

Embargo: Midnight Wednesday 9 September 2020

Public consultation launched on new development opportunities for Marchwood Port

Since being awarded a 35year concession to manage, operate and develop Marchwood Port by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in 2016, Solent Gateway Limited (SGL) has been developing a business case and investigating opportunities to increase its commercial activity and support the ongoing operations of the MOD. It is now in a position to share its emerging plans and is consulting with local communities and stakeholders (10 September – 23 October 2020).

SGL is inviting local residents and stakeholders to visit its virtual exhibition online to find out more about the proposals and take a virtual fly through of the proposals to see what the redeveloped port could look like: www.solentgatewayconsultation.com. Due to Covid19 guidance, pre-booked surgery sessions are being held in Marchwood Village Hall from 1pm and 9pm on Friday 25 September and 10am to 4pm on Saturday 26 September for those who cannot access the information online. To book a session, please email info@solentgatewayconsultation.com or call 02380 175 295.

The port, located in Marchwood on the River Test, has been used for cargo operations by the MOD since 1943 and has been used as a commercial port since 2016. Currently just over half of the site is being utilised. In accordance with the Local Plan policy (ECON3), SGL's proposals look to make more effective and efficient use of the port within the existing port boundary. 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, who are based across the road from the port at McMullen Barracks, will also continue to use the port for shipping military cargo.

The proposals for the Marchwood Port include:

- creating a new, upgraded entrance from Cracknore Hard;
- increasing the space onsite available for storage of cargo;
- enhancements to ecological areas;
- the re-purposing of existing buildings; and
- the potential for two new warehouses for watertight storage.

More follows/...

Richard Parkinson, Port Director said: “Our proposals for the port will bring significant economic growth and investment to the local area. Since taking over port operations, we have created 85 new jobs and our proposals will generate circa 1,100 additional new jobs onsite and in the supply chain. We are already working with several local SME companies and remain committed to using local businesses to assist with the port redevelopment.”

SGL is encouraging people to find out more about the proposals for Marchwood Port and provide feedback by 23 October 2020. Comments received will be taken into consideration and will help the project team finalise the proposals before submitting a planning application to New Forest District Council next year.

- ends –

For more information, please contact Georgina Chapman by emailing georgina@grasshopper-comms.co.uk or calling 07712 652075

Notes to Editors:

- The development of Marchwood Port is being brought forward by Solent Gateway Limited. Solent Gateway Limited was formed in 2016 and is a joint venture between David Macbrayne Limited and GBA (Holdings) Ltd to develop and manage the Port of Marchwood, Southampton Water for 35 years. More information on the company can be found on its website: www.solentgateway.com