rising tide underneath the bow pile iron bracket. This had been caused by having a stern line of excessive length. Some damage to the pulpit was witnessed and yacht freed on the falling tide. Owner informed.
- 11.37.22 Apr. Tow of a catamaran with engine failure to yard for lift-out. Attendance at a boatyard to investigate a report of a sunk yacht at her mooring. Yacht had had her stern gland replaced by her owner the previous evening and had taken on water overnight, resulting in sinking in 2m of water. No signs of pollution. Divers in attendance to lift. No injuries and no risk to navigation in Main Channel.
- 11.38.23 Apr. Moved on a visiting yacht from a Crown Estate private mooring. Recovered an abandoned windsurfer board from the foreshore at Warsash. Hamble Point Sector Light intermittent. Maintainer engaged and Notice to River Users issued.

- 11.39.24 Apr. Assistance to recovery of sunken yacht at 9.37. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting a kayaker aground on the mud opposite River Hamble Country Park Jetty on a falling tide. Liaison with HM Coast Guard. Kayaker self-recovered to shore. Stopped and warned verbally the skipper of a speeding RIB.
- 11.40.25 Apr. Assistance given to a small sailing vessel with 4 persons on board at Bursledon. Assistance given to two paddleboarders attempting to launch across mud at Bursledon. Advice given. Assisted a yacht with engine failure to Warsash for defect rectification. Assistance given to a yacht which had grounded at Low Water while attempting to reach her mooring. Assisted Hamble Life Boat and Hampshire Ambulance in the recovery of two persons in distress in a small unpowered inflatable dinghy from a buoy off Calshot.
- 11.41.26 Apr. Liaison with the Crown Estate mooring contractor regarding pile maintenance. Refurled a loose head sail on a mid-stream moored yacht. Assisted a motor cruiser with propulsion failure alongside HM Pontoon Warsash for defect rectification.
- 11.42.27 Apr. Boat coding work. Replacement of boarding at the River hamble Country Park Jetty.
- 11.43.28 Apr. Patrol boat maintenance. Patrol at Springs to ensure clear navigation in the Upper River.
- 11.44.29 Apr. Replaced parted stern mooring line on mid-stream moored yacht.
- 11.45.30 Apr. Oversaw Sector light refurbishment at both Warsash and Hamble Point. Commercial making up of mooring lines. Assisted a small yacht with engine failure alongside HM Pontoon Warsash. Assisted a yacht alongside scrubbing piles at Lands End. Anti-foul trials on both Patrol Craft.
- 11.46.01 May. Recovered a number of large logs from the Main Channel. Report of tender theft – liaison with owner. Checked a vessel reported as sitting awkwardly on her mooring; lines adjusted.
- 11.47.02 May. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting numerous pieces of wood in the Main Channel off Bursledon. Wood recovered and landed at Warsash. Commercial tow of a mid-stream moored yacht to a yard for lift-out. Removed temporary signage from the Visitors' Pontoon in preparation for forecast high winds. Attended tenders at Warsash Jetty where a group of three girls were climbing over craft which were not their property. Parent nearby apologetic.
- 11.48.03 May. Enhanced moorings check in high winds. Liaison with owners. Assisted a yacht with engine failure from Sea to the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon. Assistance given to a River User recovering to a trailer at Warsash. Re-secured loose boom on a mid-stream moored yacht in high winds. Owner informed. Cleaned tide gauge of weed accumulated in wind and tide. Re-furled flogging foresail on mid-stream moored yacht. Owner informed.

