



Solent Forum Manager's Update

October 2025

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Important Dates

- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 11th March 2026 at DDay Museum in Portsmouth, then 15 October 2026 at National Oceanography Centre, Southampton.
- Next edition of biannual Solent News will be published Winter 2025/6 deadline is 12 December 2025. Articles – 300 words+image.
- Solent News Service – Enews going out monthly, 430 direct subscribers, lots more forwarding on. Please email info@solentforum.org to be included.
- Please remember to send us details of reports and research to include in our [Solent Information Database](#).
- [Members Survey 2025](#) – completed (results presented separately today).
- [Solent Marine Sites Management Report](#) published on 17 September 2025.

Host Changing

- The Solent Forum will be changing host by 1 April 2026.
- The Forum's constitution will not change.
- Invoices for 2026/27 will be sent from a new accountable body – our usual advisory letters sent each November will set out contributions and the amount will not change with the hosting switch.
- Staff email addresses will change, the info@solentforum.org email will remain but the solentforum@hants.gov.uk will go.
- The Solent Forum website is hosted independently by Geodata so there will be no change (same for SEMS website).
- We will have to reschedule Teams meetings under the new host so please bear with us, the dates will not change.

Recent Examples of Current Work

- New web hub created on beneficial use of dredgings (BuDS) – links to Solent BuDS marine licence applications.
- Invited to sit on the national BuDS working group and in July presented to that group on what we are doing in the Solent and the issues we are experiencing.
- Support letter for Langstone Harbour Board's Fisheries and Seafood Scheme bid.
- Fed into Chichester DC Biodiversity Action Strategy and Chichester Harbour National Landscape Management Plan 2025 to 2030.
- Climate change discussion with Portsmouth CC on coastal issues.
- Sit on IoW LNRS Steering Group and inputting into coast sections of Hampshire LNRS.
- Supporting the work of the Solent Seascape project on Solent nature recovery.
- Trustee of the national Coastal Partnership Network charity.
- Attending Catchment Partnership meetings with river colleagues.

