



Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.00 am, TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2024

Location

Virtual Meeting

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

Contact Point

Rhodri Jones

01286 679556

rhodrijones1@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

MEMBERSHIP:

Cyngor Gwynedd:

Anne Lloyd Jones
Robert Dewi Owen
John Pughe

Local Member for Gorllewin Tywyn
Local Member for Aberdyfi
Local Member for Morfa Tywyn

Co-Opted Members:

Freddie Collier
David Williams
Huw Evans
Nigel Willis
Desmond George
Al Crisp
Guy Shaw

RNLI Aberdyfi
Member of Aberdyfi & Improvements Committee
Member of the Cardigan Bay Fisheries Association
Member of Aberdyfi Boat Club
Member of the Dyfi Yacht Club
Outward Bound Trust Wales
Aberdyfi Rowing Club

Observers:

Nia Wyn Jeffreys
Gwilym Jones
Stephen Tudor

Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee

A G E N D A

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chairman for this Committee for the year 2024/25.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-chairman for this Committee for the year 2024/25.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

5. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chair will propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on 12 March 2024, signed as a true record.

6. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

8 - 18

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 18 March 2025.

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 12 MARCH 2024

Present:

Gwynedd Councillors: Councillor Robert Dewi Owen (Chair).
Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones.

Co-opted Members: Freddie Collier (Aberdyfi RNLI), David Williams (Aberdyfi Improvements and Advertisement Committee), Desmond George (Member of Dyfi Yacht Club), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Trust Wales), Guy Shaw (Aberdyfi Rowing Club), Councillor Bob Tyrrell (Aberdyfi Community Council) and Nigel Willis (Member of Aberdyfi Boat? Club).

Observers: Councillor Nia Wyn Jeffreys (Cabinet Member for Economic Development) and Councillor Gwilym Jones (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee).

Officers in attendance:

Bryn Pritchard-Jones (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), William Arthur Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Llŷr Beaumont Jones, (Assistant Head - Economy and Community Department).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 17 October 2023, as a true record.

5. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The reports were presented by the Maritime Services Manager and the Senior Harbours Officer. Attention was drawn to the following main points:

It was ensured that the Harbourmaster and his assistant would survey afon Dyfi prior to the busy Easter period to determine the most suitable location to lay harbour moorings.

It was confirmed that customers wishing to have a mooring in the harbour or register their boats for the upcoming season were expected to complete the online form promptly via Cyngor Gwynedd's website. It was explained that mooring holders needed to contact the Harbourmaster to confirm their mooring location in the harbour.

It was stressed that the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) continued to be rigorously followed to improve safety for all who use or work in the port marine environment.

The Assistant Harbourmaster, Mr Oliver Simmons, was thanked for his committed work in the harbour. It was noted that he had now left his post to set up a new company. Best wishes were expressed to him and the company in the future. It was clarified that candidates were currently being interviewed to fill the vacancy and it was hoped that a qualified individual would take up the role at the start of the busy summer season.

It was elaborated that a new permanent post had been advertised to assist the Harbourmaster and his assistant with their work. It was explained that the job title was Meirionnydd Beaches Officer and was based in Barmouth harbour to work along the coastal beaches between Barmouth and Aberdyfi. It was noted that it was hoped that the officer would take up the post before the Easter period. It was confirmed that this appointment was in addition to the seasonal beach staff appointed to work at Aberdyfi and Tywyn beaches for the summer period on an annual basis. Members were updated that it was hoped that seasonal staff members would start work from the end of May onwards.

It was acknowledged that there was no update to be shared on performance indicators as there had been little change over the winter months. It was confirmed that the information would be included in the next Committee meeting.

Members were guided through the harbour's financial performance for the current financial year, following the November 2023 review. Attention was drawn to several points within the following headings:

- **Employees** - It was explained that an underspend of £7,963 was anticipated in this area due to Mr Simmons' resignation.
- **Property** - It was noted that expenditure had been made in this area in accordance with the allocated budget. It was explained that it covered several duties such as grounds maintenance as well as benches. It was also clarified that it included reimbursement for some payments such as memorial benches.
- **Transportation** - It was reported that this heading gave more details regarding fuel to use the harbour boat - and maintenance costs had not been included in the figures. It was confirmed that there was an estimated underspend of £427 as the weather had not enabled officers to use the boat as often as they had hoped.
- **Services and Supplies** It was predicted that there would be an underspend of around £7,000 within this field due to day-to-day costs and contractors' costs throughout the year. It was elaborated that this included several costs such as investment in moorings, lighting and chains. It was acknowledged that prices had been rising over the year, which had caused overspending.

