



Solent Forum

15 October 2026

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Solent Forum Staff



Phil Horton - Solent Forum
Chair from March 2025



Kate Ansell – Solent
Forum Manager from
Feb 2025

Steering Group Members:



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PORTSMOUTH



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What do we do?

1. Run the Solent Forum Core Partnership and provide member services
2. Provide the Secretariat for the statutory Solent Marine Sites Management Scheme and the Natural Environment Group
3. Project work – both as lead and as a partner in members' project work

Where do we cover?

Core area: Hampshire coastline, West Sussex coastline to Selsey Bill and north coast of Isle of Wight and the Solent Marine Space

Secondary area: South Wight and the Solent's feeder rivers to join up the whole water environment.

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Core Partnership Services

1. Website Resources:

- Information hubs on coastal and marine issues (11)
- Grants and funding page
- Biosecurity plans and coastal consents guide
- Solent Information Database – find research and reports

2. Member Assistance

- Solent News Service – 4644 visitors in September to the Forum's website, 500 organisations receive our monthly newsletter
- Support for statutory duties like biodiversity reporting, LNRS delivery, Local Plans
- Solent Plastics Pollution hub (community litter picking)
- Support for member project work – bids, letters of support, publicity, legacy hosting
- Forum staff attendance and input at your coastal/marine meetings and events, incl. chairing and facilitating, publicising

3. Partnership Working

- Forum staff attendance at other partnership meetings to facilitate collaboration, e.g. river catchment and local nature partnerships.
- [Solent Project Tracker](#) (who is doing what and where)

Financial Contributions

- You should all have received an invoice for your membership contribution for this FY. If you are members of the Core Partnership and Solent Marine Sites/NEG you will receive **one invoice** with two product lines.
- If there are any officer or finance contact changes, please could you inform us.
- We send an advisory letter each November with expected contributions for the next Financial Year.
- In April, we will request POs where needed. Please could you send all POs direct to the Solent Forum Office. If you don't require a PO you will be invoiced direct.

Ongoing Work and Events

- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 24 March 2027 at UKSA in Cowes.
- Next edition of biannual [Solent News](#) will be published Winter 2026/27 deadline is 18 December 2026. Articles – 300 words+image.
- Solent News Service – Enews going out monthly, c 500 direct subscribers, lots more forwarding on. Please email info@solentforum.org to subscribe.
- Please remember to send us details of reports and research to include in our [Solent Information Database](#).
- Members Survey each June – please let us know how the Forum can help you and opportunities/concerns.
- Solent Marine Sites Annual Management Scheme – for those who are Relevant Authorities under the Habs Regs

Solent Forum Sub-Groups

1. Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Non-licensable Activities

- Online survey of non licensable activities each Spring
- Annual Management Group meeting in September and Annual Management Report
- SF Officer has regular telecoms with other national MPA Officers

