

# Solent Forum Annual Report: 2019-2020

The Solent Forum is an established partnership that promotes and delivers integrated coastal management around the Solent. Established in 1992, it considers and provides advice on strategic coastal matters and facilitates communication and information exchange amongst its membership. Its work is steered by a group of funding partners who guide the work of the Forum Officers.

This report sets out what the Forum has achieved in the 2019/20 financial year and what it will deliver in the 2020/21 year. The long term aims and objectives of the Forum are set out in its Business Plan. This can be downloaded from the Forum's website at [www.solentforum.org/about/business\\_plan/](http://www.solentforum.org/about/business_plan/).

The Forum has three categories of work that it undertakes; core service work that is ongoing each year, specific project work that runs for a defined time period and the servicing of subgroups.

The Forum hosts regular events as part of its core service. It also organises other events, both alone and in partnership with others, to support project work and disseminate information on important Solent coastal issues.



## Solent Forum Aims

The aims of the Solent Forum are:

- To promote, facilitate and support integrated planning and sustainable management of the Solent.
- To provide a broad based consultative forum.

For this report, the Forum was working within its Business Plan 2015 to 2020. The new Business Plan for 2020 to 2025 will begin in March 2020. This annual report is published each March.

## Solent Forum Members

The Forum has a wide ranging membership with organisations from all coastal sectors. Members include professional bodies such as local government, harbour authorities, industry, user groups, trade associations and NGOs. The Forum is not open to individuals, local residents associations or issue specific lobby groups. It is politically neutral.

Membership benefits include:

- Access to the Solent News service;
- Free attendance at the biannual Solent Forum meetings and reduced entry fee to other Forum events;
- Access to Forum reports, data and the Forum's Solent Information Database;
- Use of the Solent Forum network to communicate with other authorities, organisations and user groups;
- Opportunity to undertake partnership work and influence the direction of future Forum project work;
- Opportunity to join Forum Subgroups: Natural Environment, Water Quality and Solent European Marine Sites.



## Solent Forum Objectives

The Forum's Business Plan monitors its progress against an agreed set of five objectives; this Plan sets out in detail how the Forum will deliver them. Below is a summary of the relevant work that the Forum undertakes to deliver its objectives:

### **1. To raise awareness and understanding of members' roles and aspirations**

Relevant Forum work: Solent News Service, Forum website, Solent Forum meetings.

### **2. To improve sharing of the information base**

Relevant Forum work: Professor Mike Clark Award, Solent News Service, Forum websites, Solent Water Quality Awards, Solent Information Database and topical information sheets.

### **3. To facilitate better communication, consultation and liaison:**

Relevant Forum work: Solent News Service, Forum websites, Solent Forum meetings, topical workshops, Solent Information Database and Coastal Consents Guide.

### **4. To raise awareness and understanding of the human and natural changes likely to materially affect the Solent area and its interests:**

Relevant Forum work: Solent News Service, Forum websites, Solent Forum meetings and Solent Forum serviced subgroups.

### **5. To promote the national and regional importance of the Solent in policy, development and plan making:**

Relevant Forum work: Solent Forum Meetings, Solent News Service, Forum websites, officer input into national coastal policy and plan making, Coastal Partnerships Working Group attendance and strategic opportunities workshops.

### **6. To raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of Climate Change on the Solent and appropriate mitigation, resilience and adaptation measures (new for 2020):**

Relevant Forum work: Solent Forum Meetings, Solent News Service, Forum websites and Strategic Opportunities Workshops.

## Solent Forum Core Work

- Biannual Forum meetings.
- News service - biannual newsletter, (Solent News) monthly updates, Twitter and special alerts.
- Maintaining the Forum website - [www.solentforum.org](http://www.solentforum.org).
- Provision of the Solent Information Database (SID) - a metadatabase of Solent research and reports - <http://www.solentforum.org/publications/sid/>
- Servicing of subgroups.
- Administering the Solent Water Quality Awards.
- Professor Mike Clark Award to support student research in the Solent.
- Maintaining a Coastal Consents Guide to advise those wishing to undertake development.
- Membership networking.
- General engagement on key issues and with Solent organisations.

