

## **NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Appendix 1 of this report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - Information relating to any individual

Report to: **Salcombe Harbour Board**  
Date: **29 February 2016**  
Title: **Topical harbour issues**  
Portfolio Area: *Salcombe Harbour*  
Wards Affected: **All**  
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **N**

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### **Recommendations:**

That the Board **Notes** the report and **Resolves** to permit Egremont to undertake repairs alongside throughout 2016 on the proviso that a funded and realistic repair plan is provided to the Harbour Authority.

**1. Executive summary.** This report updates the Board on contemporary issues or items of interest which don't themselves merit an independent report. In sum the winter has been busy with a number of significant activities taking place, including maintenance dredging, workshop and plant upgrades and a Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) compliance audit.

**2. Staff issues.** See Appendix 1.

**3. Safety.** In his role as the SHA Designated Person, Captain Giles (Dart Harbour Master) conducted a compliance audit 9 February. The Board meeting will be provided with a copy of his findings once it is received.

**4. Egremont.** Egremont is scheduled to leave 22 March and return 26 May, having been made water-tight and repainted externally but with minimal external work. The owners' plan is then to conduct an internal refit through the remainder of 2016 before re-opening in 2017 as a sailing school. However, the Moorings Policy directs that major repairs should not be conducted on a SHA mooring or berth without permission, and furthermore the repairs do not yet appear to be funded and rely instead on a significant amount of volunteer work.

It is recommended that the Board grant this permission on the proviso that the owners first provide a costed, funded and achievable programme of repair works.

**5. Loss of Blue Flag Beach status for South Sands.** In 2015 Salcombe North Sands was assessed as Excellent and Salcombe South Sands as Good due to a single reading taken on 24 July (which records show as experiencing heavy precipitation). Unfortunately Blue Flags are only awarded to beaches which have Excellent water quality and subsequently we are prohibited from applying for one in 2016. So long as water quality for 2016 reverts to its historic Excellent status then a new application can be submitted in 2017. In the meantime we have applied for a Seaside Award which "ensures visitors are guaranteed to find a clean, safe, attractive and well-managed coastal stretch."

## **6. Eco-harbour initiatives**

a. **Workshop solar panel installation.** In early January SHDC installed solar panels capable of generating up to 12kW. This is expected to generate up to 11,900 kWh of energy throughout the year and completely offsets the energy consumed by the workshop and partly off-sets that of the Harbour Office too. In tandem with the proposed change of the water taxi propulsion from diesel to electric motor driven by batteries this should go some way towards the harbour becoming a carbon-neutral harbour and save up to £500/month in diesel during the summer.

b. **SWW water quality initiatives.** Because of our Eco-Harbour Status, SWW is actively considering spending up to £20,000 on water quality improvement initiatives in the Harbour. If successful we should be informed early March. Items under consideration include paying for the 'yellow fish' drain symbols, extending the water quality sampling season beyond that stipulated in the Bathing Water Directive and raising awareness amongst the yachting community of 'pumping out' in the harbour.

c. **Plymouth University MSc project.** Plymouth University has offered an MSc student to the Harbour for up to 8 weeks in the spring to conduct an environmentally-themed project. Initial discussions indicate that their main area of interest surrounds water quality measurement and this offer is being taken forward.

**7. Dredging.** Van Oord have completed the dredging in Kingsbridge and Lincombe successfully but in Batson there were some difficulties in achieving a sufficiently level fundus for the pontoons to sit upon it without distorting. At time of writing this is being actively addressed by the Harbour Staff and Van Oord and it is anticipated that Batson Pontoon will be re-opened in time for the 1 April season start.

**8. WiFi Spark contract.** The harbour-owned public WiFi has had insufficient customers throughout the year to break even, and with the recent provision of fibre broadband to Salcombe and the commensurate increase in BT 'hot spots' (which are free to BT customers) and the competition from other venues (pubs etc) which offer free wi-fi it is timely to cancel the contract, especially as a significant capital outlay would be required to upgrade the existing equipment which has reached obsolescence.

## 9. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Pier and Harbour (Salcombe) Confirmation Order 1954. The paragraph 2 exemption has been assessed in relation to the disclosure of this report and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information due to the potential prejudice to the individuals identified.
Financial	Y	Procurement of electric motor for water taxi (£4,200) expected to be off-set by reduced electricity and diesel bills
Risk	Y	There is a risk that Batson pontoon requires significant work following the dredging to be once again 'fit for purpose' and if this extends beyond 1 April could have reputational consequences.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	None directly arising from this report.
Safeguarding	N	None directly arising from this report.

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	None directly arising from this report.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	None directly arising from this report.
Other implications	N	None directly arising from this report.

## **Appendix**

1. Staffing Issues - EXEMPT

## **Supporting Information**

### **Background Papers:**

None

## **Approval and clearance of report**

<b>Process checklist</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Portfolio Holder briefed	<b>Yes</b>
SLT Rep briefed	<b>Yes</b>
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	<b>Yes</b>
Data protection issues considered	<b>Yes</b>
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	<b>N/A</b>

