

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	9th October 2019
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 Porthmadog 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 2019 to October 2019, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 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. The order provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee. A comprehensive list of the groups and organisations represented on the Harbour committee can be seen in the Harbour Order.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In 2019/20 figures for on moorings in the Harbour were as follows:-
- 2.2 There has been 128 boats on annual moorings in 2019. This compares with 131 in 2018 and 135 in 2017. It is apparent that this figure has remained relatively consistent over the last three years
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 There were 887 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2019. 33 Boats were registered at Porthmadog Harbour compared 38 in 2018.
- 2.5 There were 30 Power boats registered at Morfa Bychan in 2019
- 2.6 There were 844 Personal watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2019.
- 2.7 There were 55 Personal watercraft registered at Porthmadog harbour and 184 registered at Morfa Bychan compared to 200 the previous year.
- 2.8 Copies of all data relating to occupancy and registration is appended.

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 Porthmadog Harbour.

- 3.1.2 Between the 19th and 21st September 2017, a thorough inspection was carried out by Capt Forkanul Quader and Capt David Turner as 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. Upon inspection, the Service were advised of enhancements that could be made to existing systems within its safety management system to assist in compliance with the provisions of the Code.
- 3.1.3 As a follow up to that initial inspection, during the period 4th – 6th March 2019, the Service received a further visit from Capt Forkanul Quader to see how the suggested enhancements had been implemented. Upon examination, Capt Quader advised that he was satisfied the Service were in compliance with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code and he subsequently made a presentation before the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee to explain the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code and confirm his findings.
- 3.1.4 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.

4. Staffing Matters.

The Harbour Authority is pleased to inform the Consultative Committee that Mr Richard Hughes has been appointed as the full time Assistant Harbourmaster based at Porthmadog Harbour, to assist the Harbourmaster with his duties and responsibilities. Mr Hughes, who lives in Llanbedrog, previously held the position of Principal Powerboat Instructor at the 'Plas Heli' sailing academy at Pwllheli harbour. As and when required, Mr Hughes will also be assisting with work in the harbours of Barmouth and Aberdyfi.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbours budgets and current financial situation up to the end of September 2019 will be distributed at the meeting.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
- The employment of a full time Harbour Assistant
 - Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
 - Maintenance of grounds and street furniture
 - Purchase of safety signs for Borth y Gest
 - Y Dwyfor vessel. Investment to maintain the boat in order to meet the Code of Practice requirements and maintain lifting apparatus. The vessel is permanently located at Porthmadog harbour to facilitate the movement of navigation aids in the Porthmadog Channel.

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2019/20.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2020/21, 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.

A draft of the proposed fees and charges will be distributed at the meeting.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2019 - October 2019 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.