

MEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	19 March 2019
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Maritime and Country Parks Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 17 October 2017 a report was submitted confirming the Harbour Consultative Committee's Terms of Reference. The constitution (copy attached) confirms the Membership Structure of the Consultative Committees and departure from the constitution is unavoidable.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the Committee's main function would be to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and for officers to receive Members' observations on matters relating to Pwllheli Harbour in its entirety.
- 1.3 In 2014, the Council's Cabinet resolved to support the Consultative Committees and it was confirmed that the Pwllheli, Aberdyfi, and Barmouth Harbour Committees would consist of:
- - Up to 4 Local Members from Gwynedd Council
 - The Gwynedd Council Cabinet Member who holds the Harbour Authority portfolio
 - One Member of the Town/Community Council
 - Up to seven other members to represent the various interests of harbour users

The Council recently corresponded with every harbour organisation representative named above, reminding them of the need for organisations to nominate a representative for the coming year, and send a copy of the constitution and minutes of the annual meeting of the relevant groups. It will be essential for the information to be submitted to the Council where relevant.

The list of current Members is noted on the agenda.

2 Port Marine Safety Code

- 2.1 The Consultative Committees asked that an item on the Safety Code be a standing item on the agenda of every meeting of the Consultative Committees. As a reminder, in November 2016, the Government's Department for Transport published revisions to the Port Marine Safety Code. Copies of the new code have been circulated to all Members of the Consultative Committees and copies can also be obtained on the MCA's website. The Maritime and Country Parks Service reviews the Safety Code for Gwynedd municipal harbours regularly to ensure that all safety systems in our harbours comply with the requirements of the code and our customers' expectations and to Health and Safety requirements.
- 2.2 The Government's Department for Transport has reviewed and published 'A Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations' which is linked to the Marine Safety Code and a copy of this document is available to Members upon request to the Maritime and Country Parks service.

- 2.3 Between 19 and 21 September 2017, and more recently on 5 and 6 March 2019, a thorough inspection was carried out by the Coastguard Agency's Chief Inspectors on the current safety arrangements and systems of Gwynedd municipal harbours in order to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. The visit was a follow-up of the September 2017 visit as, during the previous visit, some elements of the Code required further attention.
- 2.4 The Auditor's verbal opinion was that the Council complied with the requirements in a professional and organised way. It was noted that the Council could introduce minor improvements to some elements. A copy of the written report would be published once the Inspectors have released their report. During the inspection the Inspectors visited the harbours of Aberdyfi, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. It was confirmed that the Inspectors would not revisit Gwynedd harbours in the near future unless the Council invited them, or in a serious case which justified higher inspections.
- 2.5 The Inspectors attended a meeting of the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee, to which representatives from the Aberdyfi, Barmouth, and Pwllheli Consultative Committees were invited. One member of Barmouth Harbour and one member of Pwllheli Harbour were in attendance. The presentation given by the Inspectors would allow Members to receive information from the Inspectors about the main issues of the Safety Code and the expectation on the Council to comply with the Safety Code.
- 2.6 It is emphasised that no improvement notice was issued relating to serious safety issues or shortcomings at the harbour. They noted that there was an opportunity to tidy-up the area around Aberdyfi harbour quay as effects and ropes had been left on the quay in a way that could pose a risk. No observations were submitted on safety standards in Pwllheli or Porthmadog. An observation was submitted regarding the lack of width and depth to the navigation channel in Pwllheli harbour.
- 2.7 Although the Port Marine Safety Code is regularly reviewed by the service, it is necessary to remind Members of the Consultative Committees of their duty to submit any observations on the suitability of the Safety Code and to receive observations on the work arrangements of the harbours so that the Code can be reviewed to ensure that it is relevant to harbour operations, the propriety of the location of navigation aids, general safety and the day-to-day work of the harbour.
- 2.8 No issue or cause of concern had been submitted for the attention of the service from Members of the Harbour Committee in 2018 associated with the Harbour's statutory responsibilities and duties.