- 11.49.04 May. Replaced parted stern line of mid-stream moored yacht. Owner informed. Re-secured lines loose in the water on a 'J' run pontoon. Owner informed.
- 11.50.05 May. Support to the Oyster 'ORTAC' project off Swanwick.
- 11.51.06 May. Liaison with the Crown Estate Mooring Contractor. Stopped a RIB speeding in the mouth of the River. Verbal warning given. Receptive. Assisted a yacht with engine failure on the 'G' Run. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting a swan with some feathers apparently covered in oil at Hamble Jetty. On attendance the swan was an adolescent bird shedding its juvenile darker feathers.
- 11.52.07 May. Strong winds. Liaison with Lymington Harbour and Border Force regarding a foreign-flagged yacht.
- 11.53.08 May. Enhanced mooring checks following strong winds. Liaison with HM Coast Guard to bring a small dismasted yacht to HMP Warsash for defect rectification.
- 11.54. 09 May. Support to Hamble Spring Series dinghy racing.
- 11.55.10 May. Briefing of visiting sailing school yacht. Liaison with UK Border Force (9.52). Yacht had berthed at a River Marina. No further action required. Attended a fuel berth on report from a Marina operative that a small ('one cup') of fuel had been spilled. On attendance, nothing observed.
- 11.56.11 May. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit. Attended a Marina reporting swimmers in the marina. On arrival, all those reported had departed. Attended the Upper River in response to a report from a member of the public of a speeding motor boat. Vessel not located.
- 11.57.12 May. Tool inventory. Prepared mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon for a visiting deep-draught yacht.
- 11.58.13 May. Liaison with Southampton HM regarding a motor vessel behaving erratically in Southampton Water. Commercial tow of a catamaran to a yard for lift-out.
- 11.59.14 May. Liaison with Tender berth mooring holders at Warsash.
- 11.60.15 May. Liaison with Hamble Life Boat.
- 11.61.16 May. Attended a mid-stream moored yacht following a report that she was sitting low in the water. Source traced to a seeping but otherwise secure bilge fitting. A small amount bailed out and owner informed.
- 11.62.17 May. Signage checks at Hamble Jetty and on the mid-stream Visitors' Pontoon.
- 11.63.18 May. Safety advice given to an open water swimmer at Swanwick. Moved a tender to an adjacent yard for lift-out. Liaison with the Crown Estate Mooring Contractor.
- 11.64.19 May. Liaison with the Crown Estate Mooring Contractor regarding forthcoming pile maintenance programming. Patrol boat lift out for planned

maintenance. Liaison with HM Coast Guard, Hampshire Ambulance and Gosport and Hamble Life Boats to support the recovery of a heart attack victim on a yacht within the Solent. Jetty cleared and prepared to receive the yacht. CPR given at the jetty by crew members and ambulance response. Despite the efforts of the crew and first responders, the man did not survive.

- 11.65.20 May. Patrol stopped and warned verbally the skipper of a small motor vessel for speeding in the mouth of the River. Re-secured a hatch on a mid-stream moored yacht – owner informed. Adjusted fenders on a number of mid-stream moored yachts following high winds.
- 11.66.21 May. Liaison with UK Border Force. Re-secured a loose sail cover on a mid-stream moored yacht – owner informed. Replaced fenders and lines on a number of mid-stream moored vessels following strong winds.
- 11.67.22 May. Liaison with Hamble Lifeboat regarding incident at 9.64. Attended a report of a male in the water off Land's End. On arrival, the casualty had self-recovered to the slipway. He had fallen from his tender having lost balance while disembarking from his adjacent mooring. Medical attention given.
- 11.68.23 May. Responded to a call from a River User reporting a pontoon snagged under pile irons. Pontoon freed with no apparent damage to either it or the vessel moored. Owner informed. Adjusted lines on a mid-stream moored yacht swinging at her mooring.
- 11.69.24 May. Recovered a mountain bike from the River bed at RHCP Jetty. Light traffic.
- 11.70.25 May. Liaison with Hampshire Marine Police Unit. Patrol Boat maintenance.
- 11.71.26 May. Tide gauge cleaning at Swanwick. Liaison with Hedge End Police to arrange meeting with new beat officer before fine weather.
- 11.72.27 May. Assistance given to a paddleboarder in strong tidal stream off Bursledon. Assistance given to a yacht taking in water from a compromised stern gland.
- 11.73.28 May. Attended Hamble Jetty to remove a group of 4 swimmers – compliant.
- 11.74.29 May. Pile defect reports to the Crown Estate mooring contractor. Some swimming inshore of Hamble Jetty but not from or in the vicinity of the pontoon. Assistance given to a small motor boat with engine failure off Bursledon. Recovered a very large section of a tree from the Main Channel at Bursledon to Warsash. Stopped and gave advice to the skipper of a large motor vessel for creating excessive wash opposite the 'L' Run. Re-secured loose lines on a mid-stream moored yacht – owner informed. Towed a yacht which had run out of fuel from the mouth of the River to the HM Jetty Warsash. Assistance given to a motor vessel with engine problems at the mouth of the River. Assistance given to a kayaker stranded on the 'H' Run – kayak leaking. Owner and Kayak recovered to Warsash.

