Notes of meeting held to discuss Christchurch Harbour 28 July 2014, 1200hrs

Attended by: Lindsay Cass (CBC), Steve Woolard (CBC), Graham Woods (SAMRA), Guy Parker (EA), Professor Vince May, Andy Russell (Christchurch Harbour Association)

	Action
Three key issues for discussion • Dredging of harbour • Blackberry Point • Mudeford Quay training bank(s) Dredging of harbour GP explained the hydraulics at work and the interactions between fluvial flows and tidal ingress. Any future EA dredging operations will concentrate around abutments of bridges. It was agreed that there would be no benefit to flood levels from general dredging in the harbour. Dredging would only have benefits for navigation. Blackberry Point Open discussion, analysed historic aerial photographs of the island going back to 1971. Island has gradually been eroding northwards for at least 40 years reducing in overall size, volume and orientation in the harbour. GW explained residents living along the north west harbour foreshore believe flood risk to their properties has increase with the deterioration of the island. The prevailing south westerly wind direction, with strong gale force wind conditions drives waves across the harbour directly towards these properties. Blackberry Point reduces the fetch of the waves. SW informed the meeting that maximum wave height across the harbour had been recorded in the Christchurch Bay FCERM Strategy at around 300mm. GW spoke of the 14 February 2014 storm where the standing water level at his foreshore defences came within a couple of centimetres of overtopping. Residents would like to see the island's size and orientation restored to prevent the fetch of waves across the harbour increasing. It was felt that a Scoping Study would need to be undertaken to understand the processes and flood risk within the harbour that would consider a number of different scenarios relating to tide and river levels. GP informed the meeting that the EA, as an action from SMP2, was undertaking a Tri-probability Flood Risk Study (a combination of high tide with high levels in the Avon and Stour) for the harbour and he felt the effect that Blackberry Point has on reducing flood risk could be assessed within the study. GP will speak with the Project Manager and	**GP**

keep CBC informed of progress. It was believed that Blackberry Point is owned by the Meyrick Estate (but now confirmed as being owned by Sembcorp BW) so any work to reinstate the island would need their consent and also consent from Natural England. LC will request that this is discussed at the next meetings of the Harbour Association and the Harbour and Waterways Steering Group.	**LC**
<u>Mudeford Quay training bank(s)</u> LC asked for clarity as to whether the suggested structures in GW's report were intended to reduce flood risk or improve/stabilise the channel from The Run into Christchurch Bay. GW and AR believe the problems associated with the channel (i.e. shallowness and size of sandbar) are man-made caused by the construction of the first Mudeford quay wall in the late 1940s, when dredged material was taken from The Run and placed behind the new structure as fill. AR believes this changed the flow characteristics of The Run and the natural processes around the northern tip of Mudeford Sandbank. AR considered that a MQ training bank structure, if constructed at 'Bass Rock' (deflector nib), would fix and deflect ebbing tides through the channel in a south easterly direction. Flood tides would deliver sedimentation to beaches (Gundimore) behind the structure which in turn would improve the coastal flood risk defences. SW described the data held by the Channel Coastal Observatory that could be used to assess changes over the years to the profile of the sea bed in Christchurch Bay near The Run. SW agreed to compile this data for consideration. LC agreed to discuss with CBC Leader the possibly of undertaking a feasibility study, to identify funding streams for a possible project and to keep GW informed. Professor Vince May happy to assist the Council with this work.	**SW** **LC**
Meeting concluded at 1345hrs	