

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr  
Pwllheli  
Harbour Consultative Committee***

***13 October 2009***

***Maritime Unit Report***

***1 - Navigation***

***1.1*** All Pwllheli Harbour Navigation Aids were inspected by a Trinity House officer on 10 August 2009. Apart from the fact that the lantern of one aid had extinguished, the inspector reported that the majority of the aids were in an acceptable condition and this was very praiseworthy.

Unfortunately, the Hafan y Môr sewer outfall pipe special mark aid and the Welsh Water special aid, which are located adjacent to Marian y De beach, still need to be maintained.

***1.2*** It is inevitable that harbour staff will prepare and act on a harbour maintenance programme for the months of October to December, which will include a comprehensive programme for the maintenance of the navigation aids. There is a need to repaint all aids that had been located on the training arm, and despite the fact that this had been programmed for the winter 2008 and the beginning of 2009, the work was not completed. Once again, there will be a need to ensure that the water depth boards and the main slipways are included within the work programme, despite the fact that it is expected for this work to be completed regularly throughout the year, and not restricted to the winter months only.

***1.3*** Following successful dredging operations in the area near the harbour access that was completed during June, a hydrography study of the nearby area was undertaken, along with the navigation channel up to the harbour slipway. Following the operations, it appears that there is sufficient water depth in this part of the channel on specific periods of the tide. The restriction in the channel adjacent to the harbour office continues, and some boats have hit the seabed when attempting to navigate past the restriction at low water. The dredging work will certainly commence early in 2010.

<b>Location</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Aid To Navigation</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Defect</b>
Llanbedrog	N02859	Llanbedrog Sewer Outfall	Unlighted Beacon	Requires Painting
P0326	N02861	Sewer Outfall Harbour No.4	Lighted Beacon	Requires Painting
Pwllheli	N13358	Starcoast Outfall	Lighted Buoy	Light Extinguished
Pwllheli	N13468	Pwllheli Harbour	Lighted Buoy	Light Extinguished
Porthmadog	N02875	Rh-No.1	Lighted Buoy	Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02871	Rh-No.8	Lighted Buoy	Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02881	Rh-No.13	Unlighted Buoy	Renewal Required
Porthmadog	N02882	Rh-No.15	Unlighted Buoy	Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02883	Rh-No.17	Unlighted Buoy	Missing From Station
Barmouth	N02893	Barmouth Perch	Lighted Beacon	Leaning and Requires Painting
Barmouth	N02897	Barmouth Railway	Lighted Beacon	Light Extinguished

## ***2 – Hafan / Harbour Management***

- 2.1** As it was discussed at the previous Committee, Members will be aware that the management of Hafan Pwllheli was taken in-house recently, and this arrangement become operational on 1 April 2008 when the management procedure was transferred directly to the management of Gwynedd Council. During the past months, and as a result of the new arrangements, the Maritime and Rural Parks Unit has been considering the need to regularise the management of Pwllheli Harbour in order to improve the efficiency of the harbour management.

As half the finance for the post of Pwllheli Harbour Master has already been identified as a financial saving, in order to contribute towards substantial necessary and serious savings, it will be essential for the Unit to act on any changes in the structure of the harbour / Hafan as soon as possible.

Finance remains in the establishment in order to appoint a Harbour Master for six months a year, and it is anticipated that the next period will commence on 1 April 2010, and will continue on an annual basis until 30 September. There will be a need to consider in detail the most effective way of maintaining the service as a result of the cuts.

