

## **Lymington River Association**

### **Mission Statement**

To protect and preserve the unique character of the Lymington River for the benefit of future generations.

### **Objectives**

1. To ensure that the Lymington River and its coastal environs are given the full protection to which they are entitled under UK and European habitats legislation.
2. To ensure that all river users, residents and visitors alike, are granted the access and safe transit of the Lymington River, to which they are entitled.
3. To promote the adoption of a sustainable, affordable and efficient ferry service using lawfully introduced, environmentally friendly vessels, between Lymington and Yarmouth.

### **LRA Rationale**

The recent introduction of the new, larger, W Class ferries by Wightlink revealed a number of gaping chasms in the areas of responsibility between Government departments and other regulatory organisations.

Neither DEFRA, Natural England, the NFDC, the Lymington Harbour Commissioners, nor existing voluntary organisations such as the Solent Protection Society, seemed to have either the authority, understanding or the remit to challenge the introduction of Wightlink's new ferries.

The LRA was formed as a result of this void when a number of concerned local residents took professional advice and decided that indeed there were proper grounds for objecting. A significant step forward was achieved by the LRA when a High Court Judicial Review deemed the introduction of the W Class ferries to have been "unlawful".

The LRA wish to work alongside all other organisations and take an active role in the protection and preservation of the Lymington River as a whole. The W class ferries are just one issue that presently affect the river. The LRA is supportive of an environmentally sympathetic ferry service.

The LRA is a voluntary association which continues to fight for the preservation of the unique Lymington River habitat for all, and to uphold its stated objectives.