

Complete Agenda

Democracy Service Swyddfa'r Cyngor CAERNARFON Gwynedd LL55 1SH

Meeting

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

5.30 pm, TUESDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2023

Location

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

(For public access to the meeting, please contact us)

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 25/09/23)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Nia Wyn Jeffreys
Gwilym Jones
Local Member
Local Member
Local Member
Local Member

Co-Opted Members:

Aled Griffith

[To be confirmed]

Observers:

Desmond George Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
David Williams Deputy - Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative

Committee

Stephen Tudor Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2023/24.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-chair for 2023/24.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which are urgent matters in the opinion of the Chair.

6. MINUTES 4 - 8

The Chair will propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on 7th March, 2023, be signed as a true record.

7. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

9 - 21

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 27th February, 2024.

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 7/03/23

PRESENT:

Councillor Gwilym Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd) (Chairman) Councillor June Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd) (Vice-chair)

Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Robert Owen (Commercial Interests Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Llyr Beaumont Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department), Barry Pritchard-Jones (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Malcolm Humphreys (Porthmadog Harbourmaster) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

OBSERVER: Desmond George (Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee)

Bryn Pritchard-Jones was congratulated on his appointment as the Maritime Service Manager, and he was welcomed to his first meeting in that role.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Llywelyn Rhys (Porthmadog Town Council) and Cricieth RNLI.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were received.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 11 October, 2022 as a true record.

5. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The following reports were presented, and members were invited to give feedback on the safety matters and operational matters of the harbour.

(1) The Senior Harbour Officer's report, giving a brief update to the committee on harbour matters for the year ending March 2023.

Matters were raised under the following headings:-

Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration

Further to the contents of the written report, the Senior Harbours Officer noted that the underwater inspection of the moorings in the harbour had been held. It was found

that 20 risers needed replacing and it was hoped that the work would start soon, subject to the moorings contractor's commitments.

Port Marine Safety Code

Further to the contents of the written report, the Senior Harbours Officer noted that the 2023 Merchant Shipping Order (Watercraft) was coming into operation on 31 March, and that it would give more powers to the relevant agencies to prosecute owners and mariners for dangerous misuse of watercraft. He has a meeting with the Police on 17 March to discuss the way forward, and he would be in a situation to report more to the members following that meeting.

The Assistant Head of Economy and Community noted that the lack of management / enforcement over personal watercraft had been quite a cause for concern over the years, and that the change in the legislation was a step in the right direction. The arrangements and the regulations would develop over the next few months and years, and further details could be shared with the members in due course.

The Maritime Service Manager added that the new legislation was an additional tool for the Council if there was an accident or incident in the future. He also emphasised that the Council had an effective registration system in place already, therefore if anyone was seen offending with a powercraft it was important to note the registration numbers in order to ensure it was possible to identify the individual.

Financial Matters

The Maritime Service Manager gave a full explanation of the harbour budget 01/4/22 - 31/3/23, and it was included as an appendix to the report.

It was questioned why the Harbours income was nearly £10,000 less than the target. In response, the Maritime Service Manager noted:-

- That not all moorings had been filled, and that the income was dependent on the busyness during the season.
- That the 2022 season was not as busy as the 2021 season, when there was a restriction on travelling abroad due to Covid.
- Generally, it was foreseen that there would be an overspend of around £6,000, but that there were other significant costs likely to arise during the next month, such as purchasing mooring chains and completing maintenance work on the harbour's boat, therefore the overspend was likely to increase a little by the end of the month.

The Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department added:-

- That it was likely that the budget was based on historical numbers, and a reduction had been seen generally in the number of boats across the county's harbours.
- As well as the Council's moorings, that there were additional resources developed at Porthmadog Harbour over the years, specifically Madog Yacht Club pontoons. Some of the Council's historic customers had moved to the pontoon provision, and by now were customers of the Yacht Club. Therefore, the picture wasn't a full reflection of all vessels in the harbour.