RYA Protect our Playground

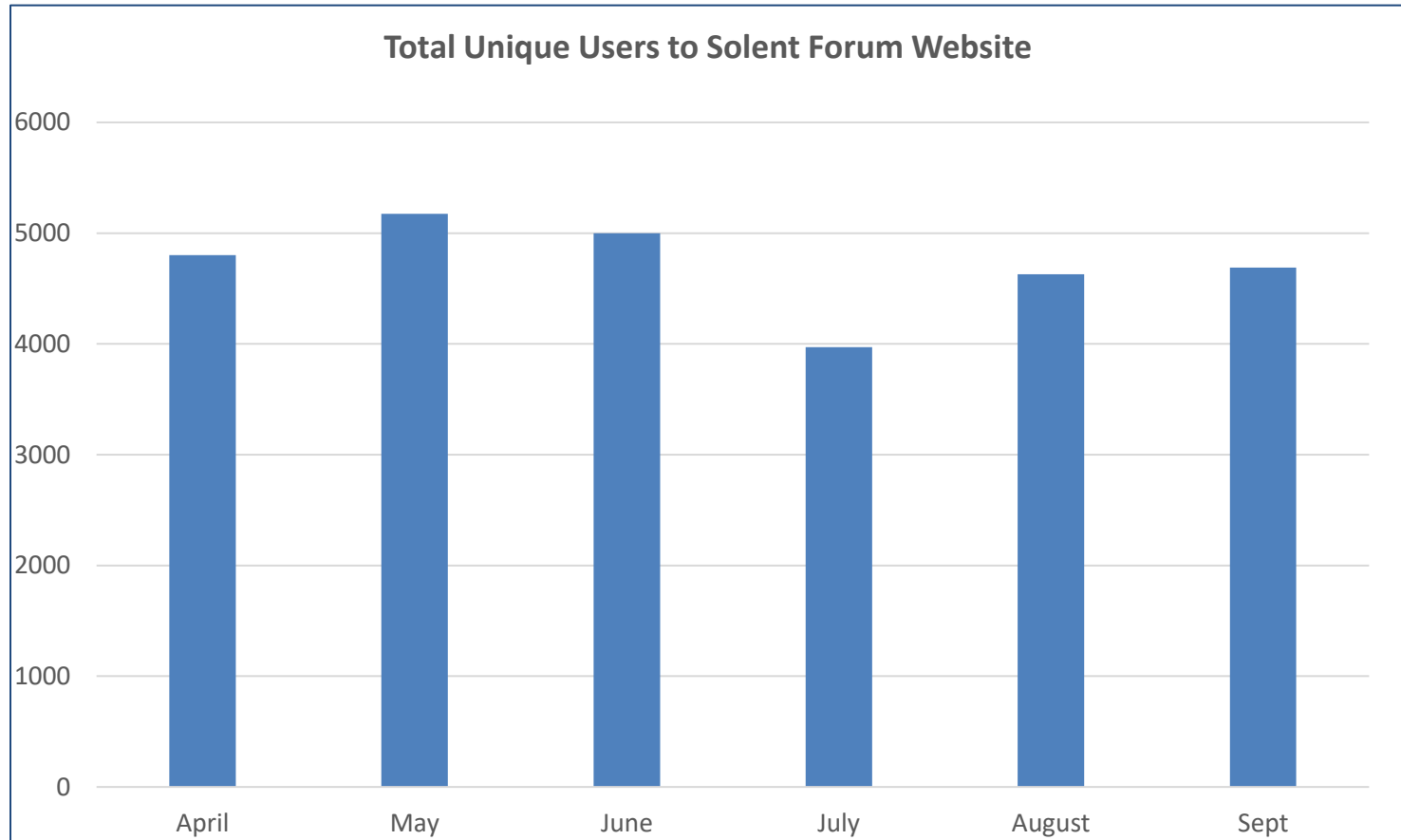


HRH The Princess Royal champions environmental action at the first 'Protect our Playground' reception

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Solent Forum Website Statistics



- Mode number of users approx. 5,000 per month
- Solent Information Database most regular popular section
- Information hubs also popular

Forum Led/Funded Project Updates

- Beneficial use of Dredgings in Solent (BUDS) phase 4, commissioned August 2025, ABPmer will repurpose the withdrawn Phase 3 Marine Licence and the baseline document to apply for a licence for a new disposal site at Cockleshell Bay, Lymington. Project group overseeing the work, Solent Forum project managing. Licence should go in late 2025.
- Supporting the national Coastal Partnership Network 3Cs bid to establish a national framework for coastal partnerships across the UK (bid successful).
- Natural Environment Group funded project – a study of pharmaceutical drug accumulation in Solent fish, University of Southampton. Currently underway.

BuDS Success at Boiler Marsh, Lymington

October 2024



View of sediment dredged from Lymington Harbour and placed on Boiler Marsh, Lymington in 2024 and then a year later showing good cover of annual samphire and sea blite. Project funded by the Environment Agency. Delivered by Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC) and Land and Water Services Ltd (LAWS) with ABPmer

September 2025



Image is of Boiler Marsh at Lymington, Western Solent. Funded by the Environment Agency delivered by Lymington Harbour Commissioners and Land and Water Services Ltd. Photo courtesy of ABPmer.