- 11.75.30 May. Sail re-furled on a mid-stream moored yacht. Removed a rope (used as a swing) from under the M27 Bridge. Stopped and warned verbally two small motor vessels for excessive speed and wash near RHCP Jetty. Removed 8 swimmers from pontoons at Eastlands boatyard.
- 11.76.31 May. Very busy Bank Holiday traffic. Assistance given to a motor vessel with propulsion failure in the mouth of the River. Dispersed three young males from jumping from the A27 Bridge. Boat coding work.
- 11.77.01 Jun. Marina liaison to trace a non-paying vessel. Written warning given to the skipper of a motor vessel with two adults and two children on board cutting between moorings. Attended Hamble Jetty to disperse swimmers. Responded to a call from a member of the public reporting a speeding RIB off Swanwick. On arrival, the vessel had departed the scene.

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

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

## Solent Marine Sites' Summer 2020 Covid Snapshot Survey

### 1. Introduction

In spring 2021 we asked the Solent's Relevant Authorities, who are members of the Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Management Scheme, to undertake a one-off snapshot survey about if and how recreational activities in the Solent impacted on its designated sites over summer 2020. This short report details the findings of that survey. There were 18 responses. The Solent Forum carried out the survey in its role as the SEMS Secretariat.

### 2. SEMS Annual Survey

Each year, as part of the SEMS Management Scheme, the Forum runs an annual survey for the Solent's Relevant Authorities on non-licensable recreational activities in the Solent. This Survey is used to deliver an Annual Management Scheme, which fulfils the Relevant Authorities' statutory duties under the Habitats Regulations to monitor and manage coastal and marine activities within their jurisdiction.

The snapshot Covid survey will be used to supplement the findings from the 2021 SEMS Annual Survey.

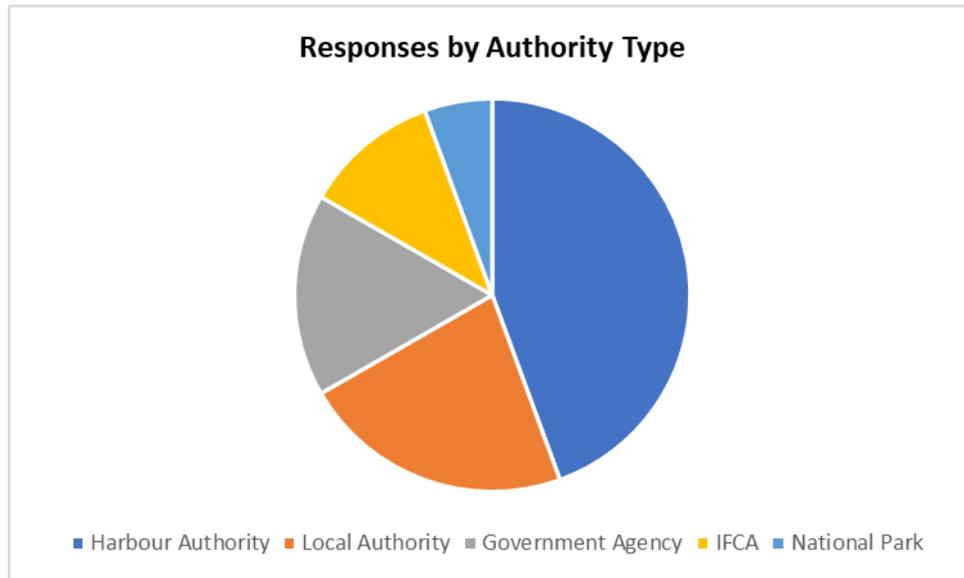
### 3. Activities Surveyed

Respondents were asked to report on the following activities:

- Walking (including dog walking)
- General beach recreation
- Angling
- Paddlesports
- Kite surfing/windsurfing
- Boating
- Personal watercraft
- Bait digging/shellfish gathering (hand)

#### 4. Type of Organisation that Completed the Survey

The pie chart below highlights the organisation by type that completed the survey.