- 2.2** In order to ensure the continuation of the service as a result of changes to the Unit's structure, the Porthmadog Harbour Master was seconded to the post of Pwllheli Harbour Master, and he has been responsible for the harbour since 25 April 2007. As a result of the management changes, and because of the need to identify budget savings, the current secondment will come to an end on 31 December 2009, when the Harbour Master will return to his permanent post in Porthmadog.
- 2.3** It is anticipated that the Assistant Harbour Master (which currently is seconded to the post of Porthmadog Harbour Master) and other staff in Hafan Pwllheli, will assist with any necessary maintenance work in Pwllheli Harbour between the period of 1 January 2010 to 1 April 2010.
- 2.4** In accordance with the basic principles of the restructuring, it will be essential that the management of Pwllheli Harbour and Hafan Pwllheli are merged. This would mean that it is likely that the mooring allocation work in the external harbour would be administered through the Hafan office in the future. It is greatly hoped that it will be possible to have staff co-operation and that the new arrangement is commenced during the winter of this year.
- 2.5** At the end of August, two officers that had been responsible for overnight security at Hafan, namely between 19:00 and 07:00, resigned following a long period of service for the Council. The officers worked 22 hours each, in order to support the full-time post that exists in the establishment.
- 2.6** As there is a need to ensure security on the site immediately, the Unit has appointed a local security company to assist with this work on a temporary contract, until the Unit has come to a decision regarding the most effective way of ensuring overnight security on the Hafan site.

## ***3 - Hafan Pwllheli Hoist***

- 3.1** As was reported to Members at the Harbour Committee meeting held on 4 November 2008, and further on 24 March 2009, it was necessary for the Maritime Unit to seek estimates for replacing the hoist that serves the customers of Pwllheli Harbour. Despite the fact that three estimates were received some months back, because the cost was above £100k, the European purchasing guidelines had to be followed.

- 3.2 Unfortunately, the procedure that was used originally was not in line with the procurement requirements and it will be necessary, should the Unit be authorised to do so, to resubmit and advertise the need to replace the Boat Hoist on the Buy4Wales website.
- 3.3 It is likely that the Maritime Unit will be required to identify the cost of purchasing the new hoist from its current budget. Members will be aware that the Unit has already been allocating money towards this type of requirement for the past two years. Nevertheless, the Unit has applied for capital funding support, and we really hope that the bid will be supported in order to ensure that the reserve funding is invested in other parts of the Hafan / Harbour that will require attention in the near future.

In order to comply with the European tendering rules, the Council will advertise through the website [www.sell2wales.co.uk](http://www.sell2wales.co.uk) <http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk>

It is confirmed that all preparatory work has been completed already and all information has been uploaded onto the website. Unfortunately, this is cause for concern as there is a considerable delay with the plan and as further investigations need to be carried out, the advertisement has not been released thus far.

- 3.5 The Maritime and Rural Parks Unit has also considered hiring a hoist, rather than purchasing a new one, in an attempt to identify what the hire costs would be, in comparison with the cost of purchasing a new hoist. A local company was asked for an estimate of the cost of hiring a hoist, and of course, the cost of doing so, over a five year period, was higher than the price of purchasing a new hoist.

Unfortunately, there will be further delay before the intention to purchase a new hoist will be advertised, however, the Unit is confident that the delay will not cause difficulties to the harbour users.

#### 4 – Events

- 4.1 Once again, a large number of prestigious events were held in Pwllheli during 2009. Members of the Sailing Club were very active throughout the season and we are all very grateful for the commitment, eagerness and co-operation of the volunteers and officers who ensured that the events were successful and memorable.
- 4.2 There were many highlights during the summer, and a number of famous International and National events were held in Pwllheli. The national competition for the *Toppers* class event, the international event for the *Mirror's* class and the international event for the *Splash* class, were all held and had been an astounding success. Hundreds of dingy boats participated in the events, and at times, there were approximately ninety power boats assisting with safety on the water. Heavy use was made of the slipway and events pontoon over the period when the events were being held.
- Competitors from all over the globe visited Pwllheli this year and they had a very memorable experience by visiting the Pwllheli area.
- 4.3 Pwllheli beach and Hafan Pwllheli were successful in their application for the European Blue Flag once again in 2009, with Hafan Pwllheli winning the “Five Anchors” award once again. Glandon beach won the Green Coast award in 2009, and our application for a Rural Beach Award was also successful.

As per usual, and should the quality of the bathing water meet the necessary requirements, the Maritime Unit will submit an application to Keep Wales Tidy in November for the 2010 beach awards.

