

## Appendix 2 – Letters of support

creating a better place



Mr M Dixon  
154A Coast Road  
West Mersea  
Essex  
CO5 8NX

**Our ref:** MWJ/DS  
**Your ref:**

**Date:** 21 December 2015

Dear Mark

Thank you for your recent update on progress with the project to potentially utilise materials arising from a Harwich Haven capital dredge at Mersea. This has been most helpful.

We continue to be supportive of the project and the approach that the community group are taking. If I can help further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Johnson".

**MARK JOHNSON**  
**Area Coastal Manager**

Direct dial 01473 706025  
Direct e-mail [mark.johnson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:mark.johnson@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Patron: The Earl of Cranbrook

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R Taylor Esq  
Chairman  
Mersea Harbour Protection Trust  
10 Brickhouse Close  
West Mersea  
Essex CO5 8LA

15 November 2014

#### **Protection of Mersea Harbour**

Thank you for taking the time yesterday to show me the action of wave erosion on the islands and spits protecting the harbour and threatening the wildlife habitat for which the area is noted. The risk that this poses that the fishing community and the leisure marine sector of Mersea and by extension to the economic prosperity of the island more generally is evident as is the possibility that unchecked this erosion will over time reduce and destroy internationally recognised wildlife habitat. The loss of some historic oyster beds is a clear confirmation of this risk.

On the positive side, the re-charge works undertaken in 1998 by the Environment Agency have had a manifest impact on reducing the rate of deterioration which might otherwise have occurred and it is manifest that the design and placement of the recharge sites was well thought out and has proved effective.

As a private – public sector partnership promoting the economic prosperity of the Haven Gateway, comprising the administrative areas of Colchester, Maldon, Tendring, Braintree, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, we are acutely aware of the importance of the leisure marine sector (second only to the Solent) and the fishing activities, particularly in the niche sector of the world-renowned Colchester Oyster, to the local and of Colchester and Maldon and the wider economy of the Haven Gateway and the South East.

We particularly welcome the local initiative which you have undertaken to form the Mersea Harbour Protection Trust as a registered charity and raising funds to undertake the studies required to take you to consent of future recharge works. The support you have from local residents and businesses, as well as environmental organisations provides a strong and impressive base from which to drive these proposals.

In this context I am pleased to confirm the support of the Haven Gateway Partnership and I should like to bring this to the full Board at our first meeting next year, the date and venue of which is yet to be confirmed. Subject to availability and the tides we could perhaps hold this meeting at the West Mersea Yacht Club, so that Board Members can see at first hand the environment you are seeking to protect.

Haven Gateway Partnership will be pleased to work with you to identify potential sources of funding for the studies and in time to work with partners to advocate funding for the recharge works.

I was delighted to hear that you have a good relationship with John Brien, Harbour Engineer at Harwich Haven Authority and that he has been helpful in providing guidance and advice based on his expert knowledge of the harbours and coast of the area.

#### **Core Partners:**

Babergh District Council  
Essex County Council  
Maldon District Council

BT

Braintree District Council  
Harwich Haven Authority  
Mid Suffolk District Council | Port of Felixstowe

Colchester Borough Council  
Harwich International Port  
Tendring District Council

Essex Chamber of Commerce  
London Stansted Airport  
University of Essex

Haven Gateway Partnership – providing a framework through which partner organisations can work together to promote economic opportunities and secure the future prosperity of this major gateway to the East of England

As I mentioned to you yesterday, Mersea is a key tourism asset and I am similarly pleased to confirm the support of Visit Essex which I chair, for this initiative.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership, of which I am the Vice Chair for Essex, has a coastal communities group which aims to tackle the particular challenges faced by the coastal communities through East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock. I shall be bringing this to the group which is led by Tendring District Council so that it can be raised and incorporated it in any action plan they are producing.

As I confirmed at our meeting, I am happy for you to publicise this support and my colleagues and I look forward to working with you to maintain momentum.