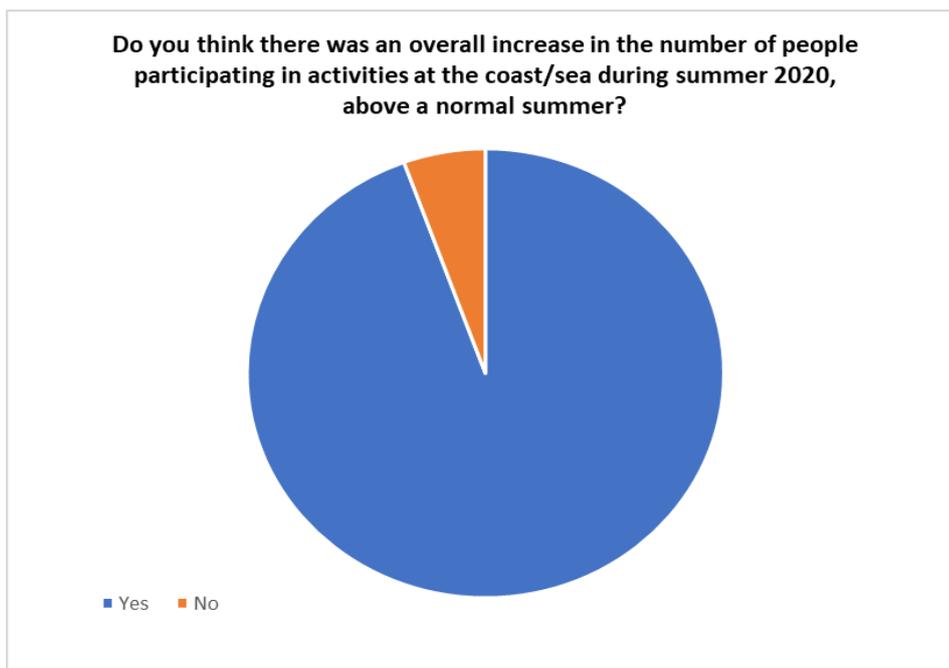
#### 5. Area of Jurisdiction

Survey respondents gave information for the following locations in the Solent:

River Hamble
Beaulieu River
Chichester Harbour & Chichester Harbour AONB
Coastline of Gosport Borough (including Lee-on-the-Solent)
Dockyard Port of Portsmouth
Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight out to 6 nautical miles
East Devon to Kent
Isle of Wight Beaches
Langstone Harbour
Lymington Terminal Lay by berth, Fishbourne berth, Ryde Pier
New Forest National Park
Portsmouth City Council administrative area
Solent wide
Southampton Statutory Harbour Authority
West Solent
Yarmouth Harbour Western Yar and approaches

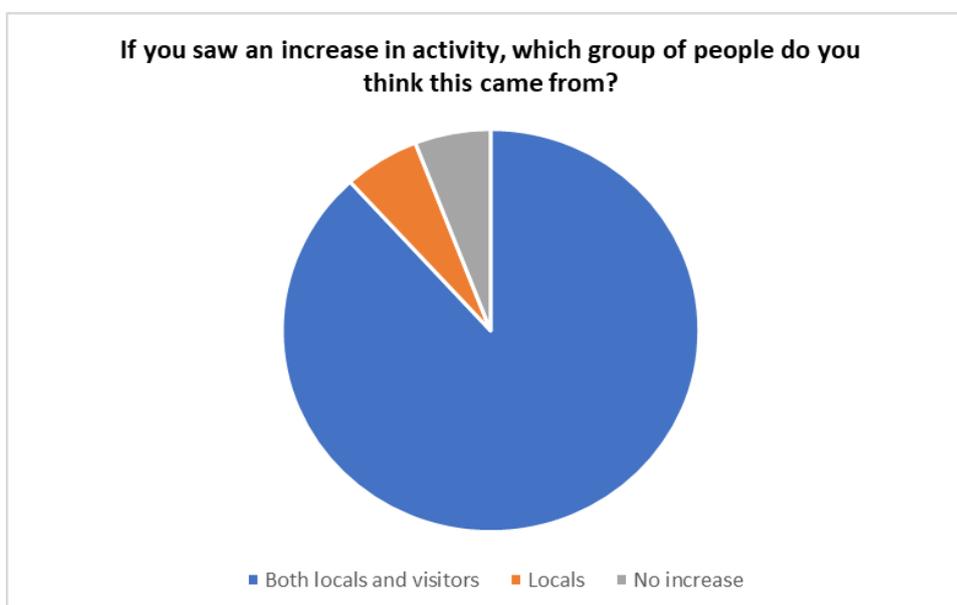
## 6. Changes in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether they thought there was an overall increase in the number of people participating in activities at the coast/sea during summer 2020, above normal summer levels. All but one respondent thought that this was the case.



