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| Meeting | Porthmadog Harbour Advisory Committee |
| Date: | 30/09/2025 |
| Author: | Senior Harbour Officer |
| Service: | Maritime Service, Economy and Community Department |
| Title: | Update on Service Management matters |

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to harbour management, safety and development, as well as to receive members' comments on matters relating to Porthmadog Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on management issues related to the harbour, and to invite feedback or comments from committee members.

2. REPORTING ON SERVICE MANAGEMENT MATTERS

- 2.1 The summary below is presented in relation to the performance of the service.

Performance Data

- 2.2 The data below is collated as part of the Maritime Service's performance management and monitoring arrangements.

| | 2023/4 | 2024/5 | 2025/6 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mooring Agreements | | | |
| Porthmadog | 106 | 109 | 106 |
| Barmouth | 71 | 78 | 81 |
| Aberdyfi | 73 | 79 | 83 |

- 2.3 As can be seen, the mooring agreement figures for the 2025 season compare favourably with previous years, although there are fluctuations between individual harbours, the overall figures remain consistent, which is positive.
- 2.4 There was a 10% increase in the number of powered craft registered with Cyngor Gwynedd this season compared to the previous year, rising from 2,141 to 2,362.
- 2.5 The Service respectfully requests that details of all vessels and customers be provided to the harbour office at the earliest opportunity by all mooring suppliers / holders within the harbour.

2.6 The Service also collects data on the satisfaction levels of harbour users:

Satisfaction percentage rating of harbours managed by the Maritime Service

| | 2023/4 | 2024/5 | 2025/6 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Customer Satisfaction | | | |
| Excellent | 40% | 60% | 63% |
| Very Good | 30% | 24% | 25% |
| Satisfactory | 20% | 16% | 6% |
| Poor | 10% | 0% | 2% |
| Very Poor | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Unknown | 0% | 0% | 4% |

2.6.1 These figures highlight the upward trend in 'positive' feedback received at our harbours, as well as the efforts made by the department to further improve the customer and visitor experience.

2.6.2 **Feedback received about Porthmadog Harbour:**

Positive responses:

- Harbour staff are approachable, knowledgeable, and provide support and assistance"
- "Great customer support, will visit again"
- "Very good place to enjoy crabbing with the family".
- "Clean and a well maintained and managed harbour".
- "Plenty of areas to sit and enjoy the harbour, with spectacular views and scenery".
- "The harbour provides a number of bins and benches, and the harbour is always clean and tidy".
- "The new sculptures are great and the children enjoy visiting Dixie"

Negative responses:

- "Lack of toilets"
- "Insufficient parking for harbour customers"
- "Nowhere to park my boat trailer"
- "Car park too small"
- Too much mud at the bottom of the slipway"
- "Sandbank movement in the channel is a problem"
- "Need to develop the area behind the harbour office by allowing businesses to put out table and chairs so people can enjoy the views whilst having a drink or a bite to eat. Why not have a weekly market?"

We acknowledge and welcome all feedback received about our harbours, and will continue to discuss any matters or concerns raised in order to improve the service further.

- 2.7 The Port Marine and Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) outlines the national standard for all aspects of port marine safety. To ensure compliance, our harbours are regularly audited by an external specialist. We are pleased to confirm the recent appointment of Mr Owen Morgan, Harbour Manager for Ceredigion Council, as our new 'Designated Person'. Mr Morgan will conduct the next audit during the winter months, and will provide guidance to ensure we meet the latest requirements of the PMSC. Following this audit the service will publish the updated version of the code on the Council's public website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

As part of our commitment to the PMSC continual training and development opportunities are offered to Maritime staff. We are pleased to announce that one member of staff has recently completed the 'Harbour Master Diploma', while another has commenced the latest 'UKHMA Harbour Master Certificate' course - we wish them every success with their professional development.

- 2.8 Due to the nature of their work, our officers unfortunately occasionally experience abusive, threatening and violent behaviour. To ensure the safety of both staff and the public, officers are now required to wear body worn cameras to provide protection and to record any incidents.

- 2.9 MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch): We are pleased to announce that so far this year no maritime incidents or accidents have been reported to 'MAIB'.

