

MEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	15 March 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management and Operational Matters
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Introduction.

The Committees 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 Pwllheli Harbour.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the yearly period ending March 2022, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

The Pwllheli Harbour Committee is a non-statutory Harbour Committee, set up in accordance with Council support approval. The approval provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee. A comprehensive list of the groups and organisations represented on the Harbour committee can be seen in the agenda.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Committee it will be necessary for the representatives of all groups and organisations to provide the Council with evidence of their Constitution and a letter from their organisation confirming the name of their representative. The Aforementioned does not apply to a Town or Community Council.

1.1 Port Marine Safety Code.

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 Pwllheli Harbour.

Following a thorough inspection of the Gwynedd Harbours Port Marine Safety Code and its associated safety management system by examiners from the Maritime and Coastguard agency last year, the Service intend to send a letter of compliance with the code to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This will be completed after an annual external audit of the safety management system has been undertaken.

1.5 Channel Dredging

The delayed dredging campaign of the harbour approach channel was successfully completed in December 2021.

A detailed electronic copy of the post dredge hydrographic chart is available to all members by request.

The 'Stilling Lagoon' is now full to capacity and therefore alternative methods of silt disposal is presently being considered.

No further dredging can be undertaken using the 'Stilling Lagoon' until a viable solution is identified.

The next dredging campaign for the marina basin could be undertaken towards the end of 2022 if depths within the basin dictate that dredging is required.

The harbour entrance will be dredged during May 2022. Approximately 11,000 tonnes of sand has been removed from the stockpile for beach replenishment at Hafan y Mor. This work has created additional capacity at the stockpile area in preparation for the May 2022 campaign.

1.6 Financial Matters.

A brief summary of the Outer Harbour and Hafan Marina budget and current financial situation will be presented to members at the meeting.

During the Autumn and Winter period, it was necessary to commit financial resources towards the following areas of work: -

- New engine and gearbox for the Harbour launch
- New pontoon access gate
- New Security System for Showers and Toilets
- Maintenance of facilities-toilets showers
- New Bicycle Shelter
- Upgrade to the marina WI-FI system and connection
- Harbour Dredging

1.7 Fees and Charges 2022/23

A copy of the fees and charges relative to Hafan Pwllheli and the Outer Harbour of Pwllheli is appended.

At the time of writing, the fees had not been confirmed by statutory officers and therefore the fees, as noted in the attachment, may change.

The fees and charges relating to the mooring of vessels in the Outer Harbour will rise in line with inflation which has been confirmed as 4%.

It has been recommended that the fees and charges relating to the mooring of a vessel on a pontoon berth at Hafan marina are not increased in 2022/23. It has been recommended that all other fees are raised by the inflation rate with exception of the fee for the storage of a vessel ashore for those customers who do not have an annual berth at the marina.

The fee for use of the Hafan slipway will also rise above inflation.

A copy of the inflation rate relative to the Maritime Unit is also appended. We encourage members to study the document and ensure that they are familiar with all the recommended increase proposals.

1.9 Operational Items

Navigation - All Aids to Navigation within Pwllheli Harbour are working and on station. There are no Notices to Mariners currently in operation in Pwllheli Harbour.

Fuel Quay – A new fuel pump for the fuel quay has been ordered and we anticipate delivery in May/June 2022. The access bridge to the Fuel Quay will require replacing in the new financial year

(commencing 1st April). The current Fuel Quay ramp is badly corroded and we will order the replacement as soon as possible after this date.

Diesel Fuel – We have been notified by HMRC that from as of April 2022 all land-based machinery will be required to use white diesel only. White diesel is presently used in the service's tractor. There will be a requirement to procure, install and store white diesel on the marina site in order to comply with HMRC requirements.

This new requirement does not apply to marine vessels. Such vessels will still be able to purchase red diesel on the Hafan fuel quay using the usual 60/40 recommended HMRC split.

Hafan Slipway and Power Vessel Registration - The Harbour Authority wish to remind all the Park and Launch companies that they must ensure that all vessels being launched on its slipway are registered for the current year of 2022/23. This process is quick and easily completed on line and the registrations permits can then be collected from the Hafan office.

We would remind the Committee of our statement made at the autumn 2021 meeting which was as follows: -

It was of concern and disappointment that we reported to the Committee that authorised Park and Launch companies using the Hafan slipway were not ensuring that vessels being launched by Park and Launch companies were duly registered in accordance with Council and harbour requirements.

On several occasions Park and Launch companies were challenged by maritime officers and were reminded of this requirement. During the August Bank Holiday weekend of 2021 this lack of ensuring that boats were registered was of greater concern.

The number of vessels being launched had increased significantly in 2021. Numerous vessels were launched on a regular basis without displaying a current and valid registration permit.

Despite being challenged, maritime staff were informed that it was not the duty of the Park and Launch company to ensure compliance. This is completely incorrect.

Given the complete lack of non-compliance stricter measures will be introduced for 2022. This will include additional security in the form of a locked security barrier; increased charges and additional staff being employed to ensure compliance at all times.

As Members will recall the annual charge for commercial use of the Hafan slipway was significantly reduced in 2019 with assurance being given that no vessel would be launched unless registered. This has clearly not been the case.

We urge all companies using the Hafan and Harbour slipway to ensure that they do not attempt to launch any vessel which does not clearly and visibly display a valid registration permit in 2022.

Hardstanding and Berth Holder's Car parking area - Over the years we have seen an increase in the number of boats storing ashore in the Hafan compound long term. Presently we have approx. 25 stored vessels which have not moved in a number of years and are taking up space that could be utilised by annual berth holders.

It has long been recognised that the situation needs to be addressed in order to release much needed space for annual berth holders' winter storage requirements and in the summer, the land can be used as additional berth holder car parking.

It has therefore been proposed that the fee for boat storage price for non-annual berth holders be increased to £1.00 per metre per day inclusive of VAT.

Annual Harbour/Hafan Statistics etc - Details of the Hafan and Harbour statistics for 2021 are included with this report. Annual resident numbers have increased substantially this year with the Hafan close to capacity.

92% of the berths have been taken up by annual residents and enquiries for berths for 2022/3 year are very strong. Boat hoist/storage ashore – The Hafan boat hoist utilisation seems to be steady but as reported at the last Harbour meeting, land space for the storing of vessels ashore is at a premium. This winter the Berth Holders' Association has requested that we give priority to Resident Berth Holders, to which we have agreed.

Harbour Review - Following the Strategic Review of the Harbour and Hafan that was undertaken in 2019/20, the current staffing structure is to be amended in accordance with previous consultations.

As reported to members in the Autumn meeting the new post of Commercial Manager for Hafan and Pwllheli Harbour was created and the post was advertised before the end of 2021.

We are able to report to members that the appointment to the post of Commercial Manager for Hafan and Pwllheli harbour has been confirmed. The new appointee will officially commence in post on the 1st June and commence on site at Hafan Pwllheli on the 6th June 2022.

As support for the harbour, two seasonal Harbour Assistants will be appointed for the coming summer season. These posts have been advertised.