It is possible that some nearby beaches will be unable to meet all Awarded Beaches requirements, as initial results appear that it is possible that the bathing water quality of some beaches does not meet the required standard.

All bathing water quality results will be confirmed by the Environment Agency at the end of the year, therefore, it is premature to anticipate what the final result will be.

- 4.4 The Wakestock popular event was held in the inner harbour on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. The weather was slightly more favourable once again this year and hundreds of visitors enjoyed the event. On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, namely the Bank Holiday weekend, the popular Food Festival was held on Glandon Peninsula, and once again this year, the festival was extremely successful.

The dates of the 2010 Food Festival have not been published thus far. The Wakestock festival will be held on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

## 5 – Harbour Statistics

- 5.1 It is noted in the table in the appendix that **892** personal water crafts registered with Gwynedd Council in 2009. This is slightly higher in comparison with the numbers that registered in 2008. It is noted that the vast majority of personal water crafts had registered through the Maritime Office in Pwllheli – 374 (**403 in 2008**) with only **52** personal water crafts registering through the harbour office.
- 5.2 As indicated in the table, **127** powerboats were registered through the Pwllheli harbour office and **95** powerboats were registered on Abersoch beach this year. The registration fee has not changed substantially and the registration fee for Powerboats and Personal Watercraft is **£15.00** through the post, or **£20.00** on the beach or in the harbour office. The launching fee is **£12.00** a day or **£130.00** for the season (postal application). It is not anticipated that the fee will change in 2010.
- 5.3 It is noted from the table in the appendix that **151** boats are moored in the outer harbour this year, which is a small increase in comparison with the number that were moored in the outer harbour in 2008.

This year, there are **407** boats on a pontoon mooring in Hafan, namely three boats below the maximum. This means that pontoon moorings have been available for the boats of visitors. In the outer harbour, **34%** (52 vessels) of the boats are power boats, with **66%** (99 vessels) being sailboats. In Hafan, **54%** (223 vessels) of the boats are power boats, with **46%** (2184 vessels) being sailboats.

- 5.4 This year, regardless of the recession, **302** boats remain on the waiting list for a berth in the marina. In line with the Council's regulations, every individual on the waiting list has paid **£50.00** in order to ensure that the application is genuine.

## 6 Budgets

- 6.1 Appended, for Members' information, is the final budget report of Pwllheli Harbour and Hafan Pwllheli **for the 2008/09 financial year**. Also appended are the expenditure finance and income targets for all the harbours and beaches for the **2009/10** financial year.
- 6.2 Once again this year, there will be a need to exercise caution during the current financial year in order to ensure that the service does not commit money beyond the budget. The Harbour Masters and the Maritime Officer – Harbours, are preparing a detailed work programme for the autumn and winter, so as to identify expenditure priorities in Pwllheli Harbour.

6.3 The income target for the outer harbour for the **2009/10** financial year is **£121,410** and the income has reached **£106,381** up to the end of August, i.e. **£15,029** short of the target. The income target for Hafan this year is **£1,554,830** and the income thus far has reached **£1,411,041** (end of August report) namely **£143,789** short of the target. For the same period last year, the target was **£124,076** short.

#### 6.4 **Increasing Fees for 2010/11**

In the coming weeks, the Maritime and Rural Parks Unit will be reviewing the current fees and charges, and will be undertaking research into the market in order to recommend fees and charges for harbours, marinas and beaches for the next financial year.

As a result of the recession and the vulnerable condition of the economy, it is not anticipated that the fees and charges of Hafan Pwllheli and Pwllheli's outer harbour, will not increase in excess of inflation in the 2010/11 financial year.

It must be emphasised that any recommendation will need to be discussed further and confirmation will be needed from Statutory Officers and the Portfolio Leader before it will be possible to confirm and publish the new fees.

As there is a substantial change involving some moorings in the outer harbour, the Unit will consider reducing some fees as the water depth under the keel is reducing. It is emphasised that this is expected to happen and it is not due to the lack of dredging.