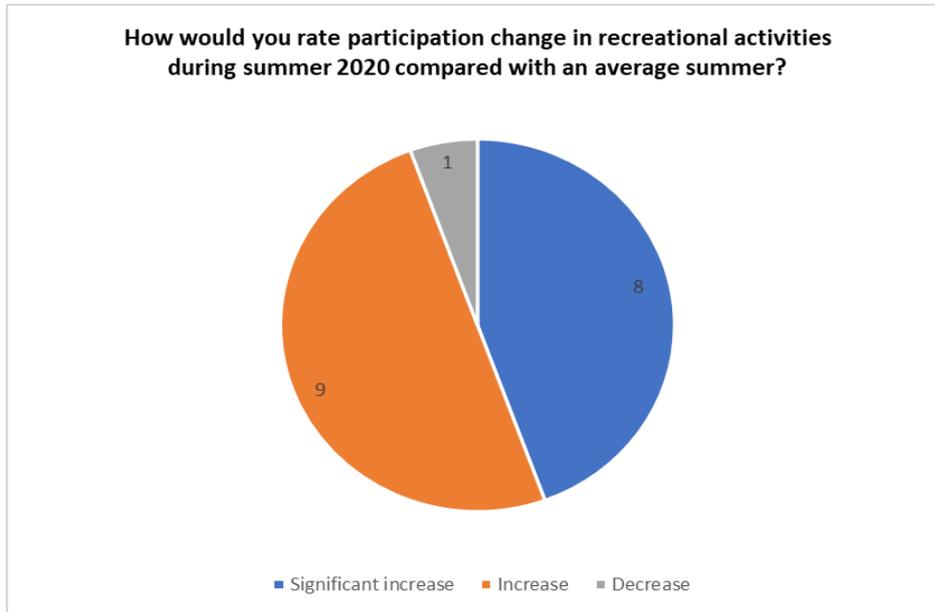
## 7. Group Increase by Type

Respondents were asked which groups of people created the increase in participation levels, nearly all respondents said it was both greater numbers of locals and visitors.



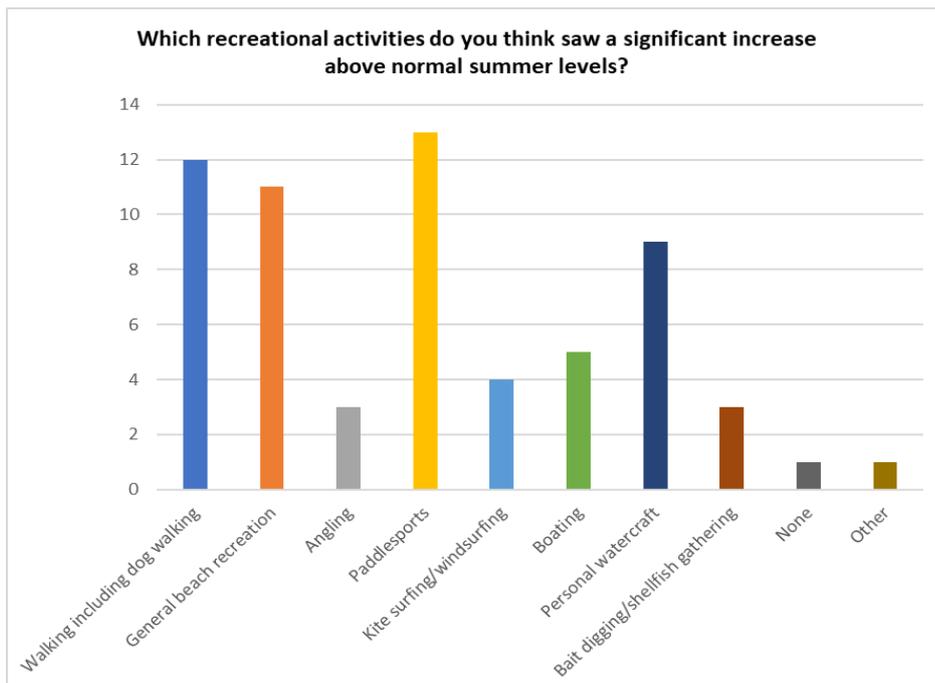
## 8. Participant Change

Respondents were asked how they thought levels of recreational participation had changed, the most common response was an increase followed by significant increase.



## 9. Which Recreational Activities saw an Increase

We asked which activities had seen an increase in participation levels, respondents noted greater participation in paddlesports, personal watercraft, coastal walking (including with dogs) and general beach recreation.



## 10. Hotspot Locations

We asked respondents to identify hotspot locations for increased activity. They reported the following:

### **River Hamble**

The Hamble is easy to access and has a large number of adjacent housing developments. It has therefore been popular among many to walk the footpaths and beaches of the River. There was an 'explosion' of paddleboarding and small craft activity following the lifting of lockdown restrictions in May. While this took place throughout the River, the predominant areas used were from the slipway at Swanwick and northwards into the Upper River. The closure of some slipways in the Solent meant that Warsash slipway was made use of by a significant number of Jet Skis. It is estimated that more than four times the number of launches were conducted at this location.

### **Beaulieu River**

The increase of slipway use by paddle sport participants saw a significant up rise and by people new to the sport. There was also an increase in the number of people trying to access the river through private land, so trespassing.

