

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	28 February 2017
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Maritime and Country Parks Officer

1. Marine Safety Code

- 1.1 The Safety Code is a 'live document' and is regularly reviewed by the Service. It is also necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code as well as observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the activities, aids to navigation, safety and general work at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 No matters or cause for concern have been submitted for the attention of the service during 2016 or the start of 2017 which are linked to the statutory responsibilities and duties of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Service was awaiting an inspection by an inspector from Coastguard Agency in January. However, unfortunately, due to the lack of capacity the inspection did not take place and the Service expects to re-organise this. It is anticipated that the inspection will take place in September 2017.

2. Operational Issues

2.1 Navigation

- 2.1.1 A detailed inspection will be conducted by Trinity House Lighthouse Authority inspectors on the 2nd August 2017. Due to recent investments it is anticipated that the report will confirm the continuation in the improvement of the condition and stations of Aberdyfi Harbour Aids to Navigation.
- 2.1.2 Navigation Aid N-02909, namely Tywyn seawall navigation aid, continues to need attention as it is not on the appropriate station. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather and the need for a low ebb tide and favourable weather the work has not been completed thus far. It is envisaged that it will be re-located as soon as possible before Easter.
- 2.1.3 The Navigational Aids maintenance work programme has been completed in accordance with the agreement, instruction and guidance of the Consultative Committee. An update of the current situation will be given to Members by the Harbour Master at the meeting.
- 2.1.4 There is 1 Mariners' Notice in operation in Aberdyfi harbour. The current notice is for Bar Buoy Number 1 (Sandbank) - which is not on station (notice no. 10) Buoy No. 3 is also a little off station and mariners are warned to navigate with care in this area until the aids have been re-located to their correct stations. It is proposed to maintain the existing Fairway Buoy by bringing the existing buoy to shore for maintenance by the staff. The Service has commissioned a contractor to undertake this work and have instructed that the work is undertaken at the first possible opportunity.

2.2 Maintenance

- 2.2.1 At the meeting the Harbour Master will present the maintenance arrangements and work programme for the key elements of the Harbour.

2.2.2 The Harbour Master will also submit a maintenance work programme to be undertaken at Aberdyfi Harbour during the January - March 2017 period, and will provide an outline of the work programme to be undertaken in October - December 2017. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

2.3 **Staffing Matters**

2.3.1 The employment period of the Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant (seasonal) ended on the 30th September 2016. As was reported, the employment contract was extended up until 31 December, 2016. In order to ensure the continuation of the service and the completion of key work the posts have been extended up until the end of March 2017 with a three days a week arrangement, namely Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

2.3.2 Both harbour assistants will be part of the wider team within the Maritime and Country Parks Service and will support and enable the Service to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Aberdyfi, Porthmadog and Barmouth harbours over the Winter months. The posts will return to be full-time from the 1st of April 2017 up until 30 September 2017.

2.3.3 As reported in the March 2016 Harbour Committee, a Beach Supervisor was not appointed in Aberdyfi in 2016. Despite the cut in the Service budget and because of how busy the Beach is, it is proposed to appoint a Beach Assistant for Aberdyfi in 2017. Although the Beach Assistant will be appointed no application will be submitted for a Beach Award for Aberdyfi Beach in the future.

2.3.4 During the next few weeks the Service, jointly with the Lifeboat, will undertake a review of the safety signage at the Aberdyfi Harbour and beach and on Tywyn Beach. The Service will respond to the recommendations of the review and it is anticipated that any new sign will contribute to safety on this section of the Gwynedd coast.

2.4 Aberdyfi bathing water quality continues to be monitored regularly by Natural Resources Wales, and as part of a wider scheme the Bathing Water at 'Cemetery Beach' is also tested by Natural Resources Wales.

2.5 **Other matters**

2.5.1 **Quay Wall** An update of the current situation regarding the plans and latest developments regarding the Quay Wall will be presented to Members at the meeting.

2.5.2 **Common Land / Storage, Waste** Concern continues regarding illegal dumping of waste on land under the Council's responsibility near the Golf Club. Although the Service aims to commission a contractor to undertake waste clearance work and this should be undertaken before the end of March 2017, it has to be reported to Committee that there will be a delay in the work. This is due to the lack of local contractors to undertake the work. The service continues to aim to complete the Work prior to the start of the 2017 Summer season. Unfortunately, 'asbestos' type waste has been disposed of on the land and this entails that site clearance costs will be high.

2.5.3 As reported to Committee in October it is vitally important that individuals with fishing tackle on the site ensure that all their equipment is tidy and stored correctly. Any fishing equipment will be disposed of if the Service is of the view that equipment is stored incorrectly and unused. It is

stressed once again that the Fisheries Association representative and other representatives should ensure that a clear message regarding this intention is given without delay to the fishermen. Thus far, no attempt has been made by the fishermen to clear materials or to store equipment tidily on the site.

- 2.5.4 Once the work is completed the Service will arrange to install a security fence on the site to prevent unauthorised access.
- 2.5.5 **Sand Removal - 2017** Sand removal work from part of the beach near the slipway will commence at the start of March 2017. The work period will be dependent on the quantity of sand that has accumulated in the area.
- 2.5.6 In order to try and prevent sand from blowing off the beach Harbour staff have constructed a fence at the promenade side. This fence will be removed before Easter and re-installed at the start of October.

3. Financial Matters

- 3.1 A summary of the Harbour budget is attached reporting on the current financial position.
- 3.2 During this period, it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following: -
- Maintenance and purchasing of Navigation Aids and Lights
 - Maintenance of equipment and furniture.
 - Maintenance of boat and boat trailer
 - Extending staff employment periods.
 - Grounds Maintenance.
 - New engines Aberdyfi Harbour Patrol Boat (a little delay - project before end of April 2017)
- 3.3 Budgets are monitored monthly and a Second Quarter Review was conducted during the first week of October. The appendix is a reflection of the second quarter review.
- 3.4 **Fees and Charges 2017/18** Attached is a spreadsheet for Aberdyfi Harbour proposed fees in 2017 that has already been submitted to the Harbour Committee requesting comments. It is confirmed that the inflation rate of Gwynedd Harbours for 2017/18 will be 1.85%. In order to meet with the budget challenge and the service's income target it was suggested that Aberdyfi harbour fees are increased by 2% on average for the 2017/18 financial year. There will be an increase in the fee of mooring commercial boats of 6% in Aberdyfi and Barmouth Harbours.
- 3.5 In 2017 the Council will need to add a fee for each mooring in each Harbour under the Council's management. The fee has been added by the Crown Estate who claim £25.00 from each individual with a mooring in the harbour. It is a requirement that the Council, as the Harbour Authority, charges and collects this fee on behalf of the Crown Estate. There is no VAT attached to the additional fee. The additional fee is also payable for visitor moorings and this payment will need to be funded via the Harbour budget.
- 3.6 It was stressed that only a draft had been submitted before Members thus far, and the fees were subject to the receipt of confirmation from the Portfolio Leader before the end of March 2017. All Harbour customers have received a copy of the proposed fees and an application form for a mooring for 2017/18.