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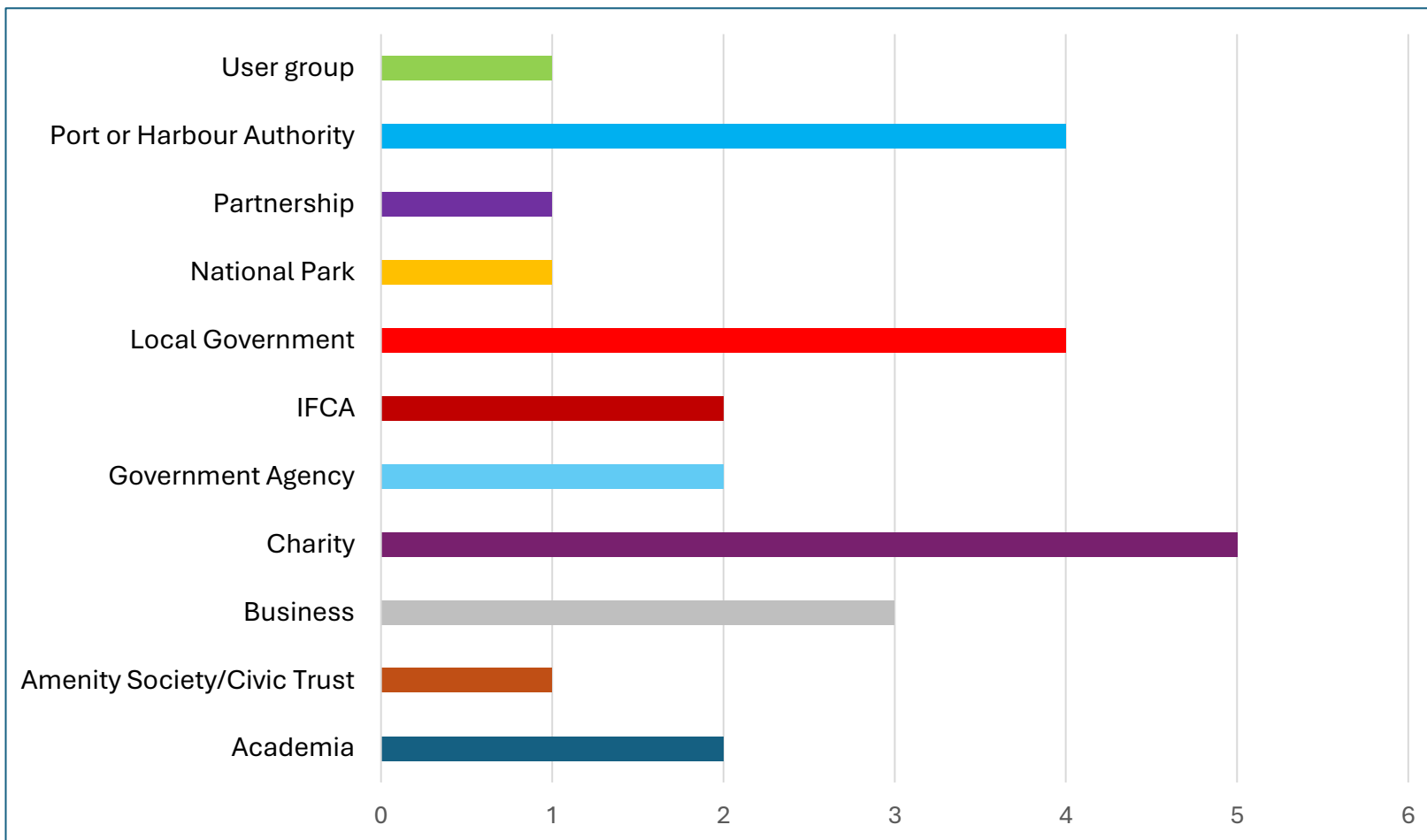




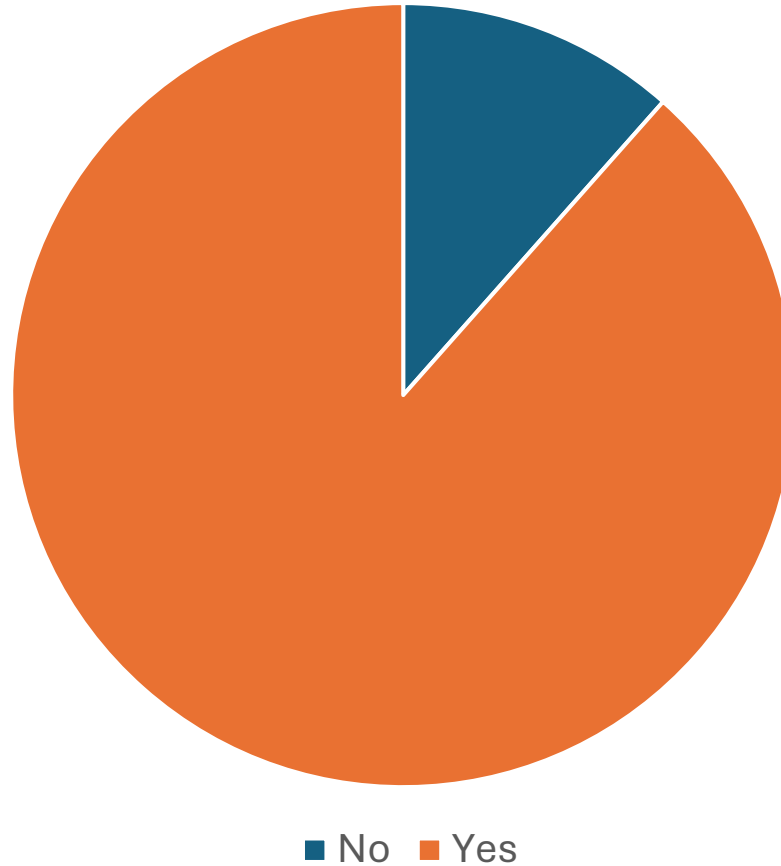
**Solent Forum
Members
Survey Findings**

