

## Natural Environment Group

### Summer Newsletter 2020



The Forum have been progressing NEG project work throughout 2020, and we look forward to updating you at the next on-line NEG meeting scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> November. We are aware that the group did not have its spring meeting due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and have been working hard behind the scenes on a number of projects, in particular furthering the Clean Solent Shores and Seas Project and Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent Phase 3 Project.

#### NEG Funded Projects

Each year NEG provides up to £4,000 in awards to projects that seek to improved environmental outcomes in the Solent.

The projects on-going include:

- Study and development of strategy for water quality improvements associated with grey water discharge in Bembridge Harbour. Bid by Isle of Wight Council. [Presentation of results expected at NEG meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November](#)
- Saltmarsh passive regrowth promotion – Lands End, Old Bursledon. [Study will conclude in 2021](#)
- Using height markers on lamp columns to raise flood awareness and encourage climate action in Portsmouth. [Expected results 2020/21](#)

#### NEG Meeting

The next NEG meeting will be held on **4th November**, and agenda and paper will be sent out at the beginning of October.

There is a full agenda this year which will include an update on SEMS actions to NEG; an update on NEG funded projects; an update on the Solent Mudflat Disturbance Group; a report on MMO non-licensable activities; and presentations on Net Gain; RanTrans and Bird Aware winter bird data.

#### SEMS Actions to NEG

We have been working hard on the SEMS actions and a full report will be presenting a full report to NEG at the meeting in November. Work is on-going on Boat repair and maintenance, Walking with and without dogs, Littering, Light Aircraft, and Shore Based Fishing. Significant work has taken place in developing the Clean Solent Shores and Seas Hub (see detail below). This action was set by SEMS as a result of the activity of Littering.

## Clean Solent Shores and Seas Case Study (CSSS)

CSSS provides an information hub, developed by the Solent Forum Natural Environment Group. The hub addresses on-going concerns about littering and its effects on the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS). SEMS Annual monitoring has shown that littering has been of concern to relevant authorities for many years. NEG was tasked by SEMS in 2018 to address these concerns by sharing information to encourage others to reduce littering.

The aim of CSSS is to share any initiatives in the Solent and nationally that seek to address water quality, and in particular littering. The ambition is that the hub addresses far more than just littering and a series of chapters have been developed which will be populated over the coming year. The chapters on Littering and Boating have been consulted and populated. The CSSS chapters include the following.

### Sectoral

- [Litter](#)
- [Microplastics](#)
- [Nutrient enrichment \(Diffuse and Point Source\)](#)
- [Polluting contaminants](#)
- [Oil pollution](#)
- [Non-Native Species](#)
- [Hydrographic and hydromorphological changes](#)
- [Acidification](#)

### Topic

- [Species and Habitats](#)
- [Amenity and Public Health](#)
- [Boating](#)
- [Ports and Industry](#)
- [Farming](#)
- [Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)
- [Governance and Management](#)

## Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent

This project is a Solent Forum rather than NEG initiated project.

The Solent Forum started the BUDS project in 2017, following requests from its members who were keen to see more of the region's dredged sediment used to restore and protect its deteriorating intertidal habitats. [Phase 1](#) of the BUDS project involved a high-level review of the Solent region to identify sites that would gain most from a beneficial use campaign.

To progress the recommendations from Phase 1, [Phase 2](#) of the BUDS project involved investigating the 'real world' feasibility of conducting valuable beneficial use project(s) on the West Solent saltmarshes.

In order to launch [Phase 3](#), an Expressions of Interest Brief was sent to the BUDS technical group and 5 potential contractors. A positive response was received from all 5 contractors and the Technical Group. The Technical Group met on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 and agreed the project approach. Currently a Request for Funding bid is being developed.

Further details and all products from the BUDS project can also be found on the Solent Forum website. [http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current Protects/buds/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Protects/buds/)

Please contact Karen McHugh for any further information on the work of NEG.