

MEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	15 October 2019
TITLE	Update on Safety Code and Dredging Matters
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1 Ports Marine Safety Code

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. In November 2016, the Department for Transport published revisions to the Port Marine Safety Code. 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 with Health and Safety requirements.

Between 5 and 6 March 2019, the Coastguard Agency's Chief Inspectors carried out a thorough inspection of harbour safety systems. This meant thorough scrutiny of safety arrangements and systems in force at Gwynedd's municipal harbours. This is to ensure the Council's full compliance with the Ports Safety Code.

The Inspector has confirmed that the Council conforms to the requirements in a professional and orderly manner. A written report has been published and has already been circulated.

It is emphasised that no improvement notice was issued relating to serious safety issues or shortcomings at the harbours during 2019. In 2019, to date, Members of the Pwllheli Consultative Committee have not submitted any matters of concern.

Although the service regularly reviews the Ports Safety Code, it is inevitable that we have to remind Members of the Consultative Committee of their duty to submit observations on the suitability of the Safety Code and to receive observations on the work arrangements of the harbours. This is so that the Safety Code can be reviewed to ensure that it is relevant to harbour operations; to the propriety of the location of navigational aids, to general safety and to the day-to-day work of the harbour.

2 Dredging

Crib Breakwater - the work of preparing detailed designs for the Crib Groyne has been completed. The work has been advertised and the tenders submitted by companies have also been assessed.

The successful company was Jennings Building and Civil Engineering, following the submission of a price estimate of £225k to complete the work.

The application for a Marine Licence has already been submitted to Natural Resources Wales. Although we expected the result of this application on the 27 June 2019, there has unfortunately been considerable slippage and the licence has not yet been released.

The delay in the process of releasing the Marine Licence is due to concerns Natural Resources Wales has regarding the scheme.

The Council was required to submit an application for a Marine Licence as the footprint of the groyne extended beyond the existing groin. Natural Resources Wales is concerned about the environmental loss, as the footprint of the new groyne is 300 square metres larger than that of the existing groyne. This equates to less than 0.05% of the Special Area of Conservation feature. As it is understood, Natural Resources Wales policy requires a 0% loss of environmental features.

Natural Resources Wales has requested that the Council consider possible amendments to the groyne's design so as to avoid environmental loss. Re-design of the groyne would cause significant delays and costs to the Council. We sincerely hope that it will be possible to create an alternative habitat around the new groyne by looking at its design, and that this will be possible without having to face substantial costs.

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.

Distillation Lagoon - the distillation lagoon was emptied before the dredging and maintenance work commenced, and the work was completed at the end of January 2019. Around 18,000 cubic metres of material has now been dredged from the harbour basin and channel, and alternative methods of sediment disposal will need to be considered before the next campaign can begin.

Dredging Work The 'Royal Smals' company was appointed to undertake dredging work in the navigation channel and in the Hafan/Plas Heli basin. The work commenced in March 2019 and continued until the end of May 2019. The cost of the work was £140K.

Although the intention had been to 'trial' dredging work with the use of a suction machine, it had not been possible to commence with this work as it meant that the navigation channel would have to be closed at times while the dredger was at work in the channel. As the season had been busy, it was decided that this would not be trialled in 2019. Natural Resources Wales had given permission for the Council to dispose of sand on the far side of the main sea wall, as long as the sand was deposited above the high tide line.

It is a pleasure to note that this work has been extremely successful, and that it has not impacted upon the harbour's operations in any way.

During September, work was completed to dredge the area near the harbour entrance using land based plant. It is estimated that around 10,000 cubic metres of sand was dredged during the recent campaign. A further campaign is intended for March/April 2020.

Sand Mound - The sand mound near the mouth of the Harbour is almost at capacity. It is anticipated that it will be impossible to undertake further significant dredging work using land based plant until the sand and gravel have been moved from the site.

The Council is in the process of advertising opportunities for companies to purchase the sand, and the advertisement will appear on the Sell2Wales website during October 2019.