2025

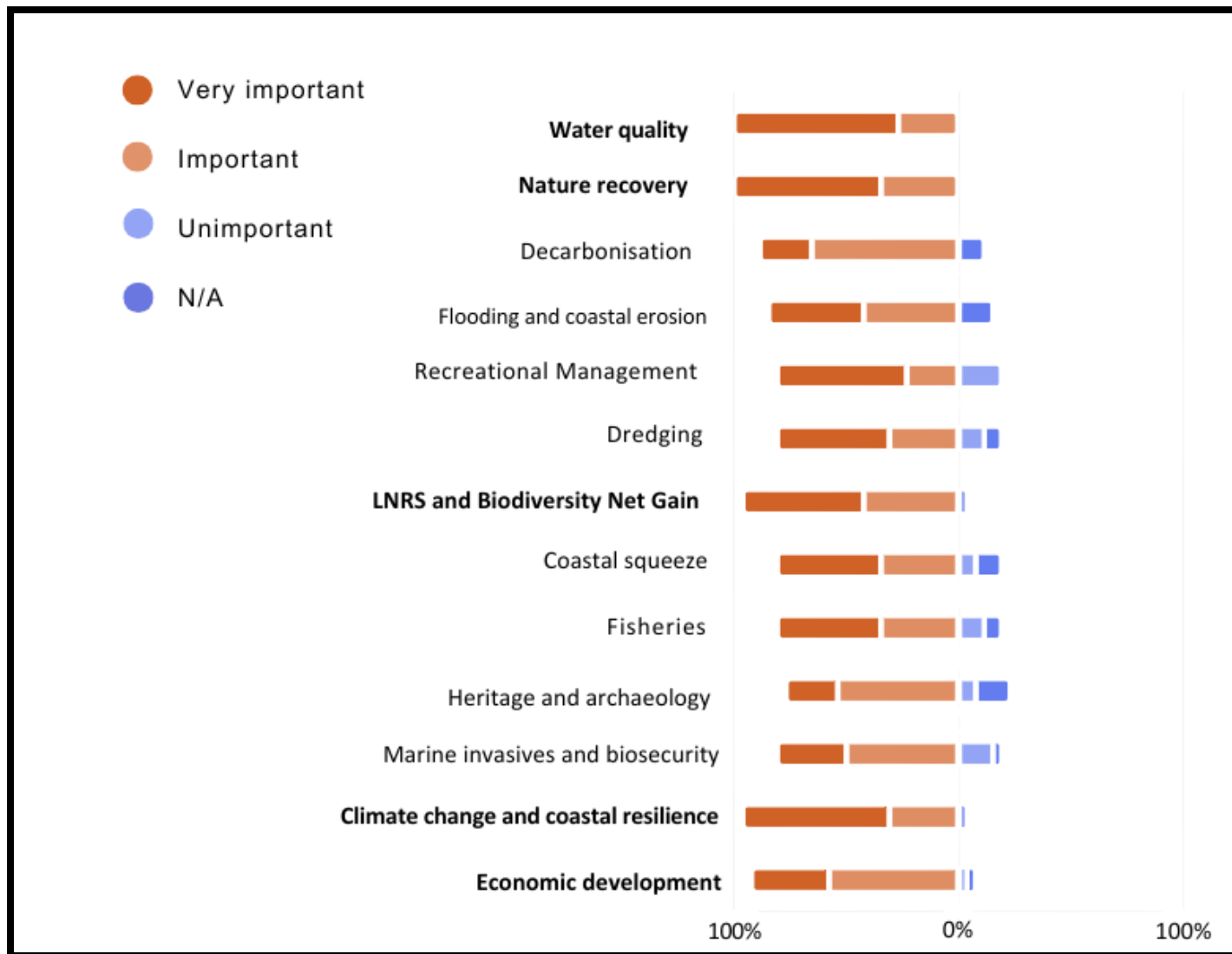
Solent Forum Members Survey: Responses by Organisation Type