It was reported that an underspend- of £1,314 in total harbour expenditure was anticipated following the above considerations, compared to the budget. This was confirmed as a positive situation for the harbour. It was pointed out that the harbour would receive a higher income this year due to the increase in fees to customers, as well as charging fees for additional services such as trailer parking. It was stressed that there was an increase in the numbers registered to use the moorings.

It was confirmed that the harbour was forecast to underspend by £5,010 by the end of the financial year, compared to the budget for 2023/24. It was acknowledged that this could change before the end of the financial year, but pride was expressed that the harbour was currently underspending.

It was reported that there were changes to fees and charges for the 2024/25 year. It was confirmed that these changes had already been submitted to the Cabinet Member and had been approved. It was explained that these changes were introduced because harbour income targets across the county had increased and therefore these costs were a means to meet those targets particularly given that the weather affected the harbour's ability to attract consumers to services. Members were reminded that customers can now pay for the services on-line. The following changes were highlighted:

- It was confirmed there would be no increase in the launch fee this year. It was explained that the fee for this service had increased from £10 to £22 in 2020 and will therefore not increase again this year.
- It was explained that the registration fee would increase from £60 to £70 (an increase of 17%).
- It was noted that there was a 6% increase in the annual launching and registration package fee, raising the fee from £170 to £180. It was reported that this change was made due to more customers choosing to pay for the services in this method rather than daily fees, and it was easier to manage.
- It was explained that a launch fee for boats less than 10hp would rise from £35 to £40.
- It was reported that a fee of £40 had been noted for yachts at various locations across the county. It was recognised that this fee was not applicable for Aberdyfi harbour.

The Harbourmaster and all officers were thanked for their thorough work over the past few months. A presentation was received from the Harbourmaster in which the following main points were highlighted:

Members were reminded that two Local Notices for Mariners remained in force at the time due to a problem with the aids to navigation or that they had moved, but it was hoped that these issues would be resolved by Easter. It was clarified that details of Local Notices for Mariners were on Cyngor Gwynedd's website and the importance of contacting the harbour office for the latest information on navigational safety was emphasised.

It was reported that the harbour has invested in a 'drone' so that details and specific features could be viewed from the air, such as inspecting navigational aids without having to launch the harbour boat. It was pointed out that it would also be helpful if anyone went missing to help find them. Unfortunately, it was recognised that what can be seen via the 'drone' could not be shared on the web as it would not be possible to rely on the information as it would be outdated. It was also noted this would raise difficulties with regulations.

It was noted that the harbour 'Powercat' patrol boat had recently undergone maintenance in preparation for the busy season. It was explained that as part of the Coastguard Agency's boat coding regulations, the boat had received an inspection from an approved Marine Surveyor in February. It was confirmed that the boat had passed this inspection and the certificate was on the way. It had been reported that the boat would return to operational duties after it had been repaired by a local marine engineer.

It was confirmed that officers were continuing to cooperate with the authorities following a serious accident in the harbour last summer. Everyone was urged to continue to work with the authorities should the need arise. Sympathy was extended to everyone involved in the accident.

It was noted that the harbour office had been dealing with a several litter queries and complaints recently. Everyone was thanked for helping to clear refuse that washed ashore on the local foreshore. Despite this, it was noted that large and bulky items or items deemed suspicious, dangerous, corrosive or toxic should be reported to the harbour office immediately, to arrange for their safe disposal. It was stressed that it was important to alert the harbour office to any waste that had been collected and left to ensure that arrangements for collection are made as soon as possible. It was stressed that the Council collected waste free of charge if they were near the litter bins and officers can easily access them.

Consideration was given to provide litter pick-up kits at the harbourmaster's office, so that people could use them, but it was noted that these had not been returned when the office had trialled this in the past. It was noted that perhaps such a system would work if reintroduced, and if the equipment had to be paid for and if the user receives a refund on return.

