

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	River Hamble Harbour Board
<b>Date:</b>	30 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<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 summarise activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between March and April 2021.

#### **Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board:
  - (i) notes and supports the remainder of this report.

#### **Updates**

#### **Harbour Works Consents**

3. A review has been undertaken of those Harbour Works Consents (HWC) that have been granted by the Harbour Board but not yet completed by the developer. Applicants or their agent have been contacted to inform them of the decision made by the Harbour Board at its meeting of 19 March 2021 in respect of the approved process for renewal of expiring consents or reapplication for expired consents. In response, MDL Marinas Limited confirmed that it has no plans at the moment to progress the expired consent of 2017 for extension to the hammerheads at Hamble Point Marina, but may review this in due course, acknowledging the requirement for a new application.
4. Deacons Marina, following liaison with the Harbour Master, have confirmed its temporary removal of the public access pontoon it provided adjacent to its

slipway. This is due to continued misuse by members of the public which generated safety concerns. Its installation was granted HWC in January 2019.

5. RHHA staff are looking into the feasibility and any potential consent requirements of reinstating the River Hamble Country Park pontoon back to its original size i.e. replacing the removed half of the hammerhead, in order to offer more space for members of the public who regularly use it to use it for crabbing, viewing the river and paddle sports.

### **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 - Marine Plans**

6. All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents under section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA). As RHHA is one such authority, the EDM was invited to attend a marine plan implementation training session delivered by the Marine Management Organisation's local Marine Planning team.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-planning-in-england>

### **Hook Lake Coastal Management Study**

7. Coastal Partners (the combined Local Authority team of Fareham, Havant, Portsmouth and Gosport councils) is responsible for the region's flood and coastal erosion protection projects and related habitat compensation for the area from Southsea along to the east bank of the Hamble estuary. It has commenced a coastal management study focusing on the future management of Hook Lake (part of the Hook with Warsash Nature Reserve) to better understand the site, to explore the potential for creating new intertidal habitats, to look at wider recreation opportunities to benefit people, and to develop preliminary designs for a scheme. The two-year study will run from now until March 2023 and is to inform potential options, it will not involve groundworks. Coastal Partners is working with Hampshire County Council, who own and manage Hook Lake, the Environment Agency and the River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA). To date, RHHA has provided tidal information, various data sets on bathymetry, and information on the estuary's environment.  
<https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/hook-lake-coastal-management-study>

### **Habitat Restoration & Native Oyster Restoration**

8. The Solent Oyster Restoration project, being led by the Blue Marine Foundation, has been granted its Marine Licence to undertake the next phase of the project in the Hamble (and Langstone), aiming to start in August. The licenced activities will be phased over five years and comprise two elements in each annual phase. First, a shallow layer of shells and gravels, known as 'cultch', will be accurately deposited on specified subtidal areas of the riverbed in order to recover the condition of surface sediments and create preferable

oyster habitat. Secondly, juvenile native oysters and/or spat-on-shell will be laid on top of the cultch.

9. The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) attended the virtual workshop 'Exploring integrated ecosystem restoration on the south coast' hosted by the Blue Marine Foundation. The aim was to establish a coalition of local and national experts to work together across the Solent and Sussex to discuss existing restoration projects, build consensus on working together to restore a connected seascape, and assess the opportunities and challenges to integrated restoration in the region.

### **Solent Forum & Natural Environment Group**

10. As part of RHHA's responsibilities associated with having jurisdiction within protected sites, the EDM attended the biannual Natural Environment Group to track actions and receive updates on issues relevant to RHHA. Disturbance to birds and habitats from increased use of paddled craft across the Solent is an ongoing concern, and updates were received on a variety of measure being piloted and implemented to mitigate impacts. Signs are now in place in the Upper Hamble on the National Trust's marshes to discourage disembarkation. Minutes and presentation available at [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/) The EDM also attended the Solent Forum members' meeting in March to receive updates on ongoing work to help address high nutrient levels on the Solent, and a presentation on the role of the consent process in informing marina design. Presentations and minutes at <http://www.solentforum.org/networking/meeting/>

### **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.