

Solent Forum Policy on Communications and Consultations

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Background

The Solent Forum is an independent coastal partnership, established in 1992, to develop a greater understanding among the many local and harbour authorities, user groups, marine businesses and agencies involved in planning and management of the Solent.

The Solent Forum provides support to its wide range of over 50 member organisations who have responsibilities for, or who operate within, the Solent. The Forum offers a unique neutral platform linking people and organisations for the future management of the area

The Solent Forum has a [constitution](#) and agreed Aims and Objectives:

Aims

1. To promote, facilitate and support integrated planning and sustainable management of the Solent.
2. To provide a broad-based consultative forum.

Objectives

To raise awareness and understanding of the members' roles and aspirations

1. To improve sharing of the information base.
2. To facilitate better communication, consultation and liaison.
3. To raise awareness and understanding of the human and natural changes likely to materially affect the Solent area and its interests.
4. To promote the national and regional importance of the Solent in policy, development and plan making.
5. To raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of Climate Change on the Solent and appropriate mitigation, resilience and adaptation measures.

Section 51 of the Constitution refers to the way that Solent Forum Officers should conduct themselves, points of relevance to this paper on policy consultations are:

- Use their influence and ensure they behave to the best of their ability to maintain a sustainable environment in their undertaking Forum activities.
- Promote the concepts of integrated coastal management.
- Serve the Solent Forum as a whole
- Must not compromise their or the Forum's political neutrality.

Policy for Solent Forum's Communication and Consultations

The Solent Forum will regularly communicate coastal and marine news and information via all its channels covering the full range of sectors nationally, regionally, and locally.

Communications can be to Solent Forum Members (direct emails) or to the Solent Forum's community lists (Solent News, Monthly News alerts, Facebook, Twitter).

The Solent Forum will remain neutral in its views on any one sector and will disseminate news and information of a factual nature.

The Solent Forum will always strive to facilitate discussions between sectors to help integrate sustainable coastal management and improve effectiveness for all members.

The Solent Forum will help promote key consultations (mostly national) to its members' by disseminating information and encouraging members to respond directly. It is not appropriate that the Solent Forum acts as a collective of its members' views.

In some cases, the Solent Forum will give a view on consultations, when the consultation is based on improving government processes to bring about more effective sustainable marine and coastal management for the whole range of Forum members, and the response is consistent with the aims and objectives of the Forum. The views expressed will not promote one sector above another and will be transparent to all members.