Fees and Charges 2023/24

Further to the content of the written report, the Maritime Service Manager noted:-

- That a report was submitted to the Finance Unit and the mooring and watercraft fees were expected to be confirmed soon.
- That the level of inflation in Porthmadog Harbour was 8.5%, which meant that the income target had also increased 8.5%.
- That it was proposed to raise Porthmadog Harbour fees by 6%, and it was awaited to see if the Cabinet Member would confirm the fees or not. Obviously, if the target for the next financial year was not met, the expenditure would need to be cut.
- Some fees associated with the fees for launching and registering vessels were raised. The fees for registering jet skis and power boats had risen 20%, which was from £50 to £60 for the year, and the annual fee for registering and a launching permit had risen from £150 to £170.
- That it was proposed to keep the launching fee at £20 as the fee was doubled from £10 to £20 around three years ago.
- That an increase in the launching fee for boats smaller than 10hp was proposed from £30 to £35.

It was questioned how the council's fee's compare with the fees of the pontoons, and so forth. In response, the Harbourmaster noted that the fees of the pontoons were around £1,000 higher than the Council's mooring fees. The Senior Harbours Officer noted that he would ask the Yacht Club for the exact figure and would forward this information to the member.

The Assistant Head of Economy and Community noted that it was difficult to compare moorings with pontoons, as they were very different developments, and that the Council welcomed the fact that the Yacht Club had succeeded to develop the pontoons plan to maximise the quality and facilities within the Harbour.

(2) The Harbourmaster's report, summarising the navigational and operational matters that had arisen between October 2022 and March 2023, including maintenance matters.

Matters were raised under the following headings:-

Operational Matters

Further to the contents of the written report, the Harbourmaster noted that the emergency response exercise to large scale oil pollution in the Harbour hadn't cost anything for the Council. He also noted that the approved providers had learnt a great deal from the exercise as the river flowed quite fast through the Harbour.

An observation was made that it would be beneficial if the local members were informed beforehand of any such events in the Harbour in the future.

Maintenance

Further to the content of the written report, the Maritime Service Manager noted:-

 That a request was received from Robert Owen (Commercial Interests Representative) to lend a personal watercraft to the Maritime Service over the summer to make it easier to patrol the Harbour channel and the launching area in Morfa Bychan, as the personal watercraft was not dependent on the tide like the Powercat patrol boat.

- That there were some matters to confirm with the Council from the point of view of insurance and so forth, before committing to this, but it was foreseen that the personal watercraft could be a valuable asset to the Service.
- It was not foreseen that this arrangement would be in place before Easter, but it was hoped it would be in place by the end of May.

Morfa Bychan Beach

Further to the content of the written report, the Maritime Service Manager noted that a licence had now been approved for transporting the large transformer to Morfa Bychan beach and forward along the road to Trawsfynydd power station. Also, that an application had been made for Natural Resources Wales to install tracks to transport the transformer across the beach.

The Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department noted, as it was a little early in the season in term of providing detailed information regarding the arrangements for transporting the transformer, that there was an intention to provide a short report for the members in around six weeks providing an update on the situation.

RESOLVED to note and accept the report.

6. ELECTION OF OBSERVERS

The committee was invited to elect an observer to receive information or attend the meetings of the other three harbour committees.

RESOLVED to elect the following to serve as observers on the committees below:-

- a) Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee Councillor Gwilym Jones
- b) Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee Councillor June Jones
- c) Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee Councillor Gwilym Jones

7. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 3 October, 2023.

The Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department noted that there was no need for the members to wait until the October meeting if they have a matter to raise between now and then, and they were welcomed to contact the Harbour Office in the meantime.

A question was asked about whether it was intended to hold the next meeting of the committee on Zoom, or face to face in the Centre in Porthmadog, as it was understood that not all members were comfortable using the technology. In response, the Democracy Services Officer noted that the Council's current policy, in accordance with Part 3 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, was to only hold meetings of the Full Council, the Planning Committee, the Cabinet and scrutiny committees in hybrid form, with every other committee remaining as virtual meetings.