2. Natural Environment Group

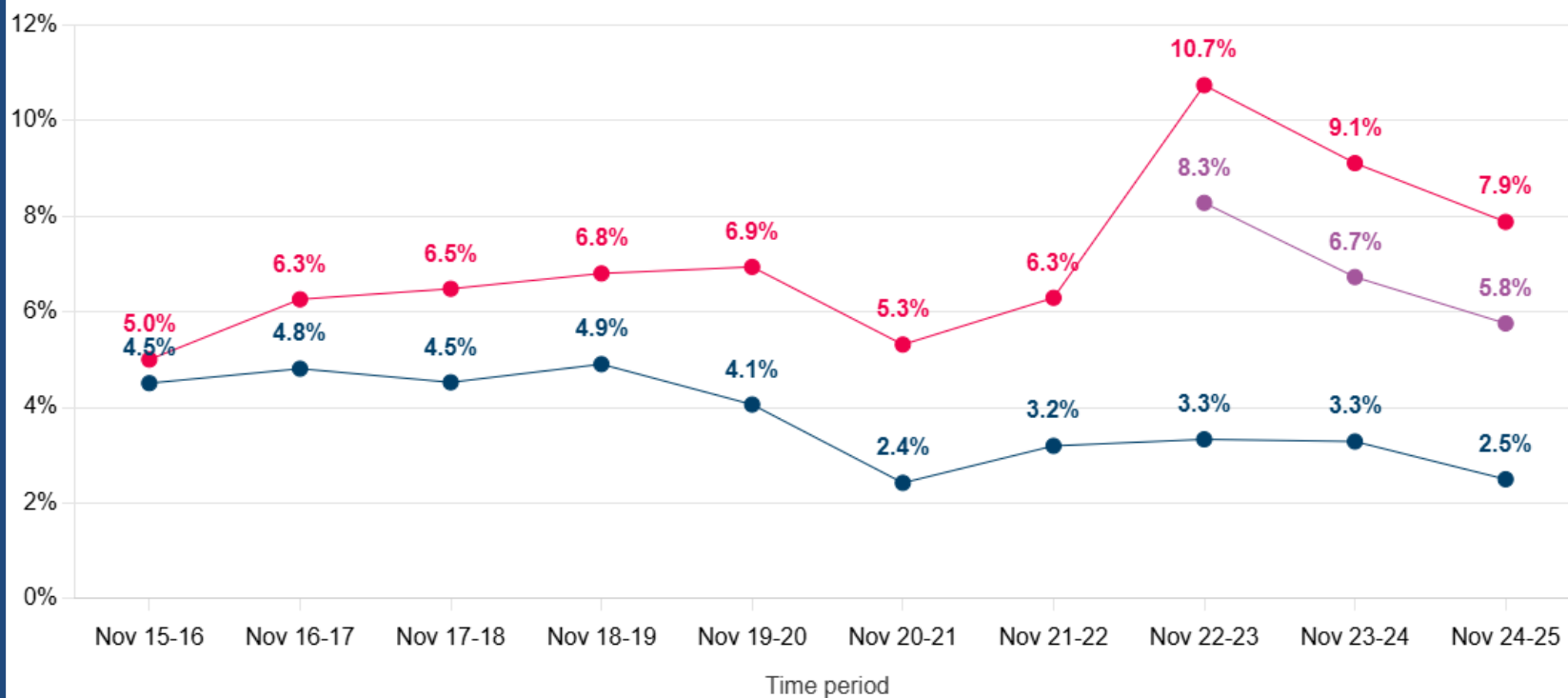
- Next meeting (today) then 21 April 2027
- NEG project funding call in the New Year

3. BuDS Solent

Project group explores BuDS opportunities in the Solent and discuss national barriers to delivery. Meets on an ad hoc basis. Solent Forum Manager sits on national BuDS working group.

Solent Marine Sites Management Report

Participation in the last year - yes or no by activity - Hampshire and Isle of Wight AP
Participated in the last year



% Participation in the last year - yes or no by Activity:

■ Sailing ■ Canoeing ■ Kite surfing ■ Paddleboarding

Project/Partnership Updates

- Beneficial use of Dredgings in Solent (BUDS) phase 4 for a disposal site at Cockleshell Bay, Lymington. Licence out for consultation until 2 November. MLA/2026/00319. Lymington HC will be the licence holder.
- Supporting the national Coastal Partnership Network on their monitoring and evaluation work to show the benefits of Coastal Partnerships to a national audience. Work will continue to March 2027.
- Helping to support the Solent Seascape Project on their nature recovery plan for the Solent.
- Member of the Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership and invited to sit on the LNRS Delivery Group for Hampshire. These will deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategies across the Solent (we will input on coastal measures).
- Supporting Natural England with their Protected Site Strategy for the Solent. Published in 2028.

Cockleshell Bay Disposal Site (BuDS 4)



