

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	1st October 2024
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 2024 to October 2024, 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 109 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Porthmadog in 2024. This compares with 106 boats on moorings in 2023.
- 2.2 As last year, there has been an increase in the number of customers wishing to have a mooring at Porthmadog harbour. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue in 2025.
- 2.3 The majority of the public wishing to register their powered watercraft to use along the Gwynedd coastline now do so on-line, through the Cyngor Gwynedd website. This season 1013 power boats and 1044 personal watercraft were registered. In addition to these figures, 84 power vessels with an engine rated under 10hp were also registered, making a total of 2141 of registrations for the season.
- 2.4 This number of vessel registrations is less than last year when a total of 2509 watercraft were registered. The unseasonal weather we have experienced this year, in association with the existing financial climate, may well be factors in determining the reduction in vessel registrations 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. The Harbourmaster Mr Malcolm Humphreys is supported in his work by the assistant harbourmaster Mr Richard Hughes. Despite the unseasonal weather, the harbour staff have been busy over the summer period. As and when necessary the staff have also assisted staff working 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 Maritime manager.

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. 2025/26.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2025/2026 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 2024 - October 2024 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.