At the end of the meeting, Robert Owen (Commercial Interests Representative) made reference to the lack of co-opted members on the committee noting he wished to propose Richard Owen's name for one of the vacant seats. It was agreed that the officers would discuss the membership further and see what other gaps needed filling.

J	,	and concluded at 6.10 pm
	CHAIRMAN	<u> </u>

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee							
DATE	3rd October 2023							
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters							
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer							

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committees main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Porthmadog Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period March 2023 to October 2023, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Porthmadog Harbour Committee is a statutory Harbour Committee, set up in accordance with Section 6(2) (a-j) of the Porthmadog Harbour Revision Order 1998. The order provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee. A comprehensive list of the groups and organisations represented on the Harbour committee can be seen in the Harbour Order.
- 1.4 The Harbour Committee's of Abermaw, Aberdyfi and Pwllheli were established under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act of 1972.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There have been 106 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Porthmadog in 2023. This compares with 104 boats on moorings in 2022.
- There has been a very slight increase in the number of customers over the past year at Porthmadog harbour. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue in 2024. The prevailing economic situation and in particular, the current cost of living, remains a factor in attracting customers to the harbour.
- 2.3 With a small number of exceptions, most of the public wishing to launch powered craft into the waters of the Gwynedd Coast now register their powered craft on-line, through the Cyngor Gwynedd website. Including those registered on paper, 1269 power boats and 1240 personal watercraft were registered in Gwynedd this season.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

3.1. The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties.

3.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review process, it

is necessary to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Porthmadog Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

The staffing level at the harbour of Porthmadog has remained unchanged since the previous report to the Committee, with the Harbourmaster Mr Malcolm Humphreys supported by the assistant Mr Richard Hughes. During what has been a busy summer, harbour staff have also assisted and worked alongside staff at Barmouth harbour and on the beach at Morfa Bychan.

4.1 The Service is also able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Abermaw and Aberdyfi to assist with any work in the harbour of Porthmadog if required.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided by the Principal Maritime Officer.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
 - Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Purchase and Maintenance of harbour tools and equipment
 - Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour Powercat patrol vessel
 - Maintenance of the vessel 'Dwyfor'. Investment to maintain the boat in order to meet the Code
 of Practice requirements and maintain lifting apparatus.
 - Maintenance of lands and benches

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2024/25.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2024/2025 season, on previous occasions the Service has adjusted fees in line with the prevailing rate of inflation at the time. However, no decision has yet been made with regard to the level of fees to be applied next season.

Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2023 - October 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	3 rd October 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	M.Humphreys Porthmadog Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The navigable channel to the harbour of Porthmadog has been monitored by harbour staff over the summer period. The channel approach from seaward has moved away from the direction of Harlech and now leads more towards Criccieth, in association with the position of the Fairway buoy.
- 1.2 As in previous years, the course of the navigable channel continues to be very dynamic. Movement of sandbanks within the navigable channel during the summer period has required harbour staff to re-locate some of the aids to navigation.
- 1.3 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the course of the channel and move the navigational aids as and when necessary, to ensure the aids to navigation provide the safest route in and out of harbour.
- 1.3.1 The Service advises that all necessary navigational marks are currently on station and there are no Notice to Mariners currently in being.
- 1.4 The Service would like to remind mariners of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft exceeding 1.5 metres.
- 1.5 Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach or departure from the harbour, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 Vessel movements have continued throughout the summer, with visiting vessels accommodated on the 'trot moorings' within the inner harbour and on the pontoon structures belonging to the Madog yacht Club.
- 2.2 Unseasonal windy weather with strong south-westerly winds and heavy rain on the 15th July, led to a former fishing vessel moored alongside the quay wall to take on water and partially submerge. Harbour staff responded promptly to the situation but could not prevent a small amount of diesel fuel from the vessel entering harbour waters, before deployment of an absorbent floating boom which was placed around the vessel.