The harbour was looking forward to a busy season and several upcoming events were highlighted such as the 2024 Welsh Rowing Coastal Championships, Aberdyfi Rowing Club Annual Regatta and WeSwimRun events.

Everyone was thanked for their work over the last few months and for working so effectively with the harbour office.

RESOLVED

To note and accept the reports.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 15 October 2024.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. and concluded at 11.45 a.m.

(Chair)

Agenda Item 6

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	15th October 2024
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's 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 Aberdyfi 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 2024 to October 2024, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Harbour Committee's of Abermaw, Aberdyfi and Pwllheli were established under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act of 1972. 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.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There have been 81 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Aberdyfi in 2024. This compares with 73 boats on moorings in 2023.
- 2.2 There has been an increase in the number of customers wishing to have a mooring at Aberdyfi harbour. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue in 2025.
- 2.3 The majority of the public wishing to register their powered watercraft to use along the Gwynedd coastline now do so on-line, through the Cyngor Gwynedd website. This season 1013 power boats and 1044 personal watercraft were registered. In addition to these figures, 84 power vessels with an engine rated under 10hp were also registered, making a total of 2141 of registrations for the season.
- 2.4 This number of vessel registrations is less than last year when a total of 2509 watercraft were registered. The unseasonal weather we have experienced this year, may well be a factor in determining the reduction in vessel registrations 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 Aberdyfi Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

4.1 The Service are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Thomas Walton from Tre'r-ddol, near Machynlleth, who joined the Service on the 8th April, as the new assistant Harbourmaster. The Service wish him well in his new career, working at the harbour alongside Mr William Stockford, the Harbourmaster.

4.2 During what has been a busy summer, the harbour staff have assisted and worked alongside staff at Tywyn and at Barmouth. In a similar manner, the Service is able call upon staff based at the harbours of Barmouth and Porthmadog to assist with any required work in the harbour of Aberdyfi.

4.2.1 The Service have greatly appreciated the work undertaken by the seasonal beach wardens based at Aberdyfi and Tywyn throughout the busy summer period.

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 Maritime manager.

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 visitor moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour Powercat patrol vessel, including Investment to maintain the boat in order to meet the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Code of Practice requirements
- Maintenance of lands and benches

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2025/26.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2025/2026 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.

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2024 - October 2024 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	15th October 2024
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	W.A.Stockford Aberdyfi Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the main navigational channel into the harbour of Aberdyfi has remained under observation throughout the summer season. The physical nature of the river and harbour area continues to change.
- 1.2 A significant change to a sandbank South of the harbour office has led to some moorings drying out. This feature required two vessels to be relocated to other moorings towards the end of the season. Further inspections and surveys will be carried out by the Service over the winter months.
- 1.3 There are currently no 'Local Notice to Mariners'(N to M) in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.4 An inspector from Trinity House, the Lighthouse Authority for the area, is expected in the month of October, to undertake an audit of the navigational aids within the harbour limits. The result of the inspection will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 1.5 It is now possible to view all current Local Notice to Mariners for the County on the Maritime page of the Gwynedd Council website. Local Notices to Mariners.
<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Maritime/Local-Notices-to-Mariners.aspx>
- 1.6 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain the latest information on navigational safety and weather reports.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 There has been a positive interest in mooring enquiries this season leading to an uptake of new moorings being laid within the harbour waters. Identifying suitable locations for the placement of moorings continues to be a challenge due to the amount of shifting sand within the harbour.
- 2.2 The increase in sand build-up still hinders the physical use of the slipway located adjacent to the RNLI station and the Dyfi Yacht Club premises. With the main beach level at its current height, removal of sand from the slipway remains an on-going issue.

