

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	3rd October 2023
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 2023 to October 2023, 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.
- 1.4 The Harbour Committee's of Abermaw, Aberdyfi and Pwllheli were established under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act of 1972.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There have been 106 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Porthmadog in 2023. This compares with 104 boats on moorings in 2022.
- 2.2 There has been a very slight increase in the number of customers over the past year at Porthmadog harbour. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue in 2024. The prevailing economic situation and in particular, the current cost of living, remains a factor in attracting customers to the harbour.
- 2.3 With a small number of exceptions, most of the public wishing to launch powered craft into the waters of the Gwynedd Coast now register their powered craft on-line, through the Cyngor Gwynedd website. Including those registered on paper, 1269 power boats and 1240 personal watercraft were registered in Gwynedd this season.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review process, it

is necessary 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, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Porthmadog Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

The staffing level at the harbour of Porthmadog has remained unchanged since the previous report to the Committee, with the Harbourmaster Mr Malcolm Humphreys supported by the assistant Mr Richard Hughes. During what has been a busy summer, harbour staff have also assisted and worked alongside staff at Barmouth harbour and on the beach at Morfa Bychan.

4.1 The Service is also able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Abermaw and Aberdyfi to assist with any work in the harbour of Porthmadog if required.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided by the Principal Maritime Officer.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Purchase and Maintenance of harbour tools and equipment
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour Powercat patrol vessel
- Maintenance of the vessel 'Dwyfor'. Investment to maintain the boat in order to meet the Code of Practice requirements and maintain lifting apparatus.
- Maintenance of lands and benches

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2024/25.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2024/2025 season, on previous occasions the Service has adjusted fees in line with the prevailing rate of inflation at the time. However, no decision has yet been made with regard to the level of fees to be applied next season.

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2023 - October 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.