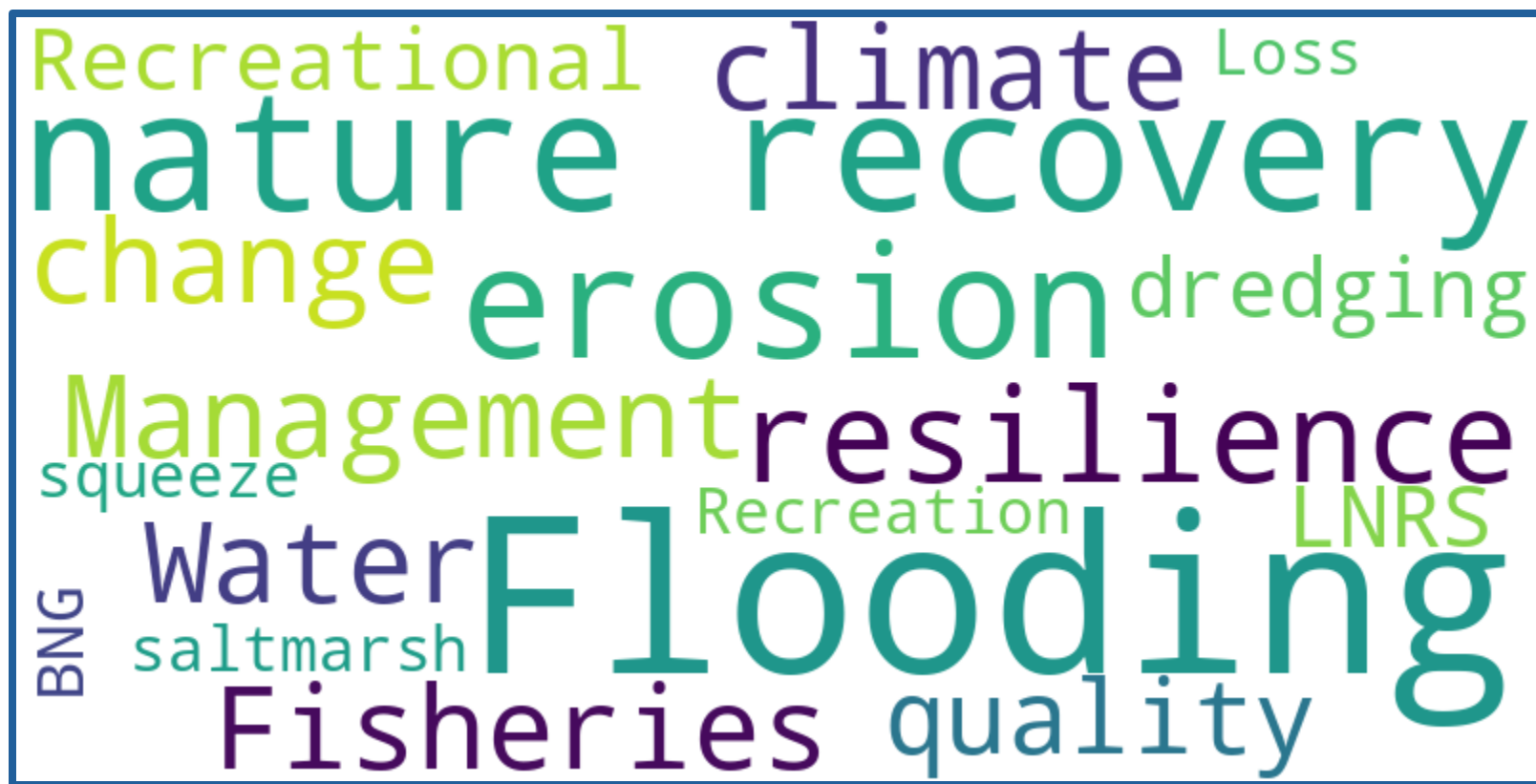
Awareness of the Solent Forum's Business Plan 2025 to 2030?



