

MEETING	Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	23 October 2018
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 Barmouth 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 2018 to October 2018, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour at Barmouth.

2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration

- 2.1 In 2018/19 figures for on moorings in the Harbour were as follows:-
- 2.2 There has been 72 boats on annual moorings in 2018. This compares with 86 in 2017 and 88 in 2016. The decrease in the number of vessels present in the harbour is disappointing but cannot be attributed to any single factor. Persons moving away from the area, individuals retiring from owning vessels and vessels required to be removed by the Harbour Authority from the harbour on safety grounds have been factors. It is also accepted that we are currently living in what is an unstable and uncertain economic climate.
- 2.3 It has however been encouraging to receive a number of enquiries at the Harbour office regarding the availability of moorings for next season from new customers and the 'trot' Moorings opposite the harbour office remain fully occupied.
- 2.4 On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been a decrease in the number of customers over the past year in all harbours.
- 2.5 There were 1066 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2018 compared to 955 registered in 2017. 75 Boats were registered at Barmouth Harbour compared to 66 last year.
- 2.6 There were 924 Personal watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2018. This is an increase of 186 craft on the previous year 2017 when 738 were registered.
- 2.7 There were 74 Personal watercraft registered at Barmouth Harbour compared to 68 the previous year.

3. Port Marine Safety Code

- 3.1.1 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. It is necessary for the Service 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, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Barmouth Harbour.

- 3.1.2 Between the 19th and 21st September 2017, a thorough inspection was carried out by auditors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the existing safety arrangements and systems of Gwynedd Municipal Harbours in order to ensure compliance with the Port marine Safety Code.
- 3.1.3 Following the review undertaken the Service received a report pursuant to the inspection by the external examiners which was provided to the Consultative Committee last March.
- 3.1.4 As previously reported the examiners were of the opinion that the Service generally complied with the requirements of the code, but suggested enhancements to improve the Service compliance particularly with regard to the nominated Duty Holder and Designated Person.
- 3.1.5 As a consequence of the suggested enhancements, the independently elected Cabinet of Gwynedd Councillors, both individually and as a whole, are to be appointed as the required 'Duty Holder' of the Service and Capt M.Forbes the current Harbourmaster at Conwy is to be appointed as the required and suitably qualified 'Designated Person'.
- 3.1.6 Although the Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours is regularly reviewed by the Service, Members of the Consultative Committee are reminded of their duty to submit observations on the suitability of the Safety Code and to receive observations on the work arrangements of the harbours, so that the safety Code can be reviewed to ensure that it is relevant to harbour operations, local propriety.
- 3.1.7 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspectors were due to revisit the service this October as a follow up to the review held last year, and provide a presentation before the Harbour Consultative Committee at Porthmadog about the Port Marine Safety Code during their visit. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to defer their intended visit, which will now take place in March next year to coincide with the Committee meeting at Porthmadog, when the inspectors will then provide a presentation to that Committee.
- 3.1.8 Members of all the Gwynedd harbour Consultative Committees are invited to attend the presentation to be provided by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in March next year.

4. Staffing Matters

- 4.3.1 The employment period of the Barmouth Harbour Assistant (seasonal) ended on the 30th September 2018. The service wish to acknowledge the contribution made by Mr Myles Reed for his work undertaken at the harbour.
- 4.3.2 The work contract of the seasonal Harbour assistant at Porthmadog has been extended to three days a week, on a month by month basis and will be part of the wider team within the Maritime and Country Parks Service, supporting and enabling the service to respond to incidents and to complete the maintenance programmes across the Harbours of Barmouth, Porthmadog and Aberdyfi

4.3.3 The Maritime Service has seven full-time members of staff and one who works part-time (administration). There are nine staff members at Hafan Marina. The Service has experienced a busy summer period this year and seen an increase in work related abuse and violence, with a member of seasonal staff working at Morfa Bychan physically assaulted.

4.3.4 Dependent upon financial and budgetary restrictions the Service are looking at the possibility of employing a full time harbour assistant to work across the harbours of Barmouth, Aberdyfi and Porthmadog. The harbour assistant post at Barmouth will otherwise return to a full-time basis on the 1st April 2019

5. Financial Matters

5.1 A brief summary of the harbours budgets and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter is attached.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following:-

- Maintenance of Navigation Aids and Beacons
- Maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance of harbour patrol vessel
- Maintenance of lands and benches.
- Maintenance of harbour Ladders

5.3 **Fees and Charges 2018/19.** With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2019/20, it is the intention of the service to adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the service is yet to receive confirmation of the rates to be applied.

6.0 **Harbourmaster's Report.** The Harbourmaster at Barmouth will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March – September 2018 inclusive, including maintenance issues and events that occurred during the relevant period. A copy of his report is attached.