



## **SOLENT PROTECTION SOCIETY**

*Protecting the Solent and its environment for future generations*

5<sup>th</sup> March 2016

The Planning Department  
Eastleigh Borough Council  
Eastleigh House  
Upper Market Street  
Eastleigh  
SO50 9YN

Dear Sirs

**Reference: Application F/16/77926 – Riverside Boatyard**

The Solent Protection Society was founded in 1956 to protect all aspects of the Solent including the shoreline and any development along the shoreline, as well as views from the water to the shoreline.

The Solent Protection Society wishes to object to this application on ground of:

- Environmental damage
- Loss of amenity
- Landscape
- Navigational safety

### The Environment

The proposed development is situated within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is afforded the highest level of environmental protection under European law. The projection of the pontoons into the river will bisect the SAC and will prevent or discourage waterfowl and waders from visiting the adjacent mud flats.

The development is adjacent to a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) and the vessels moored alongside will modify the water flow so leading to increased erosion, resulting in a reduction in the habitat. The shading effect of the pontoons and vessels will be detrimental to these mud flats. The development would be close to a Special Protection Area (SPA) and would impact upon that SPA. We ask that the proposal should be subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment.

### Amenity

The upper Hamble is a wonderful community asset used by many small craft that are launched below the A27 Bridge and must pass the site of the proposed development. The development will threaten the safety of these small craft by forcing them into the centre of the channel used by larger motor boats and so will deter Eastleigh residents from enjoying this beautiful area. At very low tides vessels may be prevented from reaching the upper Hamble.

### Landscape

For those using the river in small craft much of the enjoyment and amenity value arises from being able to see the surrounding countryside. Those walkers using the public footpath through Riverside Boatyard have a right to see the river. We suggest that this development is not in accord with the European Landscape Convention. This Convention applies to seascapes as well as landscapes and has been ratified by the United Kingdom Government.

We refer you to National Planning Policy Framework section 109. This development would appear not to be in accord with NPPF 109.

Navigation

As mentioned above, many vessels passing this area to reach the upper Hamble will have been launched south of the A27 Bridge. The channel between the A27 Bridge and Riverside Boatyard is narrow due to the increased width of moored boats and has strong tidal flows on the ebb due to the constriction caused by the piers of the various bridges. We suggest that no further permission for moorings above the A27 Bridge should be given for reasons of navigational safety.

We therefore ask that this application be refused.

Yours faithfully

W.G. Pimlott  
Council Chairman

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**Solent Protection Society – Registered Charity No. 1154317**