



Solent Forum Meeting

Wednesday 23rd September 2009

**Southampton Council Chambers
Southampton**

Meeting Notes

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

Mike Clark, the chair, introduced the meeting.

2. Solent Forum Update

Rhian Edwards provided an update of the Forum's work.

Presentation will be made available on the Solent Forum website.

3. Solent Forum Business Planning

Mike Clark introduced how the Solent Forum are preparing for the Business Plan for the next 3 years. An event has been planned for the 21st October 2009 and all members invited in order to help scope the next business plan. If people are interested in attending please let the Solent Forum Officers know. A draft Business Plan will be available by the end of the year.

Mike highlighted the need to adapt to the current pressure which include –

Governance changes

- The Marine Bill, Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Conservation
- Coastal Access
- Water Framework Directive, stakeholder/community links

Economic and Planning changes

- Housing Policy – PUSH
- 2011 Aggregate Round
- Offshore Renewable Energy
- The Economic Situation and prospect of upturn

4. New Forest National Park Plan – Stephen Trotter

Stephen Trotter gave the group an update on the progress of the plan proposed for the New Forest National Park. The draft plan was produced in June 2008 with a consultation phase occurring between August and November 2008. There were around 90 stakeholder groups interested in the plan. The top issues with the report included socio-economic policy, zoning, service villages, traffic management, the Core Strategy, horse keeping and dog free car parks.

The revised draft will be shorter and simpler where possible, more sympathetic in tone with the policies being supported by detailed evidence. Communication and stakeholder engagement continues as changes are made to the policies. The revised management plan will be available end of October 2009.

Solent Forum members were encouraged that the coastal aspect of the New Forest had been recognised within the plan. It was also highlighted that appropriate consultation, communication and coordination is often key to assist with the understanding of such plans.

5. Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (Phase 1) – Dr Richard Stillman.

Dr Richard Stillman gave a presentation on the work and results from phase 1 of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project. Phase 1 was essentially a literature review looking at what information was already available regarding disturbance within the Solent and elsewhere. The report was written by a consortium of consultants and is available on the Solent Forum website

http://www.solentforum.org/resources/pdf/natconsv/solent_disturbance_phase1.pdf .

Phase 1 also included workshops with members of the Solent Forum's Nature Conservation Group and wardens from key location around the study area. The workshops were held in order to capture the existing situation in and around the Solent from those with the relevant information.

Phase two of this project is currently underway and is carrying out actual surveys on bird disturbance events and visitor surveys. The data from this survey will then be used in a model to run various scenarios throughout the Solent including the potential impact of the 80,000 new homes in the South Hampshire area.

The project has the support of the Environment Agency, Natural England and PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire).

6. Balanced Seas – Sue Wells.

Sue Wells gave a presentation regarding the South East Regional Balanced Seas MCZ project which aims by 2012 to establish a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of marine protected areas as proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. It is one of four regional based projects in England.

Areas will be identified by regional stakeholder groups with guidance provided by Defra and will take into consideration of socio-economics factors. The design criteria for designating new areas will take into account –

- Representation /features – a full range of biodiversity
- Replication - all major habitats / key features
- Viability - sites should be self sustaining
- Adequacy - should be of adequate size
- Connectivity - seek to maximise linkages
- Protection - variable levels of protection
- Best available science

Regional stakeholder Groups will be formed through a formal selection process to ensure representation. Being part of the group will involve attending several meetings which will be led by a professional facilitator. It is aimed that the stakeholder groups will be established by the end of 2009/beginning 2010. In 2010 the main work will concentrate on collating a regional profile which will require

discussion and consultation with relevant stakeholders to help identify the sites. The final recommendations will be submitted to Natural England and JNCC in June 2011.

7. Towards Solent Marine Planning (SoMaP)

The Solent Forum are managing this partnership project to help prepare the Solent for a marine planning project. The project officially started on 23rd September and will run until August 2010. A Solent Forum Officer is assigned to the project for two days a week. Please direct any queries to Karen McHugh on 01962 846027.

The project has an established Steering Group and Data Group. Full details of the project and the minutes of meetings can be found on the Solent Forum website at www.solentforum.org/forum/SoMaP/.