### **Southampton Water**

PWC large increase especially around Calshot and River Itchen launch sites.

### **Wider Solent**

On-going throughout the year - increased walkers/cyclists from Woolston to Netley and Ensign park/Hamble to Hamble Common, Swanwick to Hamble Country Park, Swanwick to Hook Lake, and Upper Itchen Estuary at Riverside Park. Swimming at Western Shore to Hamble Estuary, and Upper Hamble near/at Country Park. Angling on Upper Itchen Estuary at Riverside Park (EA Fisheries compliance and enforcement continued). Paddle boards - whole of Hamble and upper Itchen Estuary. Kayaking - Western Shore to Hamble Point, and all of Hamble Estuary. Large number of jet ski's at Ensign Park/Hamble public slip way and lower Southampton Water.

Following the initial lockdown when restrictions on exercise eased but many were still furloughed we saw an increase in angling activities, particularly when the weather was good. Officers also observed and were made aware of an increase in shellfish gathering, particularly in areas near the Hamble, Lee-on-the-Solent, and parts of Langstone Harbour.

### **Isle of Wight**

Hotspot locations are at Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Colwell.

Indirect reports from HIWWT reserve manager on IOW of anti-social behaviour, damage to interest features and increased litter. Similarly, evidence from IOW National Trust of increase in canoe and paddle boarders.

At Yarmouth there was an increase in local berth holders using their boats, an increase in sales of boats and an increase in PWC rentals.

### **Portsmouth/Gosport**

Anecdotal increase in walkers at Lee-on-the-Solent coming from outside of the Borough as well as locals and an increase in general beach recreation. Southsea seafront and Stokes Bay were popular.

Southsea seafront had noticeable increases in activity when lockdown was eased, particularly during the evenings/weekends that coincided with good weather. At these times there were more large groups socialising on the seafront or using the water. It was unclear where these people came from, though likely to be a mix of local residents as well as some coming from further afield.

### **Chichester Harbour**

Emsworth shoreline, Nutbourne Channel, Chichester Channel, Thorney island/Pilsey, Prinsted - most locations around the harbour with a car park or residential population. Rise in windsurfing noted.

Bait collection and hand gathering in the Dell Quay area of Chichester Harbour has seen an increase in the amount of activity comparative to normal. Officers reported regularly spotting 10+ people in the intertidal gathering bivalve molluscs/shellfish/bait.

### **New Forest**

Direct reports from manager at North Solent NNR which saw huge increase in visitor numbers with anti-social behaviour such as fires for BBQs, camping, litter, bird disturbance, using bird sanctuary as a launch site for paddle boards etc. Disturbance is known to have resulted in the failing of schedule 1 breeding birds as people presence prevented adults from feeding resulting in chick mortality.

### **Langstone Harbour**

Off road driving on sand dunes reported at Sinah Common.

Almost double the number of jetski permits were issued in 2020 compared with 2019. Covid restrictions coupled with staff sickness created difficulties in managing these users. Anecdotally the number of paddlesports participant saw an enormous rise, as did shoreline recreation (for much of the summer only outdoor spaces were available for recreation). The Harbour Board received almost daily reports of large groups of individuals gathering shellfish by hand on the intertidal. staff shortage and Covid restrictions also resulted in kite surfing activity occurring in the harbour (kite surfing is prohibited in Langstone Harbour).