- 2.10 Trinity House GLA (General Lighthouse Authority)

A key priority for the service is ensuring safe navigation for all mariners that use our waterways. As a registered 'LLA' (Local Lighthouse Authority), we undertake regular surveys of the harbour channel to ensure that all Local Aids to Navigation are correctly positioned and functioning properly. Inspections and records for A to N are uploaded to the Trinity House database. The latest report concluded that Cyngor Gwynedd had a 95.47% availability of Aids to Navigation, with the service being considered to be in "Good Order".

- 3.0 **Resources and Budget:** A summary of budget for Porthmadog Harbour is included below:

| PORTHMADOG HARBOUR | Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 - August 2025 Review | | |
|---|--|--|----------------|
| | BUDGET / TARGETS FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/25 TO 31/3/26 | INCOME & EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/25 TO 31/3/26 | OVER (UNDER) |
| Employees | 79,918 | 83,825 | 3,906 |
| | | | |
| Buildings | 18,870 | 5,942 | (12,928) |
| | | | |
| Transport | 740 | 586 | (154) |
| | | | |
| Supplies & Services | 23,770 | 24,292 | 522 |
| | | | |
| One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves | 0 | 3,384 | 3,384 |
| | | | |
| Total Expenditure | 123,298 | 118,029 | (5,270) |
| | | | |
| Income | (76,590) | (70,986) | 5,604 |
| Contribution from Reserves Tow | 0 | (3,384) | (3,384) |
| | | | |
| Total Net | 46,708 | 43,658 | (3,050) |

3.1. Other Key Issues:

- Development of the harbour office and compound have been supported through departmental 'reserves'.
- North Wales Police have requested footage from the new harbour CCTV system on a number of occasions this year to assist with incident investigations in the harbour area.
- A number of outboard motor thefts have been reported along the coast, the most recent incident being at Borth-y-Gest. The service advises that anyone with relevant information should contact NWP.
- The Maritime patrol vessels (powercats) are fully compliant with 'Cat 6' coding requirements following their annual inspection by the YBDSA.
- Once again, the service has experienced reduced staffing levels at some supervised sites. However harbour officers have provided valuable support and assistance when required.
- Discussions remain ongoing with the Porthmadog Rowing Club regarding a formal lease agreement for the area within the harbour compound used to store the Club's rowing boats. The service has no objections to the proposed agreement and notes that the Rowing Club continues to maintain the area to a high standard.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note and accept the contents of the report.

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| Meeting | Porthmadog Harbour Advisory Committee |
| Date: | 30th September 2025 |
| Author: | Harbour Master M. Humphreys |
| Service: | Maritime Service, Economy and Community Department |
| Title: | Update on Operational Matters |

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, protection and development of the harbour and to receive members' comments on matters relating to Porthmadog Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on operational issues related to the harbour, inviting feedback or comments from committee members.

2.0 REPORTING ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES: The summary below is presented from the perspective of the performance of the service.

- 2.1 Favourable weather has brought increased activity on the water, from sailing vessels, powered craft and increasingly paddle boards. While the service welcomes this growth in activity, mariners and water users are reminded of the importance of taking appropriate safety precautions. The use of, life jackets, leashes and reliable means of communication with the shore (VHF/mobile phone) can save lives. The department has responded to several incidents involving individuals who were unaware of the dangers posed by prevailing weather conditions and sea states. All water users are strongly urged to prepare adequately and remain aware of local conditions before setting out.
- 2.2 It is pleasing to note that visiting vessels continue to choose Cyngor Gwynedd harbours as a place to berth. Throughout the season a number of vessels travelled between our harbours, and we have received consistently positive feedback regarding both the facilities provided and the professionalism of harbour staff.

2.3 The service wish to advise that all new harbour customers requesting a mooring in Porthmadog Harbour, must visit the harbour office and complete the necessary mooring form and discuss vessel details. Returning customers are requested to utilise the online mooring registration system, which will be accessible from the 1st of April 2026. Paper mooring forms will no longer be accepted for returning customers - all renewals and payments must be completed using the online system. In the event of any difficulty in completing the online process, customers should contact the harbour office for assistance.