- 2.2.1 With the assistance of harbour personnel, the vessel was pumped out and caused to float again, with the boom remaining in place around the vessel until the source of the water ingress could be identified.
- 2.2.2 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Natural Resources Wales were informed of the incident, and all necessary administration procedures were followed in accordance with requirements. The spillage was allowed to disperse naturally with no further action required.
- 2.2.3 The Service are currently working with the vessel owner and a marine surveyor to prevent a similar occurrence from occurring, and the vessel has been re-located near the harbour slipway for this purpose.
- 2.2.4 On the same day, the weather caused a sailing vessel to break free from its mooring in the harbour and the bow mooring line of another harbour vessel snapped, causing that vessel to swing loose around its stern mooring. Both vessels were subsequently secured back on their respective moorings without damage.
- 2.3 The Service wish to thank the firm of Robert Owen Marine Porthmadog, for the provision of a personal watercraft. The craft has greatly assisted maritime staff in overseeing safe operations at the vessel launch site at Morfa Bychan and in the Porthmadog Channel.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Before the start of the busy season, maintenance of the harbour moorings was undertaken by a local mooring contractor. The work undertaken by the contractor was at a net cost to the service of £2,100.00, with the cost of the replacement chain and associated shackles £3,894.00.
- 3.1.1 Over the forthcoming winter period, an inspection of the ground chains in the harbour will be undertaken, with worn sections of chain replaced.
- 3.2 The harbour Powercat patrol vessel has now been fitted with two new engines at the start of the season at a net cost of £12,293.00 to the Service. The vessel has been operated throughout the summer, undertaking patrols of the navigable channel whenever possible.
- 3.3 During the forthcoming winter period the harbour vessel 'Dwyfor' will be sailed to Pwllheli and taken out of the water for a new propeller to be fitted. The vessel will further undergo refurbishment at that time.
- 3.4 Subject to available funding, the Service are to replace the surface of the harbour compound at the back of the harbourmasters office. The existing rough surface will be replaced with concrete, which will greatly assist in trailer movements in the compound.
- 3.5 Benches around the harbour environment continue to be refurbished with further work still to be completed. The service continues to receive requests for the placement of benches around the harbour with only limited space available.

H 4 Other Matters

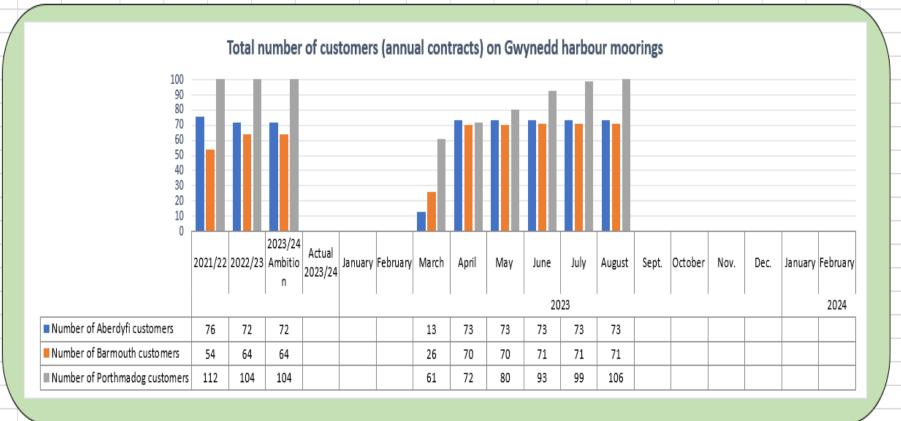
- 4.1 Prior to the beginning of July, harbour staff assisted with preparations at Morfa Bychan beach, to receive a large barge named 'Terra Marique', carrying an electrical transformer cargo destined for Trawsfynydd Power Station.
- 4.1.1 Having travelled from Rotterdam with the assistance of a tug, the barge successfully beached on the sands at Morfa Bychan on the morning tide of the 5th July. After discharging its cargo, the vessel left the beach on the evening tide that day. The transformer was subsequently moved away from the beach by road to Trawsfynydd power station.
- 4.2 During the summer period, it has been necessary for harbour staff to contact Natural Resources Wales and report coloured liquid waste entering the harbour waters. Upon investigation staff noted the liquid emerging from an outfall pipe located near the road bridge at the north section of the harbour. The reports have been documented and it is understood Natural Resources Wales are looking into the matter.
- 4.3 **Borth-Y-Gest.** The sea defence gates located at Borth-Y-Gest are to be maintained with the assistance of a local metalworker. The Service would like to remind harbour users of the need for the gates to remain in the closed position during the winter period.