*With kind regards  
Yours sincerely  
George*

**George C Kieffer**  
Chairman

cc.: **Priti Patel MP**  
**Bernard Jenkin MP**  
**Neil Glendinning – CEO, Harwich Haven Authority**  
**Cllr Kevin Bentley – Deputy Leader, Essex County Council**  
**Cllr John Jowers – ECC**  
**Cllr Martin Hunt – Leader, Colchester Borough Council**  
**Cllr Anne Turrell – Deputy Leader, Colchester BC**  
**Ian Davidson – Chief Executive, Tendring District Council**  
**Steve Clark – Executive Director, Haven Gateway Partnership**  
**Lisa Bona – Strategic Tourism Manager, Visit Essex**



Essex County Council  
Community Initiatives Fund  
C308, County Hall  
Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 1LX



Date: 21 November 2014  
Ref: CIF- R056/2014/15

Dear Mark

### **Community Initiatives Fund**

#### **Ref: CIF- R056/2014/15 – Mersea Harbour Protection Trust**

I am pleased to inform you that your recent application to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) was successful and a grant of £15,000.00 has been approved towards the cost of your project.

#### **The grant has been approved subject to the following conditions:**

- The project proceeds in accordance with the details submitted in your application.
- Essex County Council (on behalf of the scheme) is informed immediately of any changes to the project.
- The grant will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the project.  
A representative of the scheme may inspect the completed work. To claim the grant the applicant must complete a claim form identifying the outputs and beneficiaries of the project as well as the expenditure and return it to the above address. You should submit this to us enclosing receipted invoices.
- You must inform us if you are receiving any other financial contribution from a public body (including a local authority) towards the cost of the project.
- The project must at all times conform to relevant statutory obligations, bylaws, planning consent and building regulations.
- Hire Purchase or lease of equipment is not acceptable.
- Any sale, change of use or disposal of all or part of the grant aided project may result in ECC reclaiming a proportion of the original grant payment.
- A representative from the CIF may, at all reasonable times enter and inspect the premises to ensure that the terms and conditions of the offer are being met.
- Essex County Council (on behalf of the scheme) will monitor the results of individual grant aided projects after 12 months to gauge the success of the funding scheme.
- The grant should be spent by 31 March 2016, unless there are overwhelming circumstances meaning this is not possible. In this case, you must speak to the CIF Grant Co-ordinator.

## Publicity

- The support of the Community Initiatives Fund must be acknowledged in all publicity materials. Essex County Council is able to assist with publicity and successful applicants must agree to work with the County Council in promoting and publicising their project.
- On submission of invoice/final invoice for payment the recipient must contact Pat Roberts ([cif@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cif@essex.gov.uk) or 01245 437887) to discuss press coverage and/or launch events.
- The Chairman of Essex County Council should be invited to conduct any opening ceremony that is held. A minimum of four weeks-notice of launch events is required.
- The Community Initiatives Fund Team must be contacted on 01245 437887 or via e-mail at [cif@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cif@essex.gov.uk) to inform of launch arrangements and where possible, in addition to the Chairman, the Cabinet Member responsible for the fund will attend as will the local Essex County Council Divisional Member.

The grant offer will remain open for 60 days from the date of this letter. If a copy of the letter has not been signed and returned within that time, we reserve the right to review the offer.

I am delighted that Essex County Council has been able to support your project, along with many others across Essex, all of which will help towards improving the facilities for local communities.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Roger Hirst  
Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning

I/we accept the offer of grant on the above terms

Signed.....  
Date.....

Name  
.....

**Ref: CIF- R056/2014/15 – Mersea Harbour Protection Trust**  
**Grant amount £15,000.00**

**Community Initiatives Fund Contact Details:**

Tel: 01245 437887      E-mail: [cif@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cif@essex.gov.uk)



Mr Mark Dixon,  
Technical Adviser,  
Mersea Harbour Protection Trust,  
West Mersea,  
Colchester,  
Essex.

