



SOLENT FORUM UPDATE

March 2024

www.solentforum.org



Solent Forum Staff

- Peter Barham – Solent Forum Chair
- Karen McHugh – Solent Forum Manager
- Kate Ansell – Solent Forum Officer

Key Dates

- Next Steering Group meeting will be in July and on 18th July 2024 via Teams.
- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 16th October 2024 in Portsmouth.
- Next edition of Solent News will be published Summer 2024, deadline for articles 28 June.
- Student Mike Clark Bursary Awards – next call for projects April 2024. One awarded 2023.
- Call for NEG funded projects – decisions on 24 April, 4 submitted.
- Members Survey and Horizon Scanning – an extended version will take place summer 2024 (as part of Business Planning).

Sub-Groups

- **Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Secretariat** Kate Ansell
 - Online survey of activities takes place in March/April
 - Annual Management Group meeting in September
 - Annual Management Report – published each September
 - SF Officer has regular telecoms with other national MPA Officers
- **Natural Environment Group** Karen McHugh/Kate Ansell
 - Next meeting 24 April 2024. Will review actions arising from SEMS Annual Survey and Management Report from the previous year
 - One project funded 2023/24. *It's the water quality, stupid! Identifying the risks to support successful restoration in the Solent.* UoP
 - NEG funding for 2024/25 – 4 submissions under review
- **Solent Bathing Water Quality Awards 2024** Kate Ansell
(11) confirmed for 2024

Services to Members

- Provide letters of support for external project bids and access to staff knowledge and expertise in bid preparation.
- Stakeholder engagement services for projects and project legacy support
- Publicity of your projects and events via the Forum's news service
- Web hosting of project information (including project legacy info)
- Contacts and networking across the Solent
- Representing the interests of the Solent on other working groups
- Assistance with in person and online member events

In Kind Services from Members

Solent Forum members provide in kind services to help support the work of the Forum:

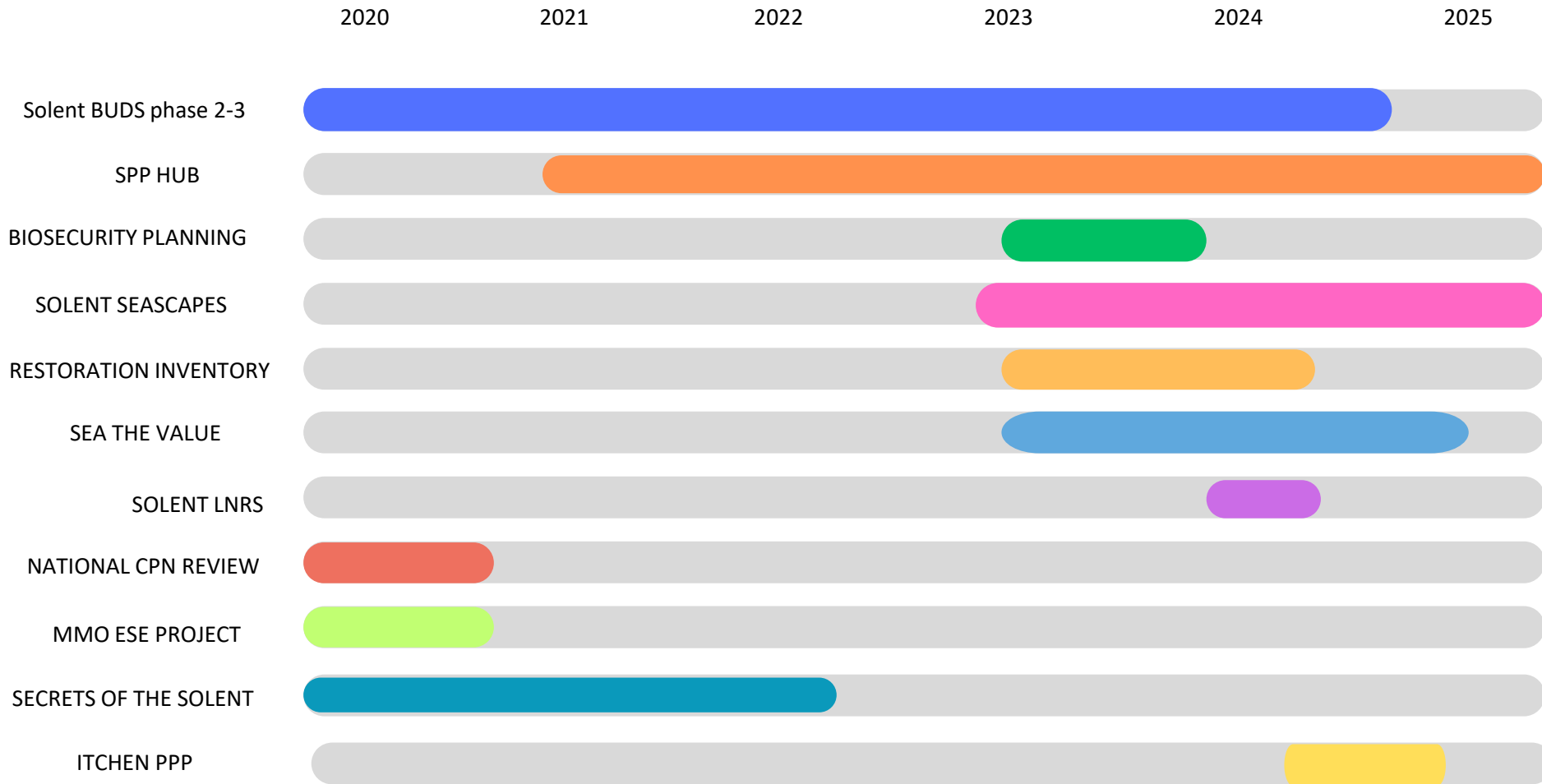
- Free venues for in person meetings
- Technical knowledge and expertise
- Access to other partnerships and advisory groups in which they are members
- Provide input to Forum publications and the Forum's news service
- Provide opportunities for Forum staff to work on projects that further the Forum's objectives
- Sharing of new data and information