The coastal health report: five year's on

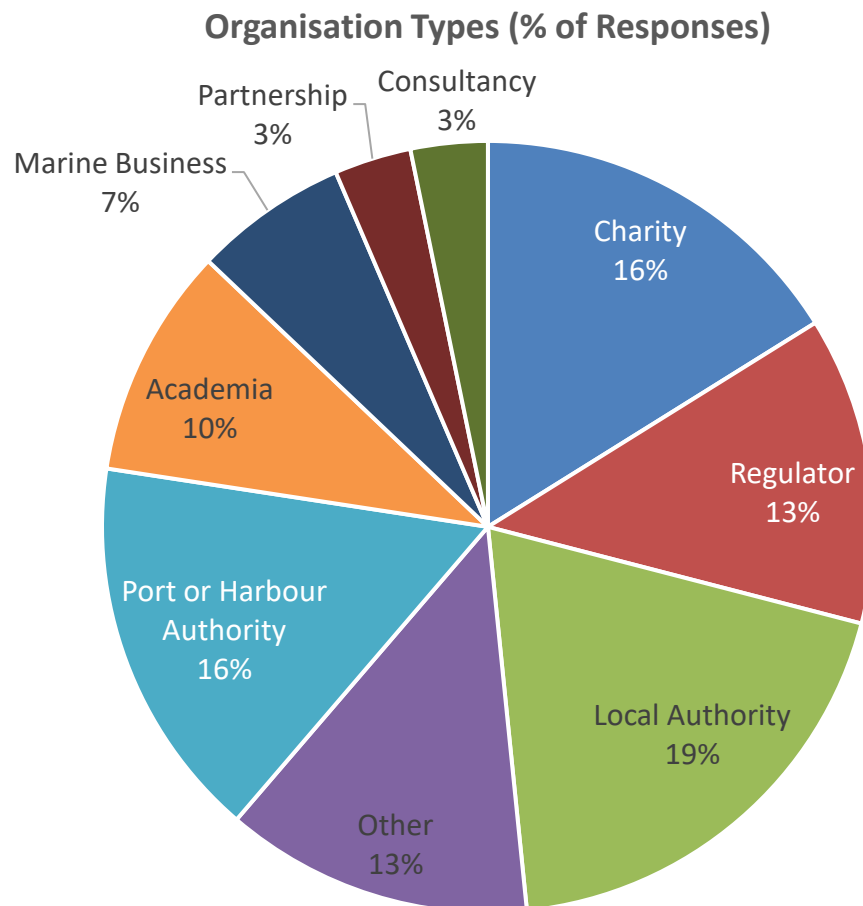


In July 2021 the **Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Professor Chris Whitty** published his pivotal report on health in coastal communities. In it he made clear that, 'if we do not tackle the health problems of coastal communities vigorously and systematically there will be a long tail of preventable ill health which will get worse as current populations age.'

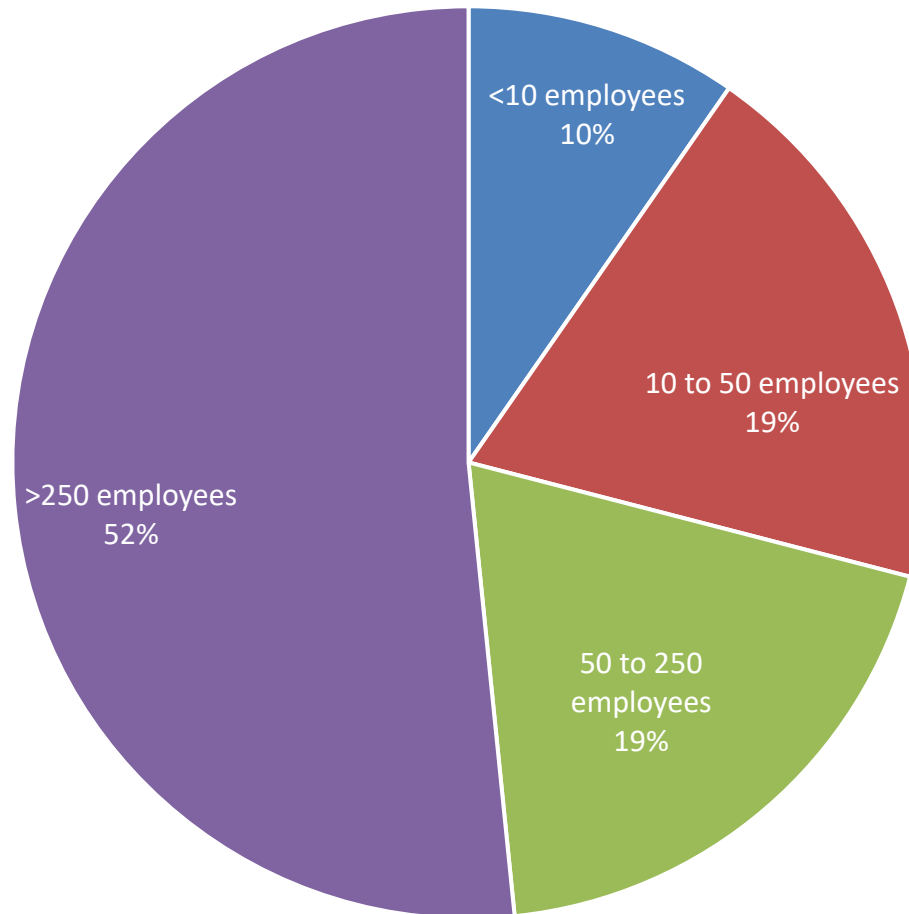
Five years on, have we made progress in 'vigorously and systematically' tackling coastal health problems on either a national or regional basis?

