

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>06 March 2019</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Harbourmasters Report</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>M.Humphreys Porthmadog Harbourmaster</b>

## **H 1 Navigational Issues**

The navigational aids within the channel on the approach to Porthmadog Harbour have been subject to continued maintenance, with further work yet to be completed.

- 1.1 Subject to the approval of Trinity House, the starboard aids to navigation No 1 and No 3 buoys are to be commissioned into service to assist mariners in negotiating the sand bar at the entrance to the Porthmadog channel.
- 1.2 Amendments will accordingly be made to the positions of the port aids to navigation No 2 and No 4 buoys to align with the newly commissioned starboard hand marks following approval.
- 1.3 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft in excess of 1.5 metres. Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach, to obtain the latest navigational information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.
- 1.4 As previously reported, the Service are looking to purchase a new Safe Water Mark to allow replacement and refurbishment of the existing buoy. A buoy manufactured by the firm of 'Sealite' at a cost £4100 plus delivery charges has been identified as being suitable. It is further hoped to replace the Starboard aid to navigation No 17 buoy with new buoy of a similar size and nature to those present in the channel near Borth-Y-Gest.
- 1.5 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Porthmadog Harbour.
  - 1.5.1 Notice to Mariners number 21/18 – The Port aid to navigation No 6 Buoy is currently not on station and is awaiting deployment.
  - 1.5.2 Notice to Mariners number 22/18 the Port aid to navigation Bar Buoy No 2 is not on station and awaiting deployment.
- 1.6 The Service advises that all navigational marks will be on station and fully operational as soon as practically possible, dependent upon staffing commitments in association with existing, weather and tidal conditions.

## **H 2 Operational Issues**

- 2.1 Throughout the winter period vessel movements in the harbour and channel approaches have been limited. It is anticipated that those vessels currently ashore in the boatyards will gradually be returned to the water as the Easter period arrives. From the number of enquiries made at the harbour office over the winter period for the availability of moorings, the service is hopeful of a busy forthcoming season.
- 2.2 Plans to extend the existing pontoon structure in the harbour are progressing following approval, and it is hoped an update will be provided at the meeting from the representative for Leisure interests.

## **H 3 Maintenance**

- 3.1 Maintenance of the moorings will be carried out following an underwater inspection to enable the mooring contractor to replace any worn equipment. It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken before the Easter period. The service is yet to receive a price for the inspection work to be undertaken.
- 3.2 A new section of metal fencing and an associated gate access has been installed between the harbour office and the rear of the Canolfan, with tarmac work yet to be completed around the base of the new posts. Administrators of the Canolfan are aware of the developments.
- 3.3 Benches around the harbour environment have been 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.
- 3.4 During inclement weather the harbourmaster has been able to undertake administration procedures including risk assessment processes of identified hazards around the harbour environment.

## **H 4 Other Matters**

- 4.1 **Borth-Y-Gest.** Work on the sea defence wall has been completed. Concrete plinths have been installed around the front of the car park overlooking the bay, to receive benches which are yet to be put in position. It is hoped to complete this work before the end of March.
  - 4.1.1 It is hoped to install a dinghy rack overlooking the car park in Borth-Y-Gest in an effort to tidy the grassed area where numerous vessels are currently stored. Relevant notices will be placed upon vessels in that area. During the process, unseaworthy vessels and rusted trailers will be removed. The Service is mindful that such a measure will be unpopular with a number of residents

4.3 **RNLI Safety signage.** Proofs of the RNLI safety signs to be erected in the area of Morfa Bychan have been received and checked. The signs are expected to be in place before the Easter period.

4.4 The Service has received the benefit of participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, who have assisted harbour staff in cleaning the harbour environment at Porthmadog, and also at Criccieth promenade over the winter period. It is reassuring to see such activities taking place in the community. A number of beach cleaning events in the area have also taken place over the winter period, supported by equipment provided by the Service. The Service is grateful to all those individuals who participate in such activity

#### H5 **Events**

5.1 At this time the Service has been notified of a 'Moveable Feast' event proposed to take place at Porthmadog Harbour on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

5.2 It is anticipated that the service will receive further notifications within the next month regarding other proposed events or activities within the harbour environment particularly those normally held on annual basis.