Solent Forum External Project Involvement

Current projects supported include (lead in brackets):

1. Solent Seascape Project (Blue Marine Foundation) – ongoing until 2028
2. Solent BUDS (Solent Forum/ABPmer) – in Phase 3 (submitting MMO licence application)
3. Greater Solent Project Tracker (Solent Forum and partners) - ongoing
4. Itchen Plastic Pollution Project (Evolve Consulting) - new for Jan 2024
5. Solent Cluster (Solent LEP) – project on decarbonisation
6. ‘Sea the Value’ (University of Portsmouth) – ends 2025
7. Three Harbours – Pagham/Chichester/Langstone (Southern Water/RSPB) - ongoing

BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2025: EXTERNAL PROJECT INVOLVEMENT



Projects where Solent Forum is either project lead or partner. Does not include NEG or student bursary projects.

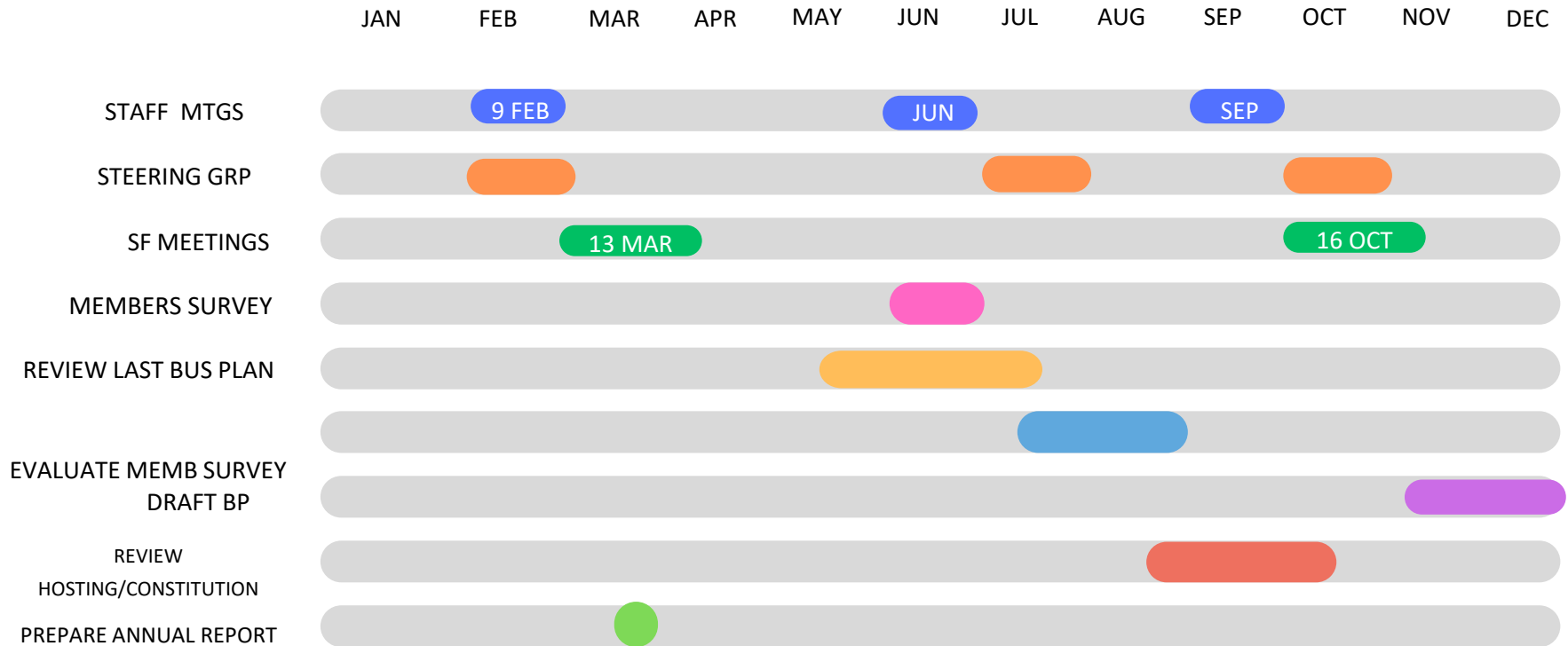


Business Planning 2025 to 2030

- During 2024/5 we will be preparing our next Business Plan.
- This is your Forum – please have you say....
- What do we do well, what could we do better and what is of most value to you? What do you want to happen over the next 5 years?
- We will be asking for your thoughts in an expanded version of our annual survey of members' priorities that we do every summer



BUSINESS PLANNING 2024



Thank You

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