On **22 October 2026** the Eastern Arc Coda Network will mark the fifth anniversary of the report at a one-day event in London, at which we will explore what has been achieved in the interim, hearing from those most affected by the issues the report addressed, and to map out practical ways in which we can build on this in the next five years.

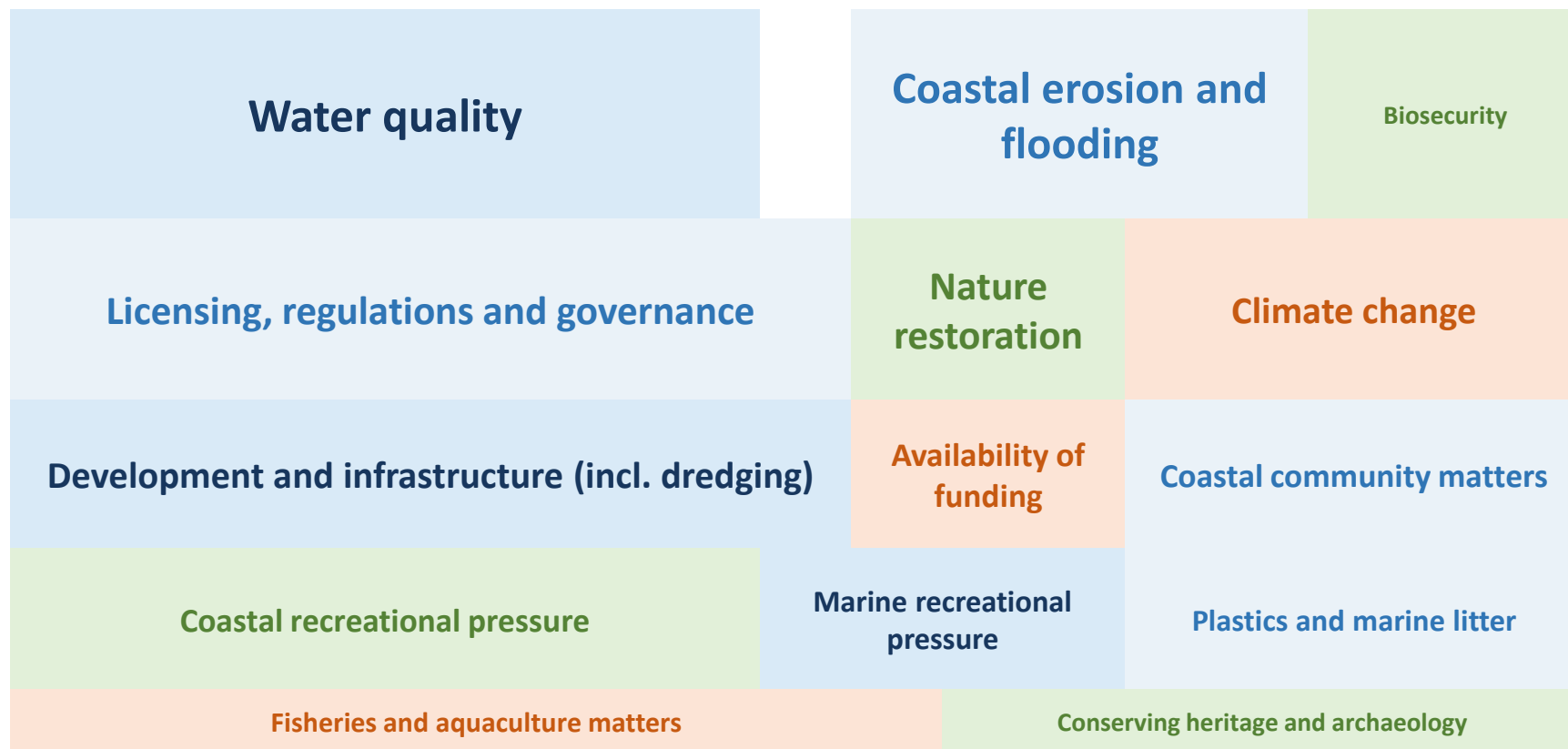
Members Survey: Org Type (31)