- 2.2.1 The Service greatly appreciates the efforts of local stakeholders to find a solution to the removal of sand from the slipway. Following trials undertaken, it is hoped that a solution can be found through the purchase of equipment to wash away the sand assisted by the ebb tide.
- 2.3 Aberdyfi Beach staff were instrumental in initiating a call to persons in difficulty at Ynyslas on the South side of the estuary resulting in two lives being saved. They were commended for their vigilance throughout the season.
- 2.3.1 Due to the changeable weather forecast for much of the season, the service found that there were very busy days where visitor numbers would increase considerably. Continued patrols of the river, beach and harbour helped to maintain a relatively incident free season.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the summer season the harbour patrol craft underwent an annual maintenance of its engines and equipment. The vessel is invaluable to the work required to be undertaken by the harbour staff.
- 3.2 Prior to the spring period, maintenance work was carried out on the Aids to Navigation (A to N) in the navigable channel, including the purchase of two new lanterns fitted to the Outer Buoy and the No1 Bar buoy. The assistance of a local mooring contractor is much appreciated in undertaking the work required with the buoys in the channel.
- 3.3 As the winter period approaches, vessels lying within the harbour waters and their associated moorings will be taken out of the water with the assistance of a mooring contractor.
- 3.4 Several reactive days were accrued with the removal and burial of carcasses along the foreshore. The service request that any reports of carcasses on the foreshore be accompanied by accurate location information such as, what 3 words or National Grid Reference.

H4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Harbourmasters Office.** As a consequence of structural deterioration to the existing Harbourmasters office, a temporary office in the form of a portable cabin has been situated on the harbour front, to assist with staff welfare facilities. Harbour staff will relocate to the portable office before the winter period, once the relevant technical and furnishing installations have been completed.
- 4.1.1 The Service are working in partnership with the Consultancy department of Cyngor Gwynedd to plan and build a new office structure on the site of the existing building
- 4.2 **Harbour Compound.** As part of a work programme, maritime staff will undertake a tidy of the harbour compound during the winter period. This will involve the clearing of unwanted items and the maintenance of vegetation at the site.
- 4.3 **North Wales Police.** North Wales Police have advised that the investigation into the circumstances of the incident that occurred on the river the on the 28th May last

year remains on-going. The investigation has now been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service.

H5 Events

5.1 The following events were among those held at the harbour during the summer period;

- Welsh Coastal Sculling Championships held on the 15th June. This inaugural event for Aberdyfi had a very good turn out following which excellent feedback was provided. The service looks forward to seeing the event held in Aberdyfi again in the future.
- Welsh Sea Rowing Aberdyfi, Joint League Annual Regatta held on the 14th July. This was another enjoyable and successful rowing regatta event hosted by Clwb Rhwyfo Aberdyfi
- WeSwimRun. Dyfi Swim / Run and Beat the Tide 4km
- Dyfi 26km Aquathlon and Dyfi 13km swim. Held in the river and surrounding mountains.

5.2 The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.

5.2.1 In considering whether to approve an event, the Service will give due regard to the information provided detailing the circumstances and apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.

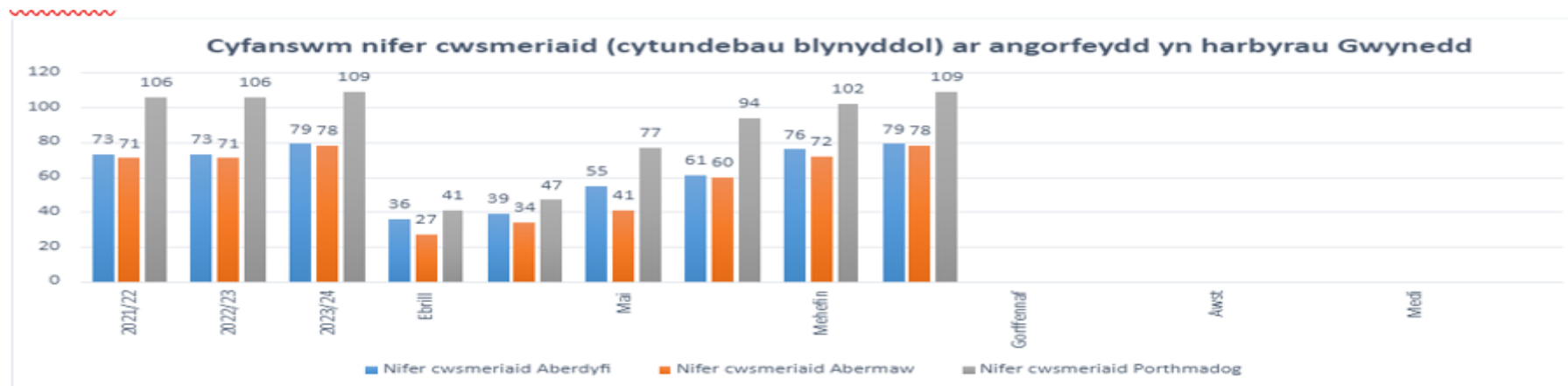
ABERDOVEY HARBOUR		Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 - August 2024 Review	
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	OVER (UNDER)
<u>Employees</u>	73,450	71,556	(1,894)
<u>Buildings</u>	26,010	15,877	(10,133)
<u>Transport</u>	810	592	(218)
<u>Supplies & Services</u>	8,630	22,872	14,242
<u>One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves</u>	0	7,294	7,294
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	108,900	118,192	9,292
<u>Income</u>	(43,510)	(54,677)	(11,167)
<u>Contribution from Reserves Towards One Off Costs</u>	0	(7,294)	(7,294)
<u>Total Net</u>	65,390	56,220	(9,170)