3 Financial Matters

- 3.2 A summary of the Harbour and Hafan's budgets and current financial situation up to the end of the February 2019 period would be presented at the meeting.
- 3.3 During this period, it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following: -
- Dredging elements
 - Maintenance of Navigation Aids and Beacons
 - Maintenance of Council moorings
 - Disposing of Flares

- Oil Pollution Training for Members
- Maintenance of CCTV system

4 Fees and Charges 2019/2020

4.1 The prospective figures spreadsheet for Pwllheli Harbour and Hafan is attached. The Boat and Personal Water Craft launching fees for 2019 spreadsheet is also attached. Inflation for Harbours for 2019/20 is anticipated to be at 3.52% with inflation for Hafan at 3.07%. Inflation for the Outer Harbour would be 3.65%.

4.2 In order to meet with the budget challenge and the service's income target it was recommended that Pwllheli Harbour and Hafan fees be increased by 3% on average for the 2019/20 financial year. There would be no increase in the berthing fees of the Outer Harbour. This means that the Hafan's income target would increase by £38,980 with the outer harbour's target income increasing by £1,870 for 2019/20.

4.3 The Maritime and Country Parks inflation increase for 2018/19 is as follows: -

- Beaches - 4.23%
- Hafan - 3.07%
- Harbours - 3.52%
- Victoria Dock - 2.70%
- Parc Padarn - 4.6%
- Parc Glynllifon - 5.07%

5 Events

5.2 A verbal report on Plas Heli's main events during 2018 by a representative from the Plas Heli/Pwllheli Sailing Club was welcomed.

6 Dredging

6.1 **Crib Breakwater** - work continues on preparing detailed designs for the Crib Groyne. It is anticipated that detailed plans will be completed by mid March 2019. The initial estimated costs submitted anticipate that the costs of renovating the groyne would be approximately £200K. The necessary work to submit a Marine Licence has been completed and the application submitted to Natural Resources Wales. The outcome of the application is expected before June 2019. The consultative period is four months. It was vital that the Council submit an application for a Marine Licence as the footprint of the groyne extends beyond the existing groin. Once the detailed plans have been completed the Council will advertise the work and will invite tenders by qualified contractors. It is not anticipated that the work of renovating the groyne will affect navigation in the Harbour. It is anticipated that work on renovating the groyne will commence in September 2019.

6.2 **Distillation Lagoon** - the distillation lagoon has been drained. The work was completed in December 2018 and January 2019. There was a total of 4,000 cubic metres in the lagoon and the cost of the work was 58K. The capacity of the distillation lagoon is 20,000 cubic metres.

6.3 **Hydrographic Survey** - On 8 March 2019, a specialist company held a hydrographic survey of the Harbour and Navigation Channel. The Council will release the results of the survey to Members once they have been received. During the most recent survey, it was estimated that

there was 37,000 cubic metres of mud in the navigation channel and the marina basin/Plas Heli basin.

- 6.4 ***Dredging Work*** - 'Royal Smals' company has been appointed to undertake the dredging work in the navigation channel and in the Hafan/Plas Heli basin. It was anticipated that the company had begun to prepare for the work on 17 March 2019 and that work would continue until 23 May 2019. The Service has identified areas in the Harbour that need prioritisation and the company will concentrate on these areas. The company would not be dredging during the Easter Holiday or during the May Bank Holiday period. Work is prohibited on Sundays. The work will cost approximately £130K.
- 6.5 ***Sand Mound*** - the area of the sand mound near the mouth of the Harbour is full and it is not possible to undertake any dredging work using land based plant until the sand and gravel have been removed and relocated to nearby beaches. There are approximately 33,000 cubic metres of sand in the mound.
The Council is in discussions with Natural Resources Wales to consider the possible options. Recently, samples of the matter were sent to a specialist company to identify whether there was any pollution in the sand. Unfortunately, the results of the tests have shown high levels of hydrocarbon in the material and the sand cannot therefore be disposed of at nearby beaches, until further samples have been taken confirming whether the sand is polluted or not. Further samples have been collected and sent to the company. A report on the results of these tests are expected soon.