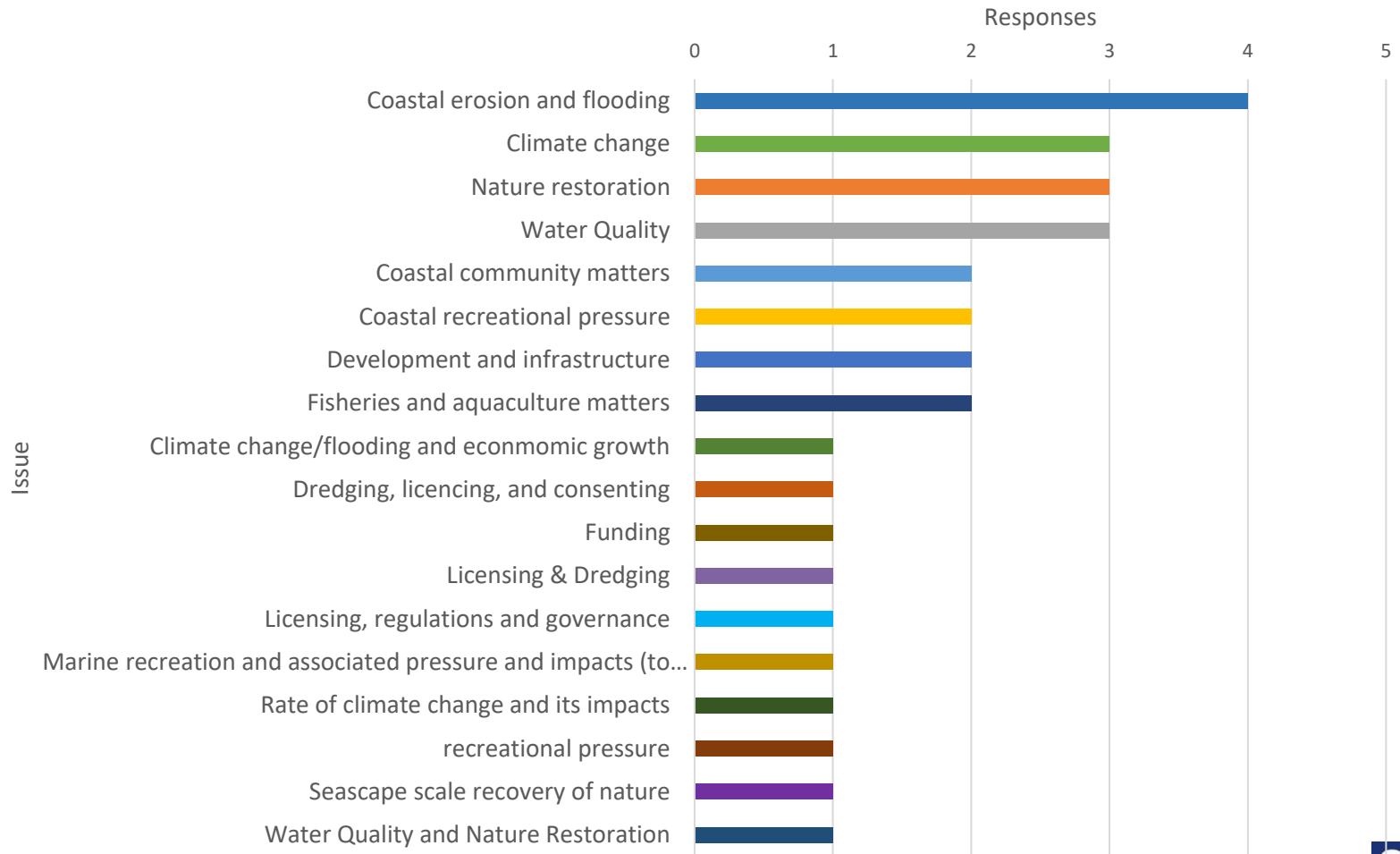
Members Survey: Org Size Response