3.0 **Navigation Matters:** Harbour staff continue to monitor the course of the navigable channel. In May concerns were raised regarding a sand bank encroaching between the "Lookout Post" and "Danger Rock" where the river Dywryd meets the Glaslyn. A Local Notice to Mariners was issued in May to advise harbour users of this sand bank, as it may present difficulties for navigation at lower tides. The sand bank remains in place, and it is hoped that during the winter period a change in weather conditions may help to reduce or remove it. Notice to Mariners No 5 will therefore remain in place until further notice.

3.1 Surveys of the channel will continue to ensure that, if any Aids to Navigation require re-locating, harbour staff are able to respond promptly. The secondary channel, previously thought to be opening towards the direction of Harlech, has not developed further. However, the situation will continue to be monitored and further Notice to Mariners will be issued if required.

3.2 At the time of writing, there are currently two Local Notice to Mariners in force:

3.2.1 Local Notice to Mariners No 5/25. 07-05-2025 Sand Bank Encroachment in the Channel between "Lookout Post" and "Danger Rock". Mariners are advised to navigate with caution in this area.

3.2.2 Local Notice to Mariners No 10/25 (25-08-2025) Borth y Gest No15 Starboard Mark is currently off station.

3.2.3 Previous Notice to Mariners No10/24 "Fairway Buoy Off Station" was returned to station at its charted position 52°52.970'N 004°11.200'W 25-03-2025

3.3 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when operating a vessel with a draft exceeding 1.5 metres. This restriction is due to the available depth of water over the sand bar at the seaward entrance to the navigable channel.

3.4 Mariners are also reminded to contact the harbour office prior to any approach to obtain the latest navigational information. The service operates on VHF Ch12. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to

Mariners and are available on the Cyngor Gwynedd website, this service is also available in formats suitable for those with visual impairments.

3.5 Specific issues:

- 3.5.1 Harbour Sculptures:** 'Dixie' the dragon continues to be a very popular attraction with locals and visitors, receiving positive feedback, especially from children posing for photos. Another notable attraction is the new Howard Bowcott installation, which attract significant attention. The service has also recently installed new composite picnic benches for the public to enjoy the new installations and of course the harbour itself.
- 3.5.2** Discussions are still ongoing regarding the relocation of the old hoist to the harbour area as an additional installation.
- 3.5.3 Car Park:** The service plans to install a new solar 'Pay and Display' machine in the car park over the winter period.
- 3.5.4** Concerns have been raised regarding the use of the car park by large vehicles and motorhomes, which impede movement for other users. To try to address this, new signage will be installed. Additionally, discussions are ongoing with other departments regarding the direction of traffic within the car park, including the potential installation of directional marks on the road to ease congestion.
- 3.5.5 Borth-Y-Gest.** During recent flood alerts it was noted that the flood gates at Borth-y-Gest had sustained some damage to the latches. The service has requested assistance from other departments to rectify the issue.

4.0 Maintenance

- 4.1 Harbour Compound:** The '*Griselinia*' plants along the compound fence are maturing well, now covering a large section of the fence and enhancing the visual appeal of the compound.
- 4.2** Several additions to the compound work have begun. Two new concrete pads have been installed to provide a cleaner and more usable working surface. New composite fencing has been installed on the western side of the compound to match the new composite gates at the entrance of the compound. Future works will include replacing of the internal gate new fencing and raised planters.

4.3 A new metered electric service point has been installed near the diesel pump enabling the service to monitor usage and charge accurately for customers wishing to use the facility.

4.4 Harbour Office: The service welcomes the development of the Porthmadog harbour office. Works have begun to create a new room within the building to provide a shared new office for the Senior Harbour Officer and Beaches Officer. This has also allowed the relocation of the canteen to a new area, providing more privacy for staff using the changing and toilet facilities.

5.0 Events

5.1 The service would like to remind all event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event.

5.2 In considering whether to approve an event, the service will give due regard to the information provided detailing the circumstances. The service reserve the right to apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations necessary to ensure public and staff safety.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is asked to identify and accept the contents of the report.