H5 Events

- 5.1 The following events were among those held at the harbour during the summer period;
 - RNLI Lifeboat Day
 - Celtic Longboat events held by the Madog Yacht Club
 - Vintage Motorcycle event
- 5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed future events on harbour premises of the need to provide the relevant information about the event at the earliest opportunity. This will assist the Service in determining authorisation, staffing and administration processes.

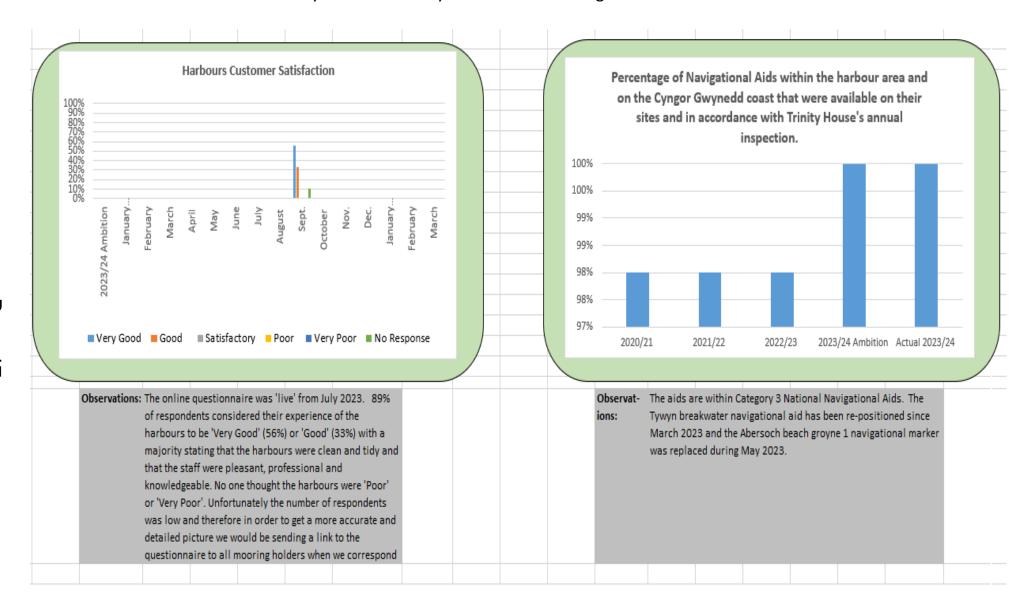
PORTHMADOG HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 - August Review 2023										
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	OVER (UNDER)								
Employees	65,947	70,630	4,683								
Buildings	26,970	15,296	(11,674)								
Transport	860	627	(233)								
Supplies & Services	12,900	18,927	6,027								
Income	(80,140)	(74,174)	5,966								
Total	26,537	31,305	4,769								

