



Friends of Langstone Harbour Newsletter

February 2019

Flood Defences

A recent presentation given to the Harbour Board Advisory Working Group (HAWG) gave an update on the East Solent Coastal Partnerships plans that were the subject of a talk at our last AGM.

We were briefed at that meeting on some interesting ideas like the texturing of the sea wall that will be built between Kendall's Wharf and Milton Common on the eastern shore of Langstone Harbour. This texturing in a variety of forms will create niches for wildlife to colonise the wall adding both to the biodiversity of the harbour and the ability of the wall to withstand erosion.

What was new in the HAWG presentation was intentions to put in small artificial rock pools at the base of the wall

and, subject to permissions from Natural England and the Harbour Board, also create an island just off the wall as a high tide roost area for waders.

Natural England's interest is about biodiversity and they will have to balance the loss of mud flats where the birds feed and the benefits of the high tide roost. There is plenty of mud but not enough high tide roosts so let us hope they are happy.

The Harbour Board shares the above interests but must also consider the effects, if any, on navigation and amenity.

The route of the defences, which will vary between being on the shore line and in other places set back from the shore, is being finalised.



Earlier flood defence work at Portcreek

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 29th and September 21st	Beach Clean at our adopted Budds Farm Beach.
September 28th	Round the Harbour Walk
October 15th	Friends of Langstone Harour AGM and talk.

DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE

Plans to build around 320 homes at 40 Aces Farm have been **40 Acre Farm Development** presented to the council. Now there is an application to create a Brent goose refuge at the eastern tip of the site. These include destroying a line of fine healthy Alder trees. Importing 15000 tons of clay from Waterlooville to raise the level of the site, remove and replace later the topsoil of the area and spread fertilizers and pesticides. The plan for the houses is not yet approved.

The Harbour Board has objected to the plans for the housing development and the latest plan for the goose refuge. The District Council's professional advisor has queried the necessity for many aspects of what is now proposed as a goose refuge. This writer considers his concerns to be very relevant.

The Harbour Board has also stated that the size of the refuge site is too small and too close to the houses and roads to be of any value as a refuge.

Have your Say.

News from the Harbour Advisory Board

These are tit-bits from the discussions at the meeting on 6th June.

- A near-derelict houseboat at Eastney needs to be sorted out and the Harbour Manager is striving to deal with this.
- Anti-social behaviour– youths diving off the pontoon footbridge and harassing Ferry and Harbour staff– is causing problems. A potential serious accident waiting to happen.
- Debate continues over the Ferry company's request for easing of harbour charges. This is in effect a subsidy of a transport operation which is not a responsibility of the Harbour Board.
- The dredger that brings aggregates into Kendall's Wharf, now owned by Aggregates Industries and re-named 'Al Avocet' is expected back from extended maintenance by mid-June. The ship's absence has led to increased activity by the harbour pilots bringing other ships into the harbour.
- There is to be a trial of using a drone to count the nesting birds on the RSPB islands. Elsewhere this has been done without disturbing the birds.
- An oyster spat collector is being used over the summer to monitor movement of oyster spats in the Solent and Langstone Harbour.
- Langstone Residents Association are still seeking permission to undertake small scale