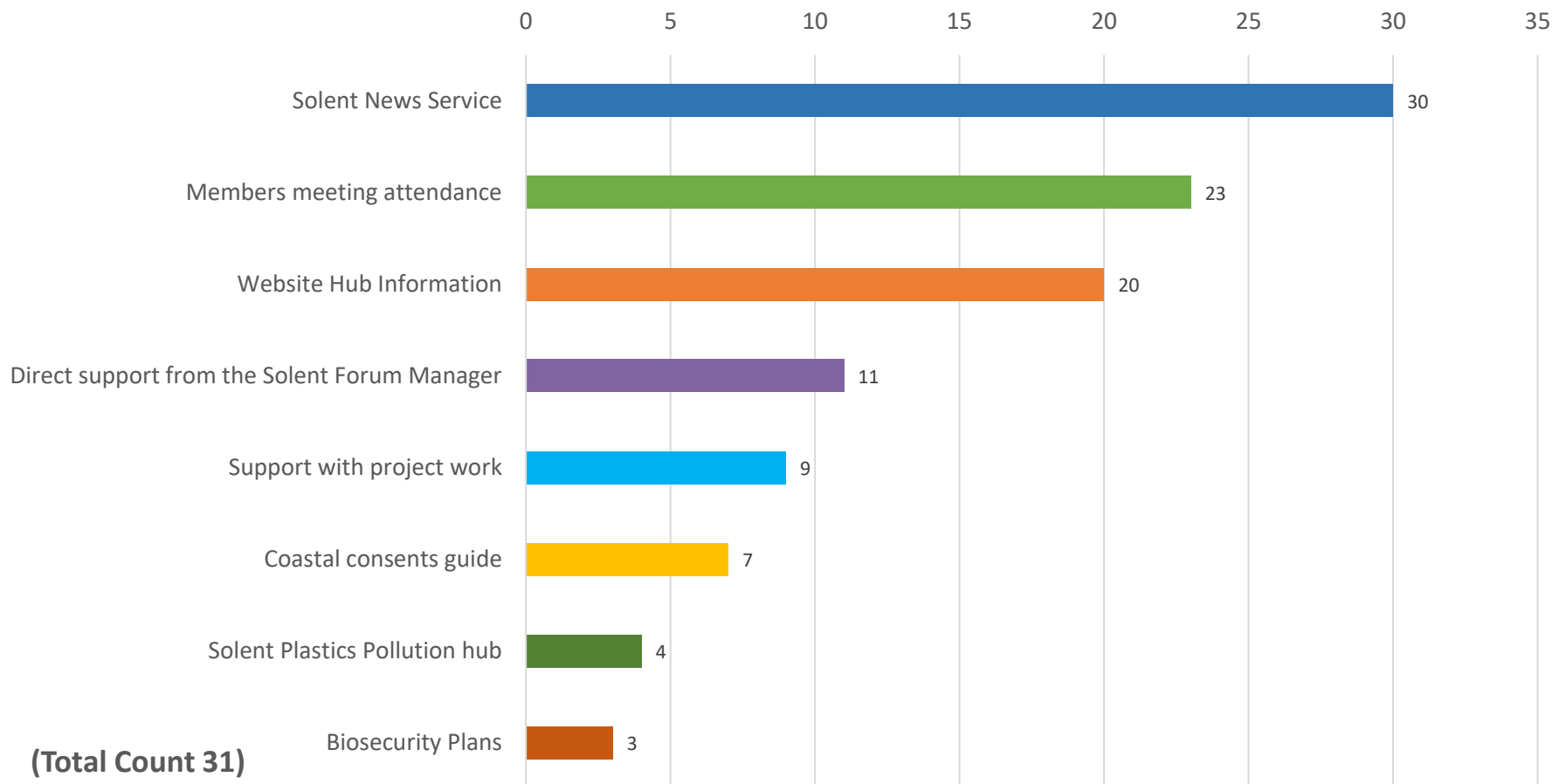
Word Cloud of issues of current importance to Members