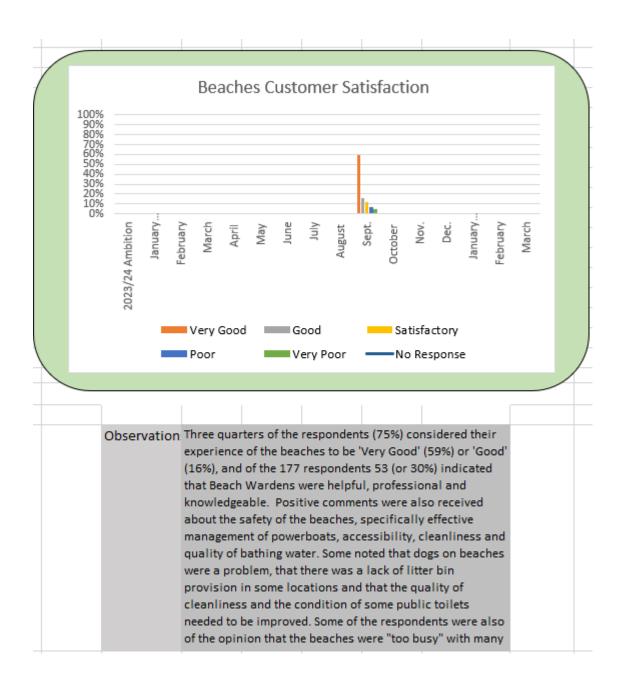
Economy and Community Performance Management Dashboard



Observations: The aim and objective is to try to maintain the number of customers and ensure customer support and loyalty to continue mooring in Gwynedd. The financial squeeze means that many customers have been attracted to Gwynedd as the cost is lower in general. Some customers have also returned following the end of Covid restrictions. The online system to apply for a mooring has been operational since April 2023.

Economy and Community Performance Management Dashboard





Economy and Community Performance Management

										2023								
Reference	Hearere	Report un	Frequenc	2020/2	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Actual 2	James	Februar	Harak	April	Hay	Jane	July	August	Sept.	Observations/Reason for the preformance
		the Lev	7	1						•								
M1	Total number of customers (annual contracts) on Cyngor Gwynedd harbour moorings.	Department	Monthly				240	250										The aim and objective is to try to maintain the number of customers and ensure customer support and loyalty to continue mooring in Gwynedd. The financial squeeze means that many customers have been attracted to Gwynedd as the cost is lower in general. Some customers have also returned following the end of Covid restrictions. The online system to apply for a mooring has been operational since April 2023.
	Number of Aberdyfi customers	Department		47	76	72	72	73				13	73	73	73	73	73	A number of powerboat customers have decided to have a mooring instead of launching daily. This has contributed to keeping the number of moorings fairly stable. It has also managed to attract a number of new customers. A change in the channel and sand collection in the harbour means that there are fewer suitable places to locate moorings than in the previous year.
	Number of Barmouth customers	Department		31	54	64	64	71				26	70	70	71	71	71	
T	Number of Porthmadog customers	Department		64	112	104	104	106				61	72	80	93	99	106	Stable numbers. The harbour has managed to attract a numbe of new customers, although a number of customers have given up their moorings due to age or health reasons. A number of customers continue to take a mooring on the Madog Yacht Club pontoon.
Page 1	Gwynedd Harbours Customer Satisfaction %	Service	Annual															
9																		
	Yerg Good																56%	
	Good																33%	
	Satisfactory																0%	
	Poor																0%	
	Yerg Poor																0%	
	No Response																11%	
M3	Number of licensed Powerboats I Personal Watercraft. Information to confirm that there is a specific registration system to identify each Powerboat or Personal Watercraft that launches in Gwynedd.	Service		1680	2,434	2,380	2,380	2,509				921	1,759	1,876	2,204	2,498	2,509	The aim and objective of registration is to ensure an increase in the number of powerboats registered in order to ensure that all boats on the Gwynedd coast display a Cyngor Gwynedd registration permit.
	Percentage of Navigational Aids within the harbour area and on the Cyngor Gwynedd coast that were available on their sites and in accordance with Trinity House's annual inspection.	Service		98%	98%	98%	100%	100%	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%	100.00%	100.00%					The aids are within Category 3 National Navigational Aids. Th Tywyn breakwater navigational aid has been re-positioned since March 2023 and the Abersoch beach groyne 1 navigational marker was replaced during May 2023.
M5	Gwynedd Beaches Customer Satisfaction %	Department	Annual															
	Yerg Good																59%	
	Good																16%	
	Satisfactory																12%	
	Poor																7%	
	Verg Poor No Response																5% 1%	