Dashboard 1

Economy and Community Performance Management Dashboard

Total number of customers (annual contracts) on moorings in Gwynedd Harbours

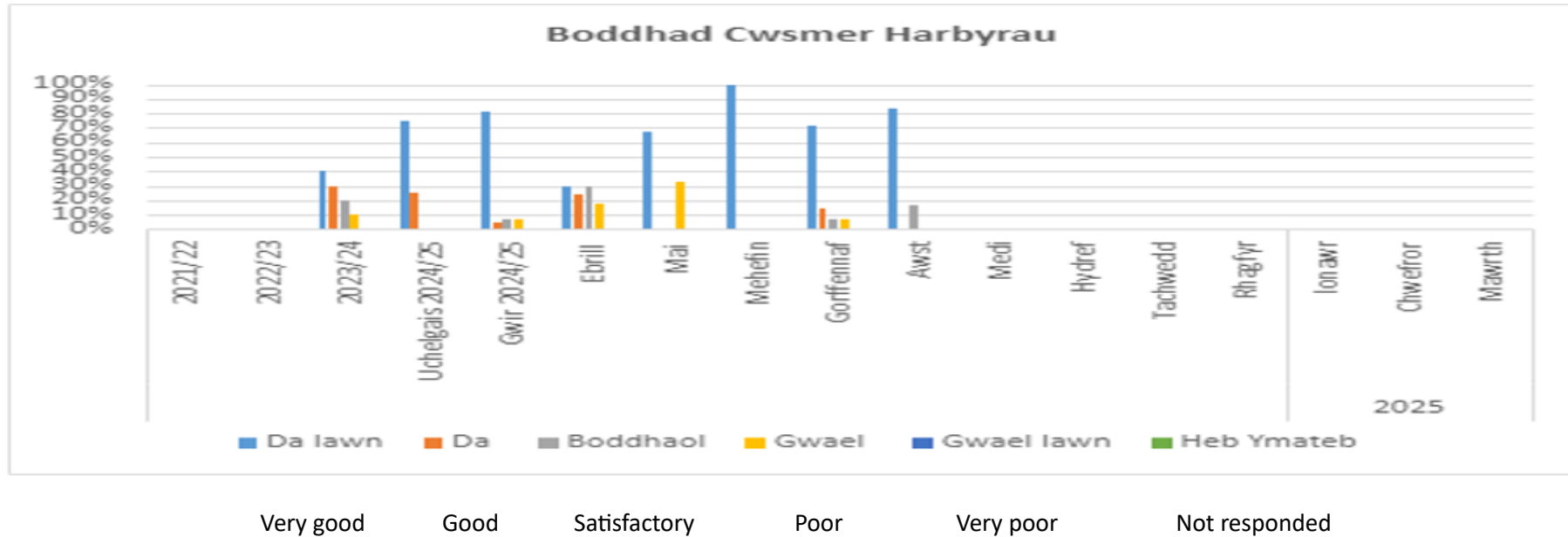
Dashfwrdd Rheoli Perfformiad Economi a Chymuned



The number of customers with a mooring contract increased by 6.5% in our harbours compared with the previous year, which is an increase from 250 to 266. The financial squeeze means that many customers have been attracted to Gwynedd because the cost is generally lower. Some customers have also returned following the end of Covid restrictions. A procedure of applying online for a mooring has been in operation since April 2023. A number of powerboat customers have also decided to have moorings rather than launching daily, which has contributed to keeping the number of moorings fairly stable. We have also managed to attract several new customers.