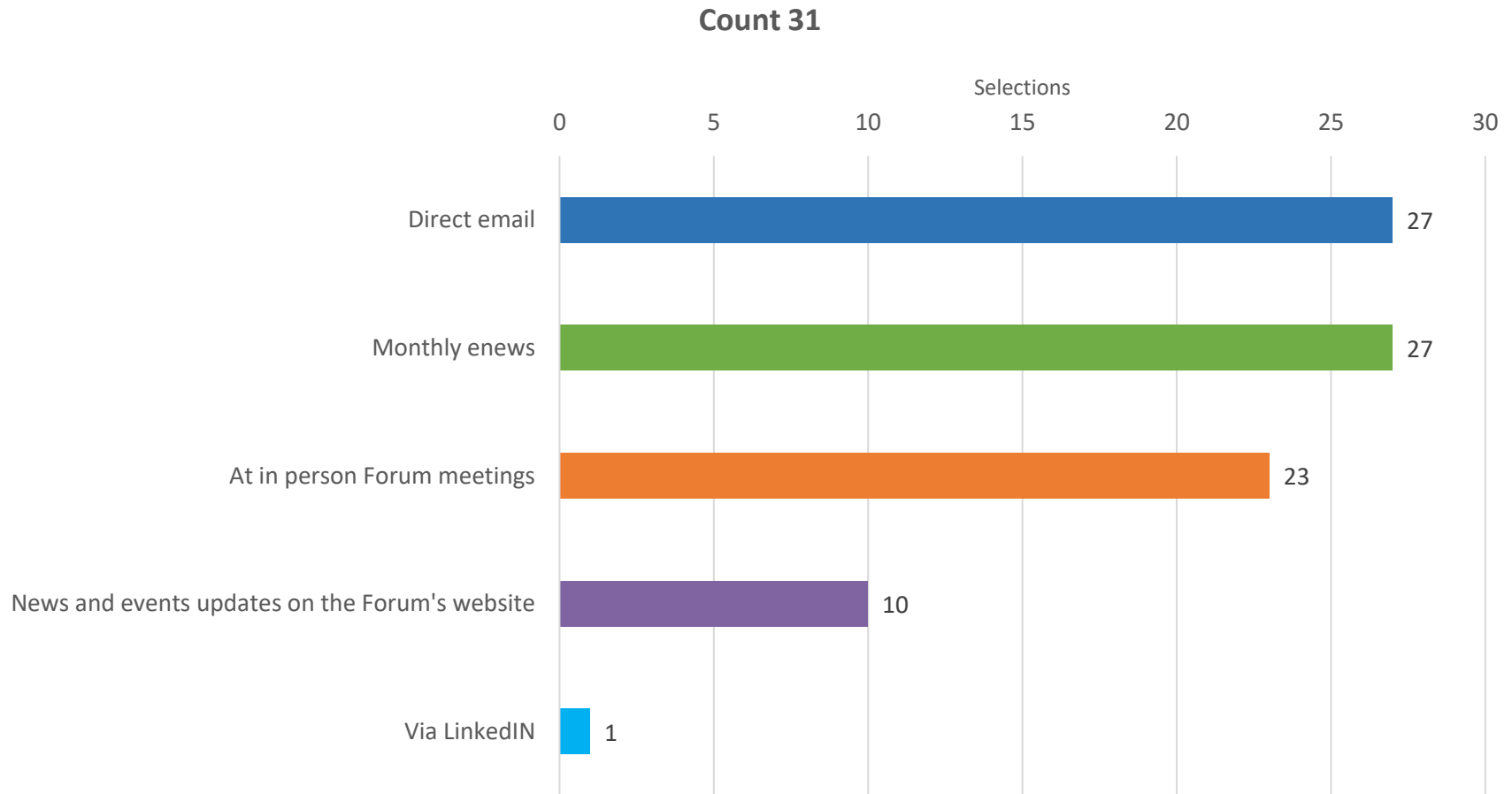
Members Survey: Most Important Issue



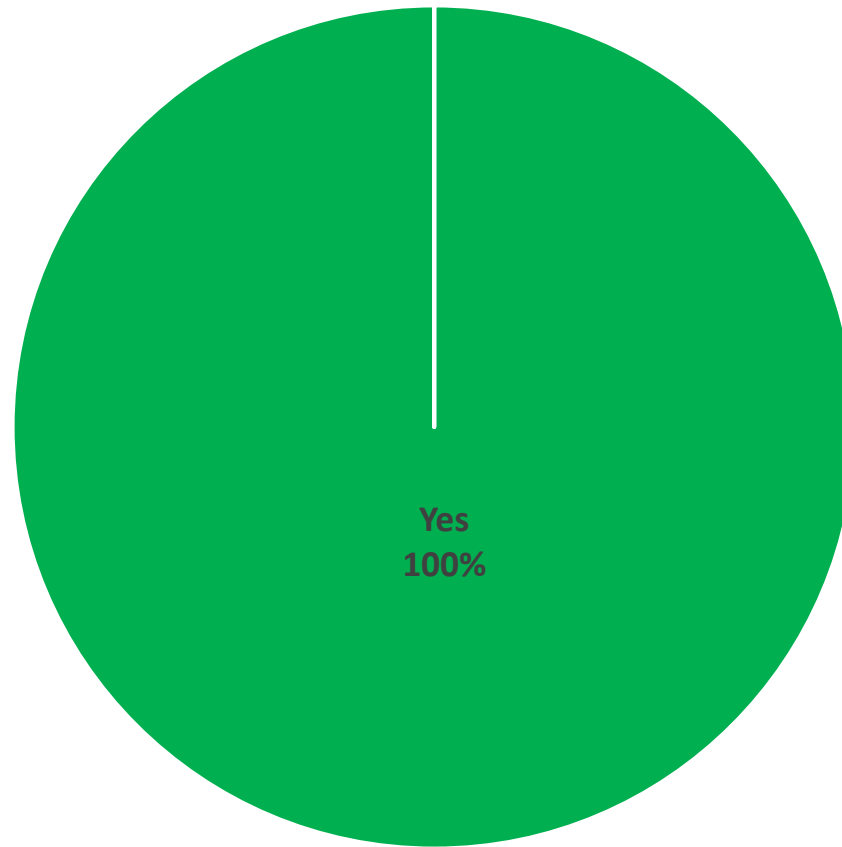
Core Services Used by Members in the Past Year



Comms Methods Used by Members



Do you think your Membership is Good Value for Money?



Areas of Future Work Members Raised

- Seascape Recovery Plan, and future planning for Solent Seascape Project
- Southampton City Vision. The new local plan.
- Beneficial reuse dredge - winter 27/28
- NEG grant for carrying out eDNA of invasive species
- Protected Sites Strategy development
- Funding opportunities/ partnerships for seagrass nursery feasibility study
- Potentially the development of our Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Strategies
- Creating a safe swimming area off Cowes
- River Basin Management Plan update consultations (including Programme of Measures) (Source to Sea approach)

Member Comments

- Really enjoy this Forum, it's an effective partnership and very well put together. Great value and collaboration.
- Solent Forum is an essential forum for coastal stakeholders to stay informed, to help fulfil certain duties and to facilitate the delivery of environmental benefits.
- We really value working with Solent Forum and members. In particular we appreciate Solent Forum engagement with Catchment Partnerships. We think it would be beneficial to show clearly how Solent Forum fits into the Source to Sea approach and recognise how they already influence land based activities through their work with Catchment Partnerships.
- You are doing a great job, we and enjoy being a part of the Forum!
- Solent Forum is a great source of information and truly connects the Solent's various marine sectors.
- Although we are a global company what happens in the Solent is important to us as this is where our staff work and live and bring up their families. We want to help make sure that the Solent is a great place to live and work both now and in the future.

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Thank You

Questions?