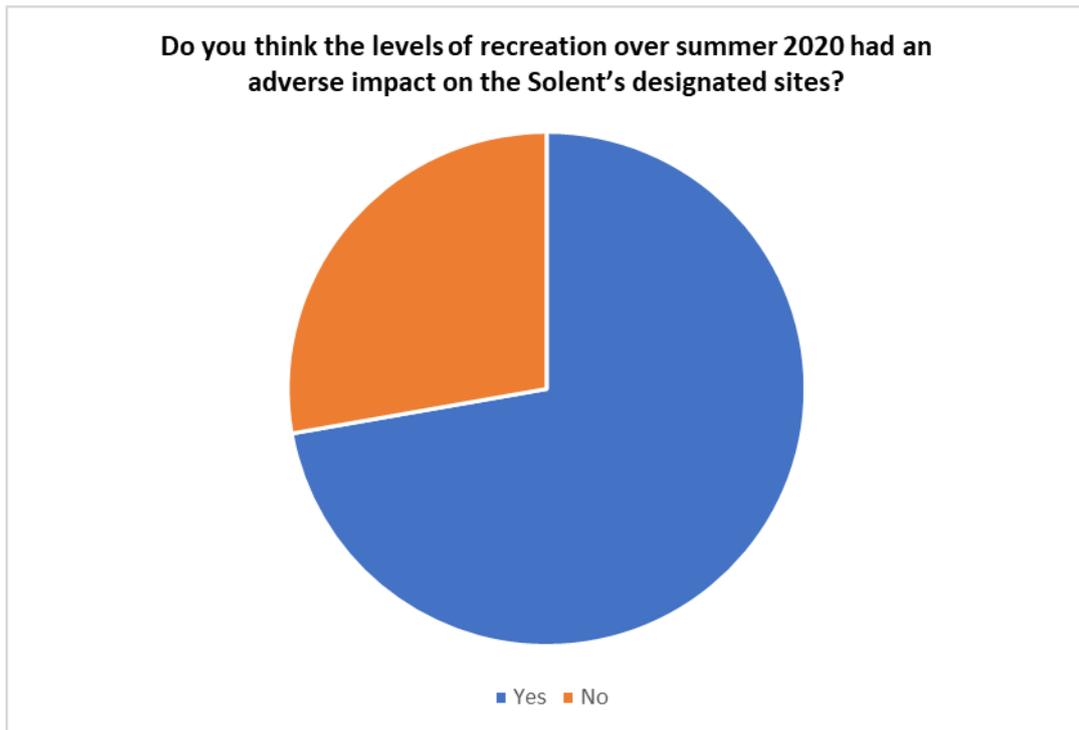
### **Keyhaven**

Keyhaven - perception of staff of more kite surfing north of spit. Also increase in wild camping via parking of campervans along Saltgrass lane. May be linked to litter and other waste which was thought to increase in the area (or that may have just been derived from the

overall visitor pressure). Similar trends at Calshot spit with campervans either staying for day or overnight. Increases in number of beach/coastal path visitors, litter/dog mess etc.

#### 11. Impact on Designated Sites

We asked respondents whether they believed that increases in activity levels had an adverse impact on the Solent's designated sites. Thirteen out of the eighteen respondents said they believed that this was the case.



#### 12. How were Sites Impacted

We asked respondents to report on what they thought were the main impacts on designated sites, the following observations were made.

- Bird disturbance, littering.
- Due to the lack of people's knowledge and experience on the water we had people going ashore on designated areas such as Gull Island and stopping on protected foreshores and pushing their kayaks and paddleboards across the protected areas.
- Trampling of saltmarsh as people avoiding each other on paths, and paths very muddy. Trampling across saltmarsh/disturbance to eelgrass beds from watercraft accessing water. Disturbance to birds from people, watercraft and dogs. Littering from picnics, water bottles, broken watercraft.
- Bird (recreational) disturbance, littering.
- Increased bird disturbance likely at locations such as Haslar Lake. Also, an increase in littering witnessed at Stokes Bay. Significant increase in dog walkers at Lee-on-the-Solent which includes trampling of SSSI at Lee-on-the-Solent and Browndown.

- Littering, disturbance to shoreline habitats and species through increase in paddle boarding and pedestrians.
- Bird disturbance, foreshore trampling, littering, mudflat disturbance, noise, social issues.
- Bird disturbance, trampling, seal disturbance, mudflat disturbance, littering, antisocial behaviour in general were all at heightened levels.
- Bird disturbance, compaction/ erosion from vehicles, trampling, increased litter. Potential (but currently unconfirmed) damage to seagrass beds in Langstone Harbour as a result of hand gathering activities.
- Mudflat disturbance and bird disturbance are the key issues due to increased foot traffic through bait/hand gathering - however the impact of 'usual' levels is unknown/yet to be quantified.
- Littering and bird disturbance.
- Littering, nutrient enrichment, potential for increased trampling (no data to support this). Disturbance may have reduced a little in the autumn due to other activities opening up and less reliance on meeting people outside.
- Increased littering along the developed seafront that could have had wider impacts.
- Activity levels have increased, but would need to be considered against sensitive areas, activities, sediment type and prey availability in assessments.

### 13. Additional Measures Implemented

We asked respondents whether they had put any additional measures in place to manage visitor pressures during summer 2020.

