

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	9th October 2019
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	M.Humphreys Porthmadog Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the navigable channel into the harbour has generally remained constant over the summer period with occasional sandbank growth leading to one or two minor adjustments of the navigational marks, particularly in the area near Borth-Y-Gest.
- 1.2 The starboard aids to navigation No 1 and No 3 buoys were commissioned into service to assist mariners in negotiating the sand bar at the entrance to the Porthmadog channel. It is anticipated that additional buoyage will be required in the channel in preparation for the start of next season, dependent upon the movement of the sandbanks within the estuary.
- 1.3 The 'Fairway' Buoy will require refurbishment over the winter period and subject to Trinity House approval, it will be removed from the channel for this purpose. Once completed the buoy will be returned to the water as soon as possible subject to weather conditions and the availability of a mooring contractor. The future purchase of a new safe water mark ('Fairway' Buoy) remains as an option for the Service.
- 1.4 The navigational aids within the channel on the approach to Porthmadog Harbour have been subject to maintenance with extensive work yet to be undertaken to refurbish a number of the channel buoys. This will form part of the harbourmaster's winter work programme.
- 1.5 There is currently two (2) Local Notice to Mariners in force for the Harbour of Porthmadog.
 - 1.5.1 Local Notice to Mariners 12/19. The Port aid to Navigation No 8 Buoy at position 52°53.506' N 004°09.786'W is currently off station.
 - 1.5.2 Local Notice to Mariners 13/19. An unlit temporary port aid to navigation has been placed at position 52°54.571' N 004° 08.699' W to assist mariners in negotiating a spit of sand that had encroached into the navigable channel
- 1.6 The Service is to receive its annual inspection of the Navigational Aids within the Harbour and channel approach by Trinity House staff between 14th-16th October. The service will receive a report on their findings thereafter.
- 1.7 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.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The vessel Dwyfor has been subject to maintenance to ensure that it complied with the required workboat code and lifting apparatus regulations. In particular the vessel required engine maintenance following a hydraulic pump failure at a total cost to the Service of £2250.00. This caused the vessel to be out of service for a period of time due to the availability of spare parts with due consideration to the age of the vessel and its operating equipment.
- 2.2 A twenty four metre (24 m) extension to the existing pontoon structure owned and managed by the Madog Yacht Club has been installed in the harbour, providing extra berthing facilities for club members and visitors alike.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Inspection and Maintenance of the moorings in the harbour was carried out at the beginning of the season to enable the mooring contractor to replace any worn equipment. In total ten (10) riser chains were found to be in need of replacement together with a number of mooring buoys which were also replaced at a cost to the Service of £1560
- 3.2 Tarmac work has now been completed on the approach to the harbour frontage from the car park area located adjacent to Lombard Street. Tarmac work around the bases of new posts forming part of metal fencing and an associated gate access between the harbour office and the rear of the Canolfan has also been completed.
- 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 and at Borth –Y-Gest, but there is only limited space available. A review of the matter is currently being undertaken by the Service and in consequence no further requests are being considered at this time.
- 3.4 The harbour grounds have continued to be subject to litter removal together with maintenance of the grass verges and hedges. With the agreement of members of the Canolfan, harbour staff now undertake the maintenance of the grass verge bordering the harbour walkway adjacent to the harbour-side wall of the Canolfan. The harbour slipway has also been subject to regular maintenance.
- 3.5 The harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Porthmadog harbour during the period October 2019 – February 2019. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Borth-Y-Gest.** Concrete plinths have been installed near the front of the car park overlooking the bay and benches have now been put in position to provide seating for persons wishing to rest and enjoy the environment.

- 4.1.1 The Service remains committed to tidy the grassed area at the end of the car park where numerous vessels are currently stored despite local opposition. During the process, unseaworthy vessels and rusted trailers will be removed. It is now finally hoped to complete this work over the forthcoming winter period.
- 4.2 **RNLI Safety signage.** RNLI safety signs were erected in the area of Morfa Bychan to enhance safety measures. Proofs for additional RNLI safety signs have now been received, which are ultimately to be erected in the area of Borth-Y-Gest.
- 4.3 The Service has received the benefit of work experience personnel over the summer period who have assisted harbour staff in cleaning the harbour environment at Porthmadog. The Service is also grateful for the help received from local groups and individuals who have undertaken beach cleaning activities on the nearby beach of Black Rock Sands.
- 4.4 **Harbour Byelaws.** The Service continues to work towards updating the Porthmadog Byelaws in association with the Legal department of Gwynedd Council.

H5 Events

- 5.1 The following events were held at Porthmadog Harbour in 2019.
- Moveable Feast Event
 - Events and activities undertaken by the Madog Yacht Club including a Celtic Longboat Rowing Race Between Porthmadog and Pwllheli and a charity event in support of the RNLI.
 - Motorcycle Event
 - Once again a number of film and television companies visited the area surrounding the harbour and nearby Black Rock Sands