5 September 2016

**By email only**

Dear Mark,

**Re: The Mersea Harbour Protection Trust climate change adaptation recharge project**

Further to our review of the draft Environmental Statement, the RSPB confirms its support for this project.

Given the threats our coastlines face from rising sea-levels and increased storm events, projects that will protect and enhance our most important wildlife sites, and provide sustainable flood defence for fisheries and people are essential.

We recognise the effort that has gone in to reaching this stage, as well as the considerable achievement of fundraising for all the various stages.

We hope that the project receives the necessary approval from the relevant statutory bodies in order for it to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Nowers  
**Conservation Officer**  
Email: [mark.nowers@rspb.org.uk](mailto:mark.nowers@rspb.org.uk)

**RSPB Stour Estuary reserves  
office**

Unit 1, Branham Mill  
Industrial Estate,  
Bergholt Road, Branham,  
Manningtree,  
Essex, CO11 1QT

**Tel** 01206 391153

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)



The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,  
a partnership of conservation organisations  
working to give nature a home around the world.

**Patron:** Her Majesty the Queen   **Chairman of Council:** Professor Steve Ormerod, FIEEM   **President:** Miranda Krestovnikoff   **Chief Executive:** Dr Mike Clarke   **Regional Director:** James Robinson

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654



PRESIDENT HRH The Princess Royal KG, KT, GCVO, QSO

Royal Yachting Association

Regional Association

RYA Eastern Regional Planning & Environmental Co-ordinator

Please reply to: Chris Edwards  
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Essex CM9 8TB  
Tel: 01621-868834  
e-mail: [erecrys@tall.talk.net](mailto:erecrys@tall.talk.net)

Ms Jane Dixon  
Secretary Mersea Harbour Protection Trust  
154A Coast Road  
West Mersea  
Essex CO5 8NX

12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Ms Dixon

**Formation of the Mersea Harbour Protection Trust**

As the Planning & Environmental Co-ordinator for the Eastern Region of the Royal Yachting Association I am interested in any moves to protect and enhance recreational boating anywhere in the Region. I am therefore very interested in the proposed formation of the Trust with its aim of creating a project to obtain beneficial dredgings to use as recharge material to protect Mersea Harbour and its environs from the predicted sea level rise and other aspects of climate change.

I regret that I am pre-booked for the 27<sup>th</sup> March but would very much appreciate a copy of the minutes of that meeting.

Whilst the RYA, either at HQ in Hamble or Regionally, does not have funding to support the Trust by becoming a Member, I would wish to support the work and have a corresponding and perhaps advisory role, particularly on the Marine Licensing and other regulatory issues, of which I have considerable experience. In such a role I would hope to attend some meetings as appropriate.

Please let me know if this would be agreeable to the Trustees.

One further point are you inviting Julian Goldie, MD Tollesbury Marina? He has a considerable interest in the preservation of Tollesbury Creek and the access from the Blackwater into the Marina in Woodrolfe Creek.

I wish the inaugural meeting and the project every success.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Edwards

Chris Edwards BSc(Eng) RYA East RPEC

cc Richard Taylor, Gerry Askham BaCASA, Peter Woods BaCASA

SURFOLK

APR

51 07 11

REGD.

NARRAJUKI



**PRITI PATEL MP**  
WITHAM

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Mr Roger Lankester  
13 Elysian Gardens  
Tollesbury  
Maldon  
Essex  
CM9 8QN

Our ref: WI5304

12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Mr Lankester


Thank you very much for contacting me.

I appreciate your update on current projects and it is great to see the progress you have made since you established the Mersea Harbour Protection Trust just over a year ago.

I have written to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and asked what funding is available and what the process is for applying for grants. As soon as I receive a response I will be in touch.

In the meantime, should you require any further assistance on this, or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*with all good wishes*  


**Priti Patel**  
Member of Parliament for Witham