- Additional staff time was predominantly taken up policing anti-social behaviour at Hamble and Bursledon.
- We employed a roaming warden who educated users or moved them. We also implemented an online booking system for slipway to control the number of users and provide additional educational information when they booked.
- Implemented a Calshot Watersports area to help manage the waters in that area from PWC. Operation wave breaker is a joint collaboration with marine police and Harbour Authorities to help combat antisocial behaviour on the water. Mostly from PWC users.
- Fisheries compliance and enforcement - Rod Licence checks
- The Council released press releases regarding a 'bin it, don't sling it' campaign to reduce littering within the Borough. Extra staff were available in the summer months to deal with increase littering and the use of bins.
- Recreational Boating guidance published in the form of a Portsmouth Local Notice To Mariners.
- Additional signage, additional Harbour patrols and security and improvements to signage around the Harbour.
- No additional measures, but officers were regularly visiting hot spots, engaging with the public and where appropriate considering activities against existing regulations.
- Staff were restricted by organisation's own approach to lockdown rules and Ranger activity was centred on the terrestrial Open Forest sites due to fire risk, designated sites verge erosion from parking. We don't manage countryside sites at the coast ourselves so options limited.

### **Operation Wavebreaker**

Operation Wavebreaker is a county-wide initiative launched by the Hampshire Police Marine Support Unit to target anti-social behaviour on the waters of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Working with partners and the community it aims to tackle any issues involving all types of watercraft to ensure the marine community stay safe and abide by the laws on the water. The Police encourage any anti-social behaviour to be reported by calling 101.

In addition to working with other Police Marine Units around the country to share ideas and practices, Hampshire Marine Unit are working closely with local harbour masters, maritime rescue agencies and community groups to quantify the issue and look at effective ways of modifying the current behaviours to ensure everyone can use the water in a safe and enjoyable environment.

#### 14. Guidance and Best Practice

Respondents were asked if any existing resource(s) or best practice guidance was helpful in assisting with visitor pressure during this period, e.g. Countryside Code.

- Government guidelines following the lifting of COVID restrictions was reasonably straightforward to follow and translated into guidance for River Users. Most were compliant although a number required stronger advice. Other resources were not used. Some external sector agencies 'jumped the gun' and raised inappropriately boat owners' expectations.
- We produced our own Code of Practice which was sent to everyone when they booked online or handed out to visitors.
- No resources available. Budget restraints prevent good practice and management of visitor pressure.
- It was just so hard to reach the number of extra people present irrespective of their activity or any guidance.
- Countryside Code.
- We distributed information on our byelaws (e.g. hand gathering closed areas, minimum size), national legislation (e.g. bass regs, nursery area legislation), Solent Bait code of conduct and information provided by the local authorities in relation to food hygiene (mainly focused on the shellfish hand gathering and classified harvesting areas).
- Produced own local version of Countryside Code - Forest Code. A part of another initiative led by freshwater Habitats trust also produced a water Code which included messaging for behaviours related to freshwater, also relevant to coast. [https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FHT\\_New-Forest-leaflet\\_Final-low-res-2.pdf](https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FHT_New-Forest-leaflet_Final-low-res-2.pdf).

#### 15. One Wish

Respondents were asked if they could be granted one wish in a similar scenario to summer 2020 again what would it be.

- COVID has proved to be a significant disruptive challenge for approaching a year. It and the associated restrictions have changed daily lives to such an extent that people now have become used to distancing and other measures. It would seem less likely that similar events to last summer will re-occur to the same extent. It remains to be seen whether the public will feel emboldened by the success of the COVID vaccination programme with a corresponding impact on SEMS. Getting

back into a societal regime and routine that will bring with it associated reduced leisure time will help.

- To improve people's knowledge and experience before accessing the water with regards to water safety and the environment.
- More staff both internal and with external stakeholders to be able to manage the situation with personal watercraft.
- Reduce littering - probably the longest lasting impact.
- Better awareness and assertiveness of wider public to respect the environment - with a better understanding of how their litter can end up in waterways.
- Not to repeat a similar scenario to summer 2020!
- Additional resources.
- More staff for various agencies to ranger sites and communicate directly with visitors.
- Central Government giving more appropriate guidance.
- The increase in activity was largely due to people making the most of lockdown restrictions being eased, good weather and staycations. These increases would be easier to manage without the burden of the Covid-19 virus and everything that brings with regard to safety.
- More staff and resources to manage increased activity. Also, that more recreational activities which are not centred on the coast (pub gardens, shopping centres) were allowed to remain open to reduce pressure on the coast.
- Just for people to be more respectful (and knowledgeable) of the environment and its sensitivities. From talk of nature being our saviour in spring on the likes of Springwatch to watching people litter, trample, set fires damage etc. was very disappointing.
- That people respected each other and the environment in their behaviour and acted in collective rather than individual basis, or if that's too esoteric, simply more staff to try to improve communication and control on the ground.
- Greater monitoring data for coastal areas to understand activity levels and potential impacts.