Issues of Importance to Solent Forum Members for their Work



Issue of most importance to Solent Forum members



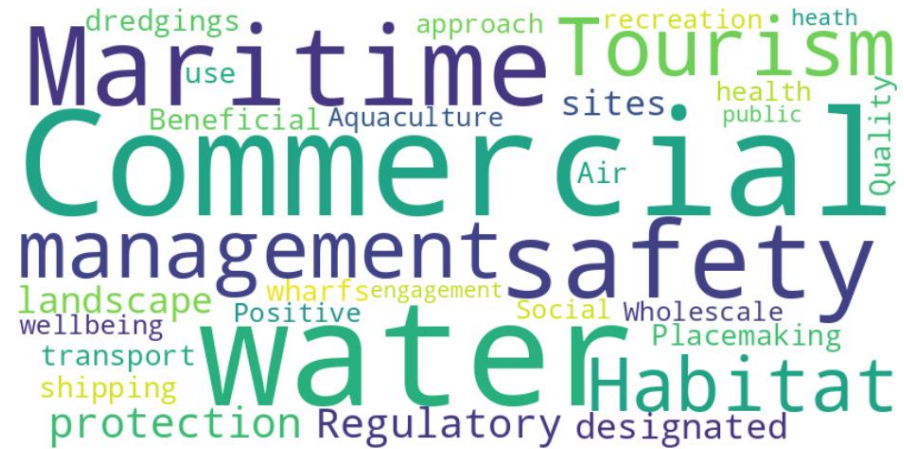
Other Topics Members would like us to Consider

Economy

- Maritime safety management
- Commercial shipping
- Air Quality
- Commercial wharfs and water transport
- Aquaculture