Dashboard 2

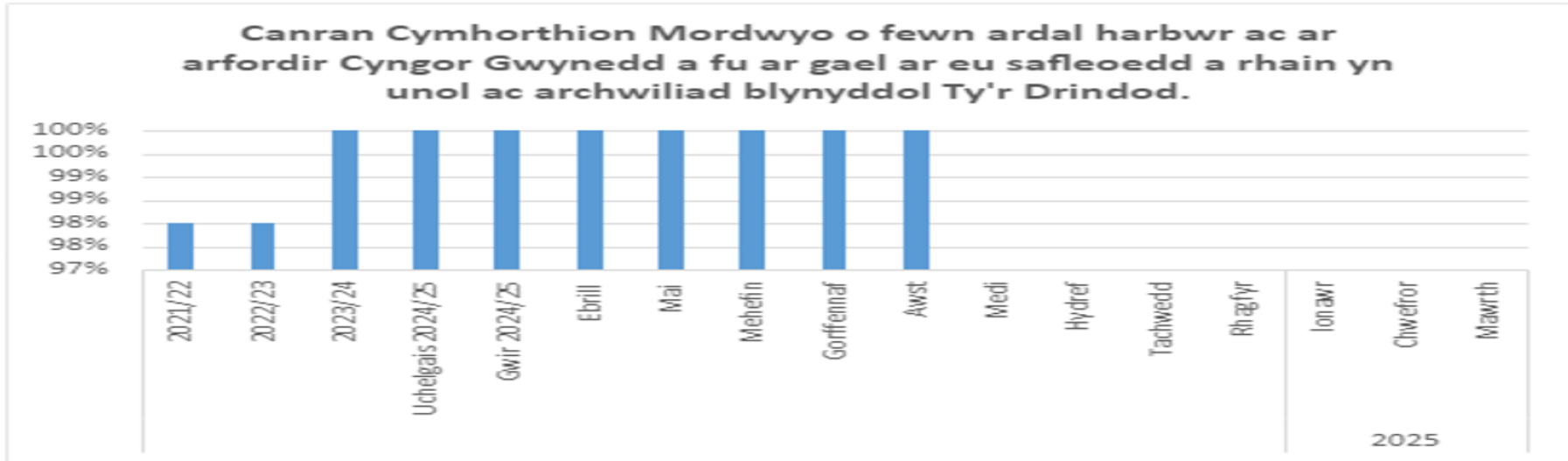
Harbours' Customer Satisfaction



86% of the respondents were of the view that their experience of the harbours was 'Very Good' (81%) or 'Good' (5%) which is 23% higher than the percentage for the previous period. Positive comments were received about our officers' professionalism and attitude, with some stating that our officers are "knowledgeable" and had "gone out of their way to help".

Dashboard 3

Percentage of Navigation Aids within a harbour area and on the Cyngor Gwynedd coastline that were available on-site and in accordance with the Trinity House annual audit

