**Chichester Harbour Conservancy Planning and Advisory Committee meetings held on 24th March 2025 – report to CDALC**

All meetings now are held at Eames Farm Thorney Island. The planning meeting am covered various applications and appeals around the harbour. The officers complete very detailed reports and then review the outcomes of objections raised by CHC to CDC. The results are very mixed and rarely consistent. There is a huge amount of development around the Harbour. CHC do comment on sites outside the National Landscape (NL) if they are likely to have an effect on the NL.

Richard Austin, the NL Director mentioned the concerns about a likely 3,000 dwelling development being mooted to the north of Bosham. Nothing more is known at this time.

The Advisory Group met in the afternoon.

There was a presentation by Monty Smedley about the Marine Safety Code reminding the members of their personal responsibilities regarding Harbour safety. There were 8 areas which were not completely satisfactory, none that were red and none of major concern. However, these do need addressing.

It was reported that the Itchenor jetty is now widely appreciated by users. There are proposals to carry out further improvements to the facilities in the near future.

It was reported that there has been unauthorised works carried out at Birdham Pool to shore up the jetty, this has been reported to the MMO and Natural England who will decide what enforcement action to take.

It was reported that there has been a decline of 26% in the waterbird assemblage over the past 25 years. This information was contained in a report relating to the renewal of the licence granted by CHC for the shooting of wild geese and other breeds in the harbour. There was a heated debate and eventually a vote was taken to make a recommendation to the Conservancy Board. The Conservancy later did not follow the recommendation of the AG to continue shooting wildfowl, but agreed to one further year only. I voted against this extension, but was the only person to do so. There are huge concerns about spreading avian flu by handling wild birds without using PPE as required by Government. Also there is a need for a further Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations to test whether or not the shooting of up to 400 wild birds per annum could have a significant effect.

There are concerns about financial support going forward especially as now the funding is run on the basis of a deficit budget.

Following my comments in my last report about the lack of transparency and high quantity of matters dealt with in Confidential this was an issue raised by other members this month. Including the land owners and Yachting Federation finding it difficult to justify to their members the lack of information available.

FYI at the recent EHCHIAG meeting it was agreed that the bund at East Head was standing up well to the weather and the bonus of new sandy beaches which have replaced the hard sea defences was welcome by the public. Natural England is concerned about the sea grass damage being caused by some of the moorings off West Wittering and will be surveying the area this summer.

Nicolette Pike – West Wittering Parish Council