## Solent Forum Subgroups

- Solent European Marine Sites Management Group
- Solent Water Quality Group (to administer water quality awards)
- Natural Environment Group

## Solent Forum Work Programme 2019/20

### Meetings and Events Held in 2019/20

Meeting	Attendees	Date of Meeting/Event
Solent Forum	Solent Forum members	Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020
Solent Forum Steering Group	Steering Group Members	Spring and Autumn 2019
Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS)	SEMS Management Group	The Management Group met in Autumn 2019
Natural Environment Group (NEG)	NEG Members	Spring and Autumn 2019
Coastal Partnership Network Annual	Coastal Partnership Officers	Autumn 2019
Business Planning Workshop	Solent Forum Members	Autumn 2019

### Projects/Consultancy Services in 2019/20

Project/Service	Objective	Status as of March 2020
Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement (ESE) in the South Marine Plans	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has contracted the Forum to assist with its ESE Project, funded by the EMFF.	From 2017 to 2020 the Forum is working with the MMO to help publicise the South Marine Plans and enhance the Solent's coastal stakeholders knowledge. All three of the main tasks will be completed by spring 2020.
Building Biodiversity in the Solent Hub	The Forum will work with Forum member, Artecology, and other members to develop a resource hub on building biodiversity, including ecological enhancement.	A web page of resources has been built at: <a href="http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/Building_Bioversity_hub/">http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/Building_Bioversity_hub/</a> . An online proforma has been drafted to capture case study material.
Beneficial Use of Dredgings (BUDS)	To explore how material from dredging that takes place in the Solent can be used in coastal defence and habitat replenishment schemes.	The BUDS phase 2 was completed and a report published, funding is being sought for phase 3. See: <a href="http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/buds/">http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/buds/</a> .
Catchment Management	To work with the river catchment partnerships in the Solent on issues relating to transitional and coastal waters.	The Forum will continue to attend key meetings and to partner, and if appropriate lead, on new actions. In 2020 it will be involved with the national Wholesale Approach to Marine Management project.
Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS)	CSSS aims to collate and share the multiple ongoing workstreams to improve the Solent's water quality.	A signposting and resource hub has been established on the Forum's website to collate all the numerous existing projects and initiatives on water quality issues in the Solent. See: <a href="http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/CSSS/">http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/CSSS/</a> .

## Work Programme 2020/21

### Meetings and Events Scheduled for 2020/21

Meeting	Attendees	Date of Meeting/Event
Solent Forum	Solent Forum members	Spring and Autumn 2020
Solent Forum Steering Group	Steering Group Members	Spring and Autumn 2020
Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS)	SEMS Management Group	Activity survey in Spring 2020, Management Group meeting in Autumn 2020
Natural Environment Group (NEG)	NEG Members	Spring and Autumn 2020
Horizon Planning (online survey)	Solent Forum Members	Summer 2020
Assisting with member events: Boating and Water Quality (Environment Agency led)	Interested coastal stakeholders	Summer 2020

### Projects Proposed/Consultancy Services in 2020/21

Project/Service	Objective	Details
<b>Beneficial Use of Dredgings (BUDS)</b>	To explore how material from dredging in the Solent can be used in coastal defence and habitat replenishment schemes.	Phase 3 will be progressed; the delivery of a recharge scheme at Lymington. See: <a href="http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/buds/">http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/buds/</a> .
<b>Coastal Consents Guide Update, 2020</b>	This Guide gives those who wish to undertake development an overall view of the potential consents required and other key considerations before submitting an application.	Every three years the Forum updates its Coastal Consents Guide, view at: <a href="http://www.solentforum.org/publications/key_publications/coastal_consents_guide/">http://www.solentforum.org/publications/key_publications/coastal_consents_guide/</a> .
<b>Building Biodiversity in the Solent Hub</b>	Develop a resource hub on building biodiversity, including ecological enhancement.	The Forum will look to build case study material and collate and share further knowledge on this topic.
<b>Wholesale Approach to Marine Management</b>	The project will help support a more collaborative approach between Coastal and Catchment Based Approach partnerships building knowledge and expertise across a range of issues.	Within the national Coastal Partnership Network, the Forum will be assisting with this project to coordinate river catchment and coastal partnership work.
<b>Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS)</b>	CSSS aims to collate and share with coastal stakeholders the multiple ongoing workstreams to improve the Solent's water quality.	The Forum will continue to collate, share and promote information via its news service and website.

## Further Information

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