

Joint Downland Area Committee

Report Title: Arundel Town Quay Pontoons

Report by: Colin Rogers, Services Director, Arun District Council

Executive Summary

This Report informs Members about the successful completion of the project to provide new public mooring pontoons at Town Quay, Arundel, led by the Arundel Community Partnership. The pontoons became ready for use from Friday 21st August (in time for the Arundel Festival) but the official opening took place on 5th September 2009.

This £88,000 project is an excellent example of partnership working and joint funding, including a £5,000 contribution from JDAC.

Recommendations

Members are requested to note the Report and to welcome the completion of the Scheme.

1.0 Background

1.1. Following consideration of a report to this meeting on 12th January 2009 JDAC has supported the proposal to provide public mooring facilities at Town Quay, Arundel.

Subsequently, the JDAC meeting on 30th March 2009 supported a grant to the Arundel Community Partnership (which has co-ordinated the project and its funding sources) of £5,000 from the Arun District Council Village Enhancement Grant Fund.

1.2 It is now very pleasing to report that the project has been completed and is now in operation. Total scheme costs were £88,000, and the Arundel Community Partnership secured contributions as follows:-

	£`000
South –East England Development Agency Small Rural Towns Programme, administered by WSCC Economic Development Unity	43
Environment Agency	39
Arun DC (via JDAC Village Enhancement Fund)	5
Arundel Town Council	1
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- 1.3 The project has also been greatly assisted by the following:
- * Arun DC's Engineers have provided engineering advice, submitted the necessary planning and other applications, drew up the specification for the work, tendered and let the work contract, and supervised the work during the construction period (the contract was won by Intermarine Ltd)
 - * the Arundel Community Partnership has been mentored throughout the whole process by Action in Rural Sussex
 - * Littlehampton Harbour Board, which has powers as far upstream as the old bridge (i.e. just upstream of Town Quay) has provided health and safety advice (including staff training for the operators of the facility) and has helped to raise awareness about the opening of the facility to vessel owners in Littlehampton Harbour.
- 1.4 Arun DC owns Town Quay and has facilitated its use for this public mooring project.
- 1.5 The Angmering Park Estate owns the river bed at this point and is charging a modest annual fee for the single pile which has been driven into the river bed to secure the moorings.

2.0 Operation of the Public Mooring Facilities

- 2.1 For reasons of flood risk and public safety the moorings need to be managed and expressions of interest to operate the facility were publicly invited. This has led to the appointment of Mr and Mrs Hickson to operate the facility under a 5 year agreement who also run the nearby café (Edible Sandwich Co)
- 2.2 The level of fees to be charged were agreed between Arun DC, and Mr and Mrs Hickson, with advice and assistance from both the Chairman of the Arundel Community Partnership, Mike deLara, and the Littlehampton Harbour Master, Colin Hitchcock.
- 2.3 The pontoons became ready for use from Friday 21st August, in time for the Arundel Festival, but the official opening took place on 5th September with Ben Fogle, TV presenter and transatlantic rower, in attendance.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The project is an exceptionally good example of both partnership working and joint funding which all came together in a relatively short time span, and thanks are due to all the bodies and organisations

mentioned in this Report. Particular thanks of course are due to the Members of the Arundel Community Partnership, and its Chairman Mike deLara.

3.2 The project has great potential for the good of the Town of Arundel:

- * it is the only public mooring facility upstream from Littlehampton
- * the facility will be welcomed by boat owners in Littlehampton particularly when the weather is too inclement to put to sea
- * there can be significant benefits in terms of tourism and economic regeneration by increasing nautical visitors to the Town
- * the pontoons themselves are a focal point of interest in the Town
- * Arundel was a medieval trading port so this project re-establishes historical links with the past, and also re-affirms the connection between the Town and the River Arun.