

ITEM

ITEM

SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD - 13 June 2006

TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES

Report from the Acting Harbour Manager

Statutory Powers: The Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954

Financial Implications: All project work can be accommodated within existing Harbour budgets to date.

Purpose

This report informs Members of current and future projects that may affect Salcombe Harbour Board and Salcombe Harbour Kingsbridge Estuary. This report links to the Council's overall Aim – 'to improve the well being of the people of the South Hams'.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the Report.

Staffing

1. The vacant part time Clerical Assistant Post has now been filled by Mark Page, one of our maintenance staff, who has moved to the office from the workshop. Mark has settled into his new position very quickly and is doing very well.
2. The Moorings Officer Post has been filled by David Scales who took up his post on 17 May 2006 and is settling in well. David has a wide range of boating and waterborne skills which should be a valuable asset.
3. All Seasonal staff have now been recruited, medicals and Boatman's Licences obtained where necessary, and training given.

Visitors

4. We have experienced a very slow start to the season with very few visiting yachts or trailed craft due to very poor weather during May 2006. By the time we get to this meeting I hope to be able to report on an upturn in numbers and the weather!

Salcombe Festival June 9 – June 11 2006

5. Once again we are expecting a fine selection of classic boats, including the classic lifeboats, steam boats. In addition the Brixham trawler Provident makes a welcome return and will be in the Harbour throughout the weekend. During Sunday the Salcombe Estuary Rowing Club are to hold a Cornish Pilot Gig Regatta and BBQ with a number of races being held off Cliff House with 10 to 20 clubs expected to attend.

Harbour Recycling

6. Good progress has been made and all the equipment and necessary components are now delivered and assembled onto the skip pontoon, with the visitor's pontoon facility being finished imminently.
7. The reception from harbour users has so far been very good, with particularly good reactions to the reusable 3-bag recycle packs, these enable on-board sorting of waste, funded by the RYA and are distributed free to live aboard vessels within the harbour.
8. The bag packs have proven particularly useful for also getting the recycling message across by inserting a 'Welcome to Salcombe Harbour' and a recycling 'How To' information sheet. We are collecting Paper & Card, Plastic & Tins and General waste. Glass collection will be introduced later in the season.
9. The exercise has been a beneficial collaboration between the Harbour authority and the SHDC waste management team, who have contributed invaluable information to the scheme. We have also been successful in achieving a further grant of £1000 from the Environmental Agency, which will go towards funding printing information sheets on recycled paper and the large clear waste bag liners for the waste handlers collecting the recycled bin contents.
10. The total grant contributions are now up to £14,500, the additional contributing organisations being the RYA Green Blue Initiative and South Devon AONB.

Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

11. This is a new boating group that has recently set itself up, drawing in members from the Kingsbridge, Frogmore, etc. area. (Also to be recognised as a 'Harbour community forum' by the new Salcombe Harbour Board). Elected members of the Club have held a meeting with members of the Salcombe Harbour Authority team, to discuss their concerns and issues and the Harbour Authority are endeavouring to help wherever they can. The Club have also set up a self help 'Boat-watch' patrol system of Club members in consultation with the Kingsbridge police.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Education and Awareness Raising Events

12. Schools across all age groups and key stages are being formally encouraged to take advantage of the educational potential of their local environment and expertise of local professionals such as the Marine Conservation Officer.
13. Despite a relatively quiet winter, numbers of primary school bookings have grown and included several schools to the west of the district for the first time. The MCO gave a number of presentations on estuarine ecology to Kingsbridge Community College students as part of their 2006 Science Week events day. The whole of the Kingsbridge Community College's year 9 students (200+) are involved with foreshore litter clean-ups of the estuary over two days.
14. The MCO gave an illustrated talk about the estuary and its wildlife to this year's intake of ICC sailing instructors with the specific aim of passing on information that might in turn be passed on to their students – enhancing their learning experience and enjoyment of our estuary.

Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum

15. The next meeting of this Forum is being held on Tuesday 27 June 2006 at 7:30pm at the West Charleton village hall. A part of the agenda of this meeting will be to discuss formal Terms of Reference, enabling the Forum to formally feed issues, guidance and opinions to the Salcombe Harbour Board as a recognised 'Harbour Community Forum.'

Nigel Mortimer
Marine Conservation Officer

Salcombe Harbour Board
13 June 2006

Vanessa Tabb
Acting Harbour Manager

Background Documents – none