

# ***Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee***

*07 October 2008*

## *Maritime Unit Report*

### *1 - Navigation*

- 1.1* All aids to navigation at Barmouth harbour were examined on the 12th September 2008, by an officer from Trinity House. The inspector reported that they were in an acceptable condition with no deficiencies this year.
- 1.2* All aids to navigation under the Council's direct control have remained consistently in their chartered positions during the summer season except for navigation aid No 2, that came off station two days before the commencement of the Three Peaks Race. The navigation aid was placed on station within five days.
- 1.3* The condition of one of the navigation aids, namely the 'Perch' aid has deteriorated over the summer months and the Maritime Unit will have to replace it before the commencement of next season. Detailed plans will be required and finance will have to be identified for the cost from the Maritime Unit budget.
- 1.4* It is proposed to start a maintenance programme for navigational aids during the autumn and the lamps and buoys will be maintained once again. The estimated cost for the work will be £1,500 and the assistance of a contractor will be required to complete parts of the work.

### *2 – Harbour Developments*

- 2.1* Although it is desirable to locate a pontoon near the side of the main slipway it has not been possible once again this year to identify funding for the work. The Harbour Master will continue to seek an estimate for a second-hand pontoon in order to try and offer minor improvements to the mariners at Barmouth harbour. It is necessary to remind members that the purchase of a pontoon cannot be financed from the revenue budget.
- 2.2* The main slipway was examined during the spring and it was decided that there was no need to undertake maintenance to the slipway. It appears that using trailers with suitable wheels reduces the damage previously caused to the slipway.
- 2.3* The pipe in the ownership of Welsh Water, located opposite the main harbour slipway, that discharges polluted water in an emergency, continues

to cause difficulty to boats that have moored nearby. The Maritime Unit has already contacted Welsh Water requesting permission to shorten the pipe, but thus far no consent has been received.

- 2.4 The repair work to the surface of the harbour quay was completed during April. The total cost of the work was **£2750**.
- 2.5 At the commencement of the spring season damage was caused to ladders situated on the wall opposite the harbour office. The damage was caused by a boat moored on the wall over the winter months and the total cost of repairing the damage caused to the ladders was **£480**.
- 2.6 The moorings for visiting boats and other moorings in the Council's ownership have been examined and maintained prior to the commencement of the sailing season. The cost of this work was **£530**. Speed zone buoys were located near the beach in Barmouth and Friog. The total cost of siting the speed zone buoys was **£400**, and there will be a similar cost for reclaiming the buoys.

The total cost of new chains for the maintenance of moorings and navigation aids in Barmouth this year was **£2,331**.

### 3 – Ferry Service

- 3.1 During 2008, the Maritime Unit authorised two 'Owner's Licences' and seven 'Boatmen's Licences' for a ferry service between Barmouth and Penrhyn Point. This entailed that there were fewer licensed ferries to transport passengers this year with more boatmen licensed than last year.

### 4 – Events

- 4.2 On the 28th of June, the Three Peaks Race took place. There were twenty four boats competing in all.
- 4.3 Unfortunately, the Celtic rowing boats competition organised for the 22<sup>nd</sup> June had to be postponed. During August a very successful sailing event was organised which gave opportunities for the young people of Barmouth to take part in sailing activities. This event was organised by the Yacht Club.
- 4.4 Barmouth Beach was once again awarded the European Blue Flag in 2008. The Maritime Unit will submit an application in November for the 2009 beach award.

## **5 – Harbour Statistics**

- 5.1** It is noted from the table in the appendix that **871** Personal Watercraft have registered with Gwynedd Council in **2008**, and this is in comparison with **1040** in **2007**, namely **169** less this year. It is noted that the number of Personal Watercraft and Powerboats registered in Barmouth Harbour has reduced significantly during **2008** compared with **2007**, namely **69** less Personal Watercraft. **32** personal watercraft were registered in Aberdyfi harbour.
- 5.2** As noted in the table, **92 powerboats** were registered in Barmouth harbour and **40** powerboats were registered in Aberdyfi harbour this year. The fee for registering Powerboats and Personal Watercraft is **£15.00** through the post, or **£20.00** on the beach, or at the harbour office. The launching fee is **£12.00** a day, or **£130.00** for the season via a postal request, or **£150** for a seasonal permit by registering in person at the harbour office.
- 5.3** It is noted from the table in the appendix that a **104** boats were moored in the harbour this year, i.e. nine boats less than last year and 24 less than in **2006**. Of which 61 are yachts and 41 powerboats.  
Before Christmas the Harbour Master will contact every boat owner that has left the harbour in order to try and seek information as to why they did not moor a boat in Barmouth during 2008/09.

## **6 Analysis of Customer Questionnaire**

The report on the views of customers will be submitted before the members of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee at the first meeting in 2009.

## **7 Budgets**

- 7.1** Attached for Members' information is the final budget for Barmouth harbour *for the financial year 2007/08*. Also attached, are the expenditure finance and income targets for all the harbours and beaches for the **2008/09** financial year.
- 7.2** It will be necessary to be cautious to ensure that the Maritime Unit does not commit funding beyond that of the budget in the current financial year and as you note the expenditure at the harbour will have to be reduced over the winter months.

It is necessary for the Harbour Master to prepare a detailed work programme for the autumn and winter seasons in order to identify expenditure and priorities for staff resources and to ensure that all the maintenance work is completed well before the start of the season in **2009**.

7.3 The income target for the current financial year is **£53,530**. Thus far, the total income for Barmouth harbour is **£34,204** i.e. **£19,326** short of the target. It is not envisaged that there will be a significant addition to the income between October and the end of March **2009**.

## 8 Harbour Act

Recently, there was an enquiry regarding the definition of a clause included in the Barmouth Harbour Act 1797. As members are aware, the Barmouth Harbour Act 1797, was an Act to repair, deepen, extend and safeguard the harbour that was replaced by the Barmouth Urban Council Act 1929.

Certain sections of the Barmouth Harbour Act 1797 were removed and some parts of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 were extended and included in the Barmouth Urban Council Act 1929.

The Barmouth Urban Council Act 1929 transferred responsibility for the harbour from the trustees to the Council.

This entailed that the Council had, in accordance with the 1929 Act, the power to repair, deepen, extend and safeguard the harbour. This act does not place a duty on the Council to repair, deepen, extend and safeguard the harbour.

However, the Council will ensure that any opportunity to improve or develop the harbour receives attention irrespective of the above.