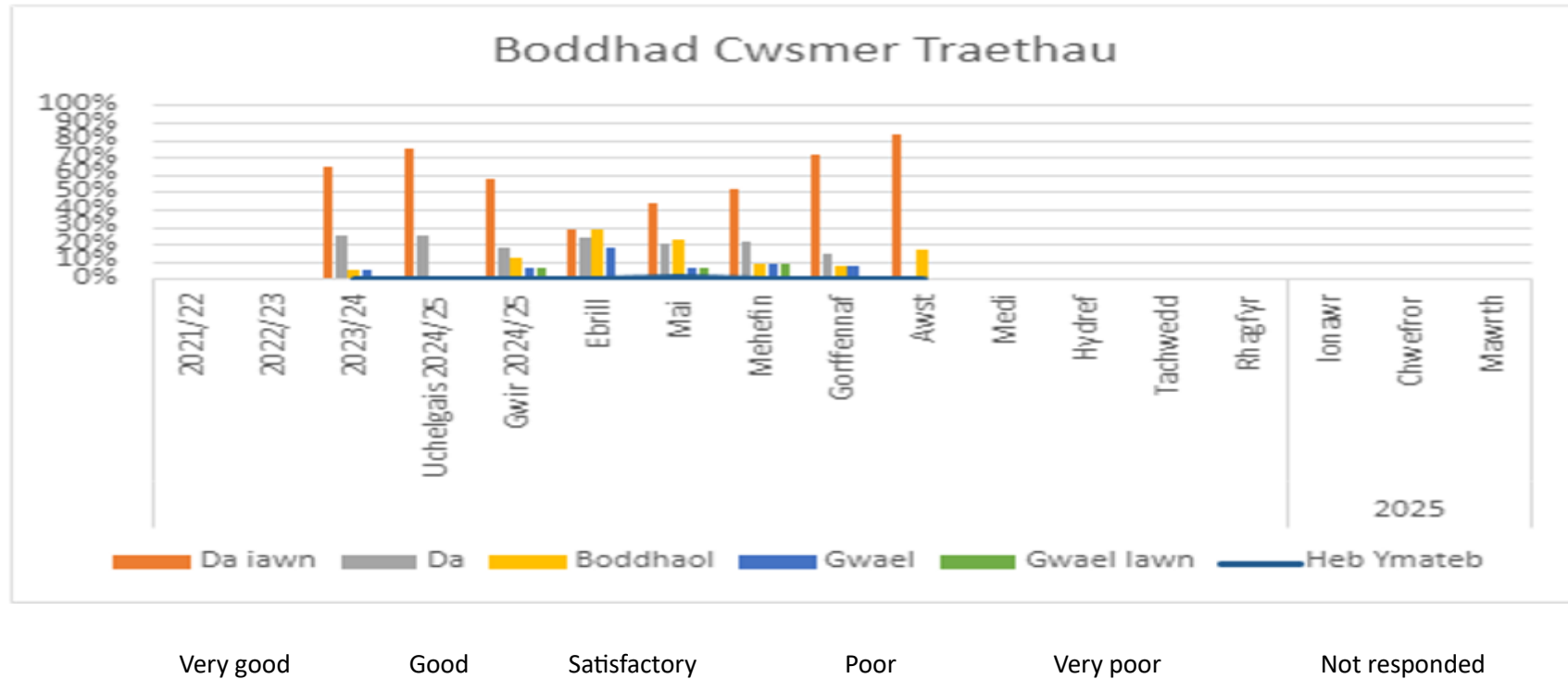


Target 2024/25 / Actual 2024/25

No navigation aids were damaged or lost during the winter months, although many of them had to be re-positioned as navigable channels moved.

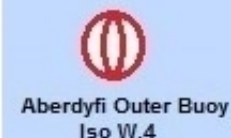
Dashboard 4

Customer Satisfaction – Beaches



76% of the respondents were of the view that their experience of Gwynedd beaches was 'Very Good' (58%) or 'Good' (18%) which is 16% lower than the percentage for the previous period. Many were of the opinion that the beaches are safe and clean, that staff are friendly and helpful and that there are effective management arrangements in operation. Some thought that dog mess, uncontrollable dogs and overflowing bins were a problem at some sites.

Please be advised that the bar is only passable 3 hours either side of high water.



October 2024

Outer Buoy	Lat 52° 32.000'N	Long 004° 05.550'W
Bar Buoy No1	Lat 52° 32.041'N	Long 004° 04.770'W
Bar Buoy No2	Lat 52° 32.101'N	Long 004° 04.770'W
No3 South Spit	Lat 52° 32.172'N	Long 004° 04.440'W
No5	Lat 52° 32.173'N	Long 004° 04.040'W
No7	Lat 52° 32.252'N	Long 004° 03.391'W
YSM 4 Knots	Lat 52° 32.486'N	Long 004° 02.878'W

Page 18

Please contact the Harbour Office on arrival at the Outer Buoy for any updates to this chartlet

Aberdyfi Harbour

Phone 01654 767626

Mobile 07879 433148

VHF Ch 12 & 16

williamstockford@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

NOT FOR NAVIGATION

