



Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

- MEDIA RELEASE -

KTP Project a success for Falmouth Harbour

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners (FHC) has announced that they are 'delighted' with the success of their Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project, and would highly recommend the scheme to other businesses in the area.

KTP is a graduate placement scheme, part funded by Plymouth University. Environmental Science graduate Harriet Knowles was employed as a Maritime Sustainable Development Officer through the KTP scheme, working on environmental projects on behalf of FHC. Now half way through the 30 month project, FHC's Chairman, David Ellis, has announced that he is very pleased by its progress.



“We really are delighted by what the project has achieved so far, both in terms of research and stakeholder relations. By tackling key environmental issues head on, we are proactively instigating more efficient and environmentally aware methods of running our port.

“The project has touched on a number of environmental matters, from assisting with research for the Falmouth Port Development Initiative to implementing a more effective office recycling programme and developing an environmental management system for the port. I have been very impressed by the broad range of topics that Harriet has covered.”

Harriet has worked on a number of academic projects since starting in October 2008. A key area of her work has been to investigate the effects of anchoring in Falmouth Bay, and to relate its effect on key environmental habitats in the area.

Harriet said: “The anchoring of ships in Falmouth Bay has for a long time been a concern for our stakeholders. FHC were keen to encourage an independent investigation into the effects of anchoring in order to assess the extent of the impact to the key habitats in the area and to develop methods of mitigating these effects. The project allows me to call on experts at Plymouth University and draw on their experience, which all adds to the value of being employed through the KTP project.

“Had an external organisation been commissioned to carry out this work there would have been a significant cost to FHC- as it is I carry out the work as part of my wider role in the organisation, which gives me a broader knowledge of the subject and allows me to concentrate on other projects at the same time. There is no doubt that KTP provides a very cost-effective way of obtaining expert information.”

Mandy Bowden, KTP Project Manager, explained: “This Partnership received financial support from the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships programme. KTP aims to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK Knowledge Base. KTP is funded by the Technology Strategy Board along with the other government funding organisations.”

Kevan Cook, of Natural England, has always had a close association with Falmouth Harbour and the surrounding area. He says he is pleased with what the project has achieved so far.

“The work Harriet is doing at FHC through the Knowledge Transfer Partnership is fantastic and has a lot of value to it, both for Falmouth and nationwide,” said Kevan. “By tackling these issues head on, FHC is really taking the initiative in balancing operational needs with the wider social, economic and environmental impacts.”

Harriet hopes to have developed a framework for port sustainable development at FHC before completing the project in March 2011.