



## ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Littlehampton Harbour Board (LHB) recognises its duty to exercise its functions with regard to nature conservation and encouragement of biodiversity. Accordingly, LHB will:

1. Remain cognisant of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and its duty under section 40 to conserve biodiversity and its additional duty under Section 48A of the Harbour Act 1964 to wherever practicable maintain public access to places of natural beauty or archaeological, architectural, or historic interest.
2. Undertake and regulate all harbour activities in a manner sympathetic to the environment and in accordance with the best principles and practice of conservation.
3. Progress their ambition to reach Carbon Net Zero with a target date commitment in next policy revision following an in depth assessment of costs and implications.

### **Environmental Management Plan**

- The policy and functional objectives for managing Littlehampton Harbour are contained in the Littlehampton Harbour [Strategic Plan](#).
- The Harbour Master maintains good working links with Natural England and the Environment Agency, who are consulted on potentially damaging operations (PDOs).
- The risk assessments identify environmental consequences of accidents and the controls to reduce the risks to as low as reasonably practical.
- Emergency Plans have been drawn up to deal with accidents that might potentially threaten the environment – the most notable of which is the Littlehampton Harbour Oil Spill Contingency Plan which is updated following significant incidents and routinely every five years (due Feb 2022). The MCA undertakes the approval of harbour authority and oil handling facility plans on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport.
- The Board regulates all harbour operations in accordance with local, national and international requirements for nature conservation.
- Environmental works undertaken by the Board are subject to risk assessment and training needs will be identified by performance appraisal.

### **Waste Management**

- The Board maintains a [Waste Management Plan](#) which is reviewed every four years. The Board complies with regulations controlling the disposal of certain wastes.
- Waste transfer records are maintained by the wharf operators.
- Separate bins are provided for visitor recyclables, general waste and International Catering Waste (which from 2021 is now all galley waste originating outside UK or Channel Islands).

### **Education**

- The Harbour Master and the Deputy give talks to local interest groups by invitation.
- Stalls and visitor berths at the annual Harbour Waterfront Festival are prioritised for marine conservation groups such as the Marine Conservation Society and Sussex IFCA.
- LHB will keep under review the option of installing signage about harbour wildlife in useful locations – the key coming opportunity for this is the Littlehampton to Arundel cycle path scheme proposed by Arun District Council.

### **Pollution Response**

- LHB retains first response oil spill materials and 50m of floating boom and has well established relationships with partner agencies through regular exercises.
- A Tier 2 contract with Adler and Allan is in place for larger spills.
- LHB will alongside Arun District Council and the Environment Agency monitor discharges by Southern Water and others through outfalls for pollution

### **Conserving Biodiversity**

- The harbour will be managed in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way to take account of its close proximity to the West Beach Local Nature Reserve (LNR) which is part of the West Beach Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and to the Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) 6nm offshore.
- LHB will assist Sussex IFCA in the enforcement of existing and proposed bylaws applying to our coastline (e.g. the new byelaw prohibiting trawling out to 3km).
- Harbour Staff will facilitate and support regional and national campaigns such as Love Your Harbour, Sussex Kelp and Sussex Dolphins.

### **Public Access**

- On the very limited foreshore/land that LHB controls, they will endeavour to maintain or improve access to areas of natural beauty or archaeological, architectural, or historic interest.
- At present none are identified on areas ashore controlled by LHB but in the immediate area around the harbour are a scheduled monument (Littlehampton

Fort), the Sand Dunes (AONB), the Climping SSSI and inter-tidal sand flats / salt marsh habitats. It is foreseeable that access to the latter may be jeopardised with future development so where there are opportunities or risks in this regard on property controlled by others, they will lobby on users' behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. O'Callaghan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'O'.

Mr Richard O'Callaghan (Chair)  
Littlehampton Harbour Board

Signed 21 February 2022