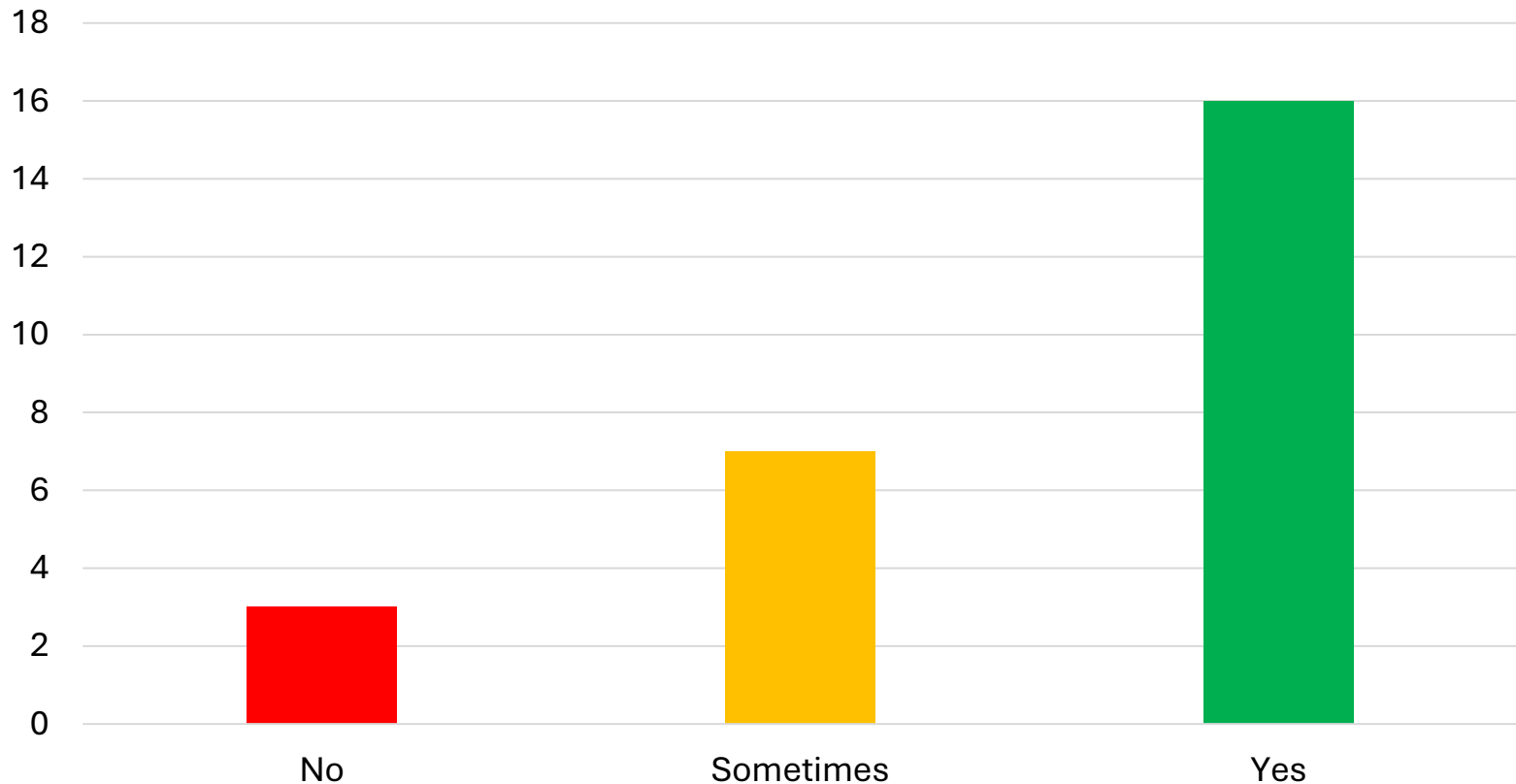
People and Blue Spaces

- Placemaking
- Tourism
- Wholesale approach to water
- Social health & wellbeing
- Positive recreation engagement
- Public health



Attendance at Solent Forum Members Meetings

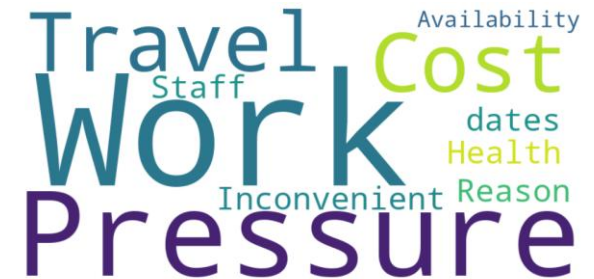
Do you attend the Solent Forum Members' Meetings (held biannually in person)?



