

## Foreshore and Waterfront WeRHamble Working Group

5th February 2018

Present: Debbie, Debs and Ian

1 - The group first considered the questions in the observation section of the survey results.

Q14 What is considered the waterfront? *This was the first question the group decided at its first meeting - All waterfront and foreshore in the parish available for public use from Westfield Common to Mercury Creek and not just the Foreshore.*

*What do the third do everyday is it work or leisure? Nearly all for leisure - only ferry and Beach Hut cafe staff, 2 workers occasionally use ferry and ice cream van in Hamble Common car park.*

Q15 Walking is main activity on the waterfront? Links with footpath and signage responses. How do we capitalise? *Better signage e.g. Walks information board in Square car park to be updated and similar ones located on Foreshore, Hamble Common and Westfield Common. QR codes on walk trails giving relevant information. Ensure HPC walks leaflet is readily available and not just in office.*

*Strong desire for waterfront/bars/cafes/pubs. How can we communicate this? How can hospitality businesses make more than this? The main issue for waterside businesses is more parking. Use of social media by HPC and businesses through own groups. Parish Council to set up an Instagram account to promote these.*

*Water based activities need further research and classified. This information is not readily available and the Harbour Master would only know about the whole river and not specifically Hamble. The best way to find this out is to ask those who work down the Foreshore each day. Therefore we asked the ferry and river taxi for their opinions.*

<i>Users using sailing boats from large ones in the marina and small dinghies in the dinghy park:</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Users using large motor cruisers and small fishing dinghies.</i>	<i>40%</i>
<i>Fishing including crabbing.</i>	<i>6%</i>
<i>Canoes, paddleboards etc.</i>	<i>4%</i>

*More non boat owners used the waterfront including the ferry than water based users.*

*Ferry Trip support desire for Boat trips. Agreed. As mentioned above non boat owners e.g. walkers, cyclists and visitors enjoy using the ferry and previously enjoyed boat trips.*

Q16 Do we need more walking trails/info. What can we do to improve? *Generally apart from a riverside walk similar to Warsash the footpath provision in Hamble is good but as mentioned above in Q15 improved information required. Need to contact EBC regarding including a riverside walk in Hamble to join with Bursledon and Botley in its plans and to take every opportunity when planning permission is given to gain public river access and paths as development gains. Agree need to promote Strawberry Trail, Solent Way and Rail Trail.*

*Foreshore car park usage/frequency of events. Other options for markets? Support this and believe there should be 4-5 major markets in the summer months aimed at local people, but the markets must work better with local businesses. The Village Market could be involved. Craft market another option but may need to be with something else. If a small market like the Italian Market it must be visible i.e. near the entrance of the car park. We already have Hamble River Raid, Hamble Raft Race and Hamble River Games but we could have more waterside events.*

*Picnic areas and Hamble/Westfield Common BBQ areas or Foreshore? It is recognised that visitors and locals enjoy using the outdoor areas for picnics and in some areas BBQs are lit, but this is an area of concern because of the 'policing' of BBQs at night time. Perhaps having a trial area (one BBQ area) could determine whether it is something the Council can support. If BBQ areas are provided their design and location are important to prevent damage and anti social*

*behaviour. Signage important to ensure BBQs take place in the designated places. Concerns regarding BBQ's hot embers in the air burning boat covers or damaging cars if on Foreshore. Picnic area on foreshore southern quay could be improved with a few more tables and might be with a small children's play area (with a pirate ship) at rear of grass area.*

Funding from Hampshire - Rural/Tourism? Agree any funding and promotion from other organisations would be helpful for Hamble. A number of years ago the County Council, Borough Council and the Countryside Agency supported and promoted a River Bus from Hamble to the Hamble River Country Park.

What is the position regarding boat trips. How do we make it happen? The Parish Council's lease with Angelfish the owners of Beach Hut Cafe states it is essential part of the business and this ensures the provision of river trips. HPC should ensure this is carried out as previously because it is an important attraction for Hamble. Most visitors enjoy a local river trip but could also see if larger trip boats might pick up passengers at Hamble Jetty e.g. Blue Funnel Cruises, Gosport Ferry Solent Trips and Solent & Wightline Cruises.

2 - Next the group decided the priority of importance of those suggestions from the survey that was agreed should be taken forward at the last meeting.

#### High Priority

Footpaths, circular walks, signage and trails.

River Trips. (HPC)

More parking for river users and riverside businesses. (EBC)

(Not in the existing car park on the foreshore but in convenient nearby location.)

#### Medium Priority

Organised events e.g. Craft & farmers market.

BBQ/Picnicking areas/seating.

Hose pipe and storage/lockers in dinghy park. (Not sure if lockers are practical or there is a demand.)

Swimming zone. )

Improve youngsters access, provision and enjoyment of the river. ) - These are available but need

Develop sailing activities. ) to improve information and

Facilities for visiting yachtsmen - Encouragement. (EBC/HPC) ) promoting.

involve business more.

For example for safety reasons swimming within 5 metres of the Public Jetty is not allowed and the notices already there are important, but we should be doing much more promoting where they can swim off the foreshore e.g. signage, use of social media and QR codes. A buoyed swimming area was previously tried but proved unsuccessful. Improved information needed regarding provision and facilities already available for youngsters from organisations, particularly to local youngsters that do not want to join clubs. Again use of social media etc.