8. Hot Topics

Updates on current issues around the Solent. This is your opportunity to share news and views with Solent Forum members.

i) North Solent Shoreline management Plan.

Mark Stratton from New Forest District Council/ CCO was on hand to give a brief update on the progress of the SMP for the area. It is likely the SMP will be out for consultation at the end of October and there will be 3 months timescale for people to response within. Awareness of the consultation will be made through posters, press releases etc in the 1st month. Public exhibitions which will cover various geographical areas will occur in the 2nd month and the 3rd will be the main feedback period. All private landowners will be contacted prior to consultation and emphasis was made that no policy is final until it has been reviewed post consultation.

ii) Port of Southampton Masterplan

Sue Simmonite highlighted that masterplan is now out for consultation until the 13th November 2009. It is ABP's vision for future development of the Port till 2030. All comments will be considered and the final version of the master plan will be published around the end of the year (2009).

iii) GOSE

Carol Ward from GOSE wished to highlight that Defra's Coastal Change Policy consultation closed on the 25th September. This consultation sets out Defra's ideas for how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of coastal change, and Government's role in supporting this

Defra are currently in the process of deciding which pathfinder bids will be successful. There have been 5 bids in the South East and it is likely the result of the bids will be available by the end of November now.

A couple of months ago GOSE released a report which they commission Scott Wilson as part of their coastal initiative project. The aim of the study was to address the gap in knowledge of the range of activities that are currently being undertaken on the coast in the South East Region.

GOSE are considering organising a regional event to follow on from this work and would like to know if people are interested in attending such an event. Any event is likely to be held around the end of this year. If so please contact Carol Ward on Carol.WARD@gose.gsi.gov.uk

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The date for the next Solent Forum meeting will be 17th March 2010. It will be held in Portsmouth – Venue to be announced.

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Attendees

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Mike	Allgrove	Portsmouth City Council
Kate	Ansel	Solent Forum
Emma	Beagley	Marina Projects Ltd
David	Bone	Southern Water Services Ltd
Julie	Boschi	Havant Borough Council
Susan	Bragg	Hampshire County Council
Rob	Crighton	Southampton City Council
Tina	Cuss	Fareham Borough Council
Mike	Clark	Geodata
Ruth	Edwards	CEFAS
Rhian	Edwards	Solent Forum
Kathryn	Dagless	Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology
Roger	Davies	AQHM Portsmouth
Ray	Drabble	ABPmer
Alison	Fowler	River Hamble Harbour Authority
Manue	Hooper-Bue	Emu Ltd
Nicky	Horter	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Laure	Howe	CEFAS
Alan	Inder	Solent Protection Society
Nigel	Jardine	Langstone Harbour Board
Duncan	Keir	Chichester District Council
Tim	Kermode	Environment Agency
Cllr Tim	Knight	Hampshire County Council and Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Robin	Lang	National Trust
Chris	Mills	Isle of Wight Council
Kate	Mills	Balanced Seas MCZ Project
David	Myers	Chichester District Council
Karen	McHugh	Environment Agency
Sally	Moore	Balanced Seas MCZ Project
Kate	Moore	RYA
Kate	Phillips	Southampton Solent University
Sara	Picitto	CEFAS
Caroline	Price	Environment Agency
Katherine	Rowberry	Langstone Harbour Authority
Graham	Rabbitts	BMF South
Bob	Russell	RYA South
Paul	Rivington	Portsmouth Outdoor Centre
Rosalind	Rutt	Hampshire County Council
Katherine	Rowberry	Langstone Harbour
Sue	Simmonite	Associate British Ports
Richard	Stillman	Bournemouth University
Cllr	Swanbrow	Fareham Borough Council
Mark	Stratton	New Forest District Council / CCO
Rupert	Taylor	Portsmouth Commercial Port
Hannah	Thomas	Balanced Seas MCZ Project
Dylan	Todd	Natural England
Steve	Trotter	New Forest National Park

Carol	Ward	Government Office South East
Sue	Wells	Balanced Seas MCZ Project
Glen	Westmore	West Sussex County Council
Brian	White	Westminster Dredging
Sarah	Wiggins	Natural England
Tony	Wright	Eastleigh Borough Council