Barriers to Attendance

1. Work pressures and staff availability
2. Travel costs

We rotate the meetings between Portsmouth, Southampton and Cowes for inclusivity

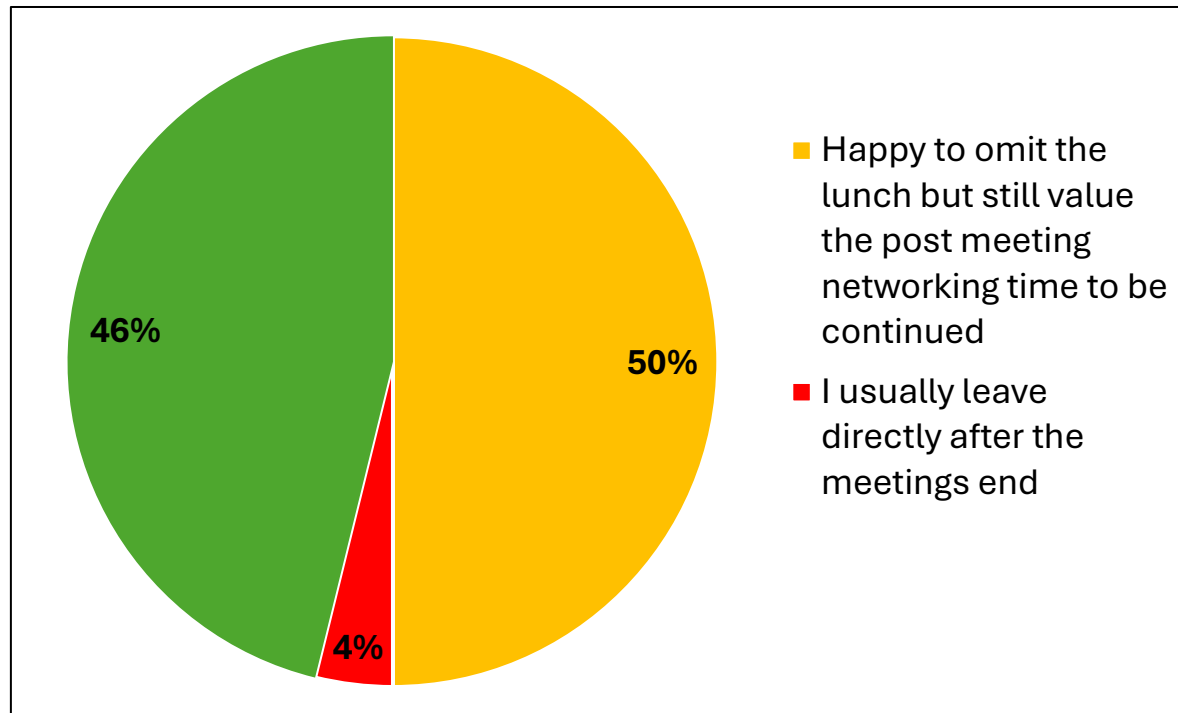


Travel
Work
Pressure
Cost
Availability
Staff
dates
Health
Inconvenient
Reason

Solent Forum Member Locations



How much do you value the lunches that we hold after Solent Forum meetings?



Member Comments:

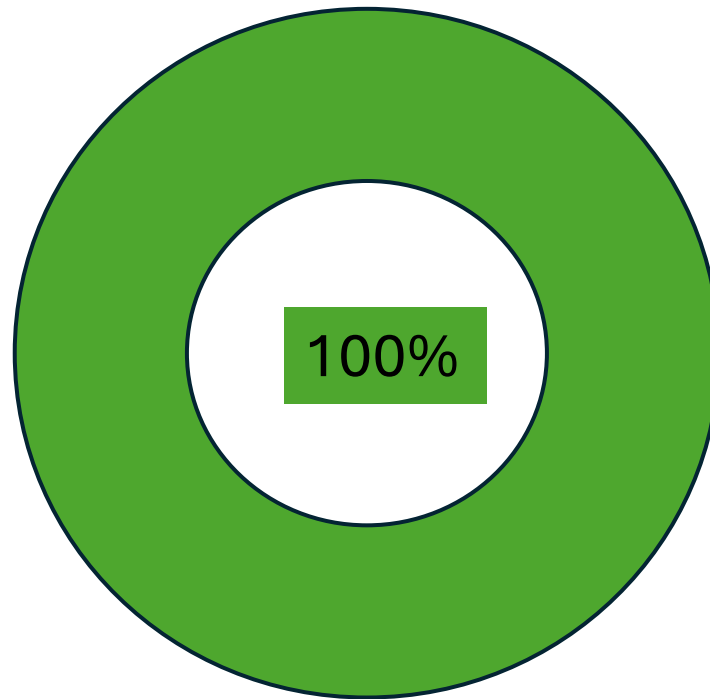
‘So pleased I have joined this forum as part of my work, valuable contacts have been made’

‘Very keen for our Management plan to be a useful document that feeds into regional strategies (Solent Seascape Restoration etc.), identifies projects with collective support (i.e. restorative aquaculture or BUDS etc.), and allows actions that can be progressed by our team’

‘We are now the hosts for the Island Nature Forum around Nature Recovery across the Isle of Wight and hopefully will continue to work with Solent Forum on this too. We really value the Solent Forum - the work of Kate Ansell is invaluable!’

‘Ashamed I wasn't more aware of Forum services - sorry! Tracker looks great!’

Do you think that the Solent Forum Offers Good Value for Money?



Thank You

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