

Meeting	Barmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	21st October 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 and receive members' comments on matters relating to Barmouth Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on management issues related to the harbour, inviting 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.

i) 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:

	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 Barmouth Harbour:

Positive responses:

"Harbour staff are very helpful, knowledgeable and welcoming, and often go above and beyond their duty to look after customers".

"The 'young' staff (Kane and Lois) are a credit to the Council".

"Excellent customer service and very friendly staff.

"The harbour is always clean and surrounded by fantastic views – love the palm trees".
New visitor moorings are excellent and makes tying up my boat safer and easier - thank you".

Negative responses:

"Unable to access disabled toilet on the harbour".

"Channel desperately needs dredging".

"Too busy, too many people and nowhere to park".

"Bins overflowing – need emptying more often".

"When is the pontoon coming back! It's such a shame".

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'.

2.9.1 An incident at Penrhyn Point saw the Harbour Staff attend and assist emergency services at the scene of a boat fire. The vessel had been stored on land above mean high water however the service attended to ensure the safety of the public.

2.9.2 Recently due to heavy rainfall a vessel alongside the Harbour wall submerged, Harbour Staff again acted quickly and provided assistance to pump the water out of the vessel and deploy Oil Spill Booms as a precaution. The vessel floated on the next tide and is being monitored.

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 budgets for Barmouth Harbour is included below:

BARMOUTH 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	80,337	84,282	3,945
Buildings	12,410	6,226	(6,184)
Transport	890	2,051	1,161
Supplies & Services	12,000	25,041	13,041
One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	105,637	117,601	11,964
Income	(47,590)	(54,993)	(7,403)
Contribution from Reserves Tow	0	0	0
Total Net	58,047	62,608	4,561

3.1 Other Key Issues

3.1.1 The service has invested £3500 to purchase a trailered bowser and jet wash. The equipment has been positively received by staff, as it now allows for more effective cleaning and maintenance of harbour areas that were previously difficult to manage.

3.1.2 During the recent severe weather conditions brought by Storm Amy, the area experienced damaging wind speeds and large sea conditions. The no2 port-hand Aid to Navigation was washed ashore after its riser chain was damaged. Plans are in place to return it to its correct position at the earliest opportunity. Additionally a vessel was washed beneath the Viaduct Bridge and was later found aground in Aberamffra, alongside the wall. The vessel sustained significant damage as a result. The Service would like to thank harbour staff for their prompt response and for attending the incidents to ensure the safety of the public and customers, and prevent further damage.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Meeting	Barmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	21st October 2025
Author:	Harbour Master
Service:	Maritime Service, Economy and Community Department
Title:	Update on Operational Matters

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.3 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 Barmouth Harbour
- 1.4 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. REPORTING ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 2.1 The summary below is presented from the perspective of the performance of the service.
- 2.2 Favourable weather conditions have led to increased activity on the water, from sailing vessels, powered craft and ever-growing number of paddleboards. While the service welcomes this growth, mariners and water users are reminded of the importance of taking appropriate safety precautions. Wearing life jackets, using leashes and carrying reliable means of communication (VHF/mobile phone) are measures that can save lives. The department has already 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.

- 2.3 It is pleasing to report 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 consistently received positive feedback regarding both the facilities provided and the professionalism of harbour staff. Notably, Barmouth Harbour has seen a 40% increase in visiting vessels from last year.
- 2.4 The service advises that all new customers requesting a mooring in Barmouth Harbour must attend the harbour office and complete the necessary mooring form and discuss vessel details. Returning customers, however, are required 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.
- 2.5 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel has seen regular use this season having had a full service at the beginning of the year.
- 2.6 The Maritime 4x4 vehicle has also been well used, however it's condition is deteriorating due to the demanding nature of the work and the challenging environments in which it operates.
- 2.7 The new 'All-Terrain Vehicle' has recently been fitted with a new cage and lights. These additions have significantly enhanced its usability across our operational area, supporting tasks such as litter collection, hauling moorings and larger items and improving public visibility when responding to incidents or patrolling the beach during the summer season.
- 2.8 All trailers used by the harbour staff have been serviced by the Fleet Department to ensure that they are maintained to a high standard and remain safe to use.
- 2.9 The service has invested in a trailered bowser and jet wash which enables effective cleaning of areas where a mains water supply is not available.

a) Navigation Matters

- 2.5 There have been no changes to the navigable channel during the summer period. We have received very positive and encouraging feedback from both local and visiting vessels regarding the revised positioning and light sequences of the Port and

Starboard hand aids, which have helped ensure clear and safe navigation into the harbour.

- 2.5.1 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the movement of the sandbanks within the navigable channel and make any necessary adjustments to the Port and Starboard hand aids.
- 2.5.2 Navigation Aids No.2, No.3, No.10, as well as the Fairway Buoy are scheduled for inspection by a local contractor in due course.
- 2.5.3 **We currently have no notice to mariners in place.**
- 2.5.4 A new light has been installed on the South Cardinal structure and is working as it should.
- 2.5.5 Wind-blown sand continues to affect the channel nearest the harbour wall, creating difficulties for vessels entering or y leaving the harbour at low tide. Mariners are requested to contact the Harbour office prior to making their approach to the harbour wall.
- 2.5.6 Several incident have again been recorded this summer, where communication with vessels has been restricted due to mariners either not monitoring their VHF radios or failing to provide their contact details. Mariners are also reminded of the need to keep VHF radios tuned to Channel 12 during their stay at Barmouth Harbour.
- 2.5.7 Mariners are advised to contact the harbour office prior to departure or arrival to obtain latest navigational and weather information.

b) Specific issues

- 2.6 Work has commenced on the flood defence work at Viaduct Gardens following the interim seasonal break.
- 2.7 Refurbishment of the harbour pontoon is progressing well and is scheduled to be reinstalled in March 2026.

c) Maintenance

- 2.8 Harbour staff continue to carry out maintenance work and inspections of the harbour. Items requiring urgent attention are addressed promptly, while other issues are added to our winter works programme.

- 2.9 Additional tyres have been fitted to the harbour wall to provide better protection for vessels mooring alongside.
- 3.0 The service will provide further updates on the pontoon as they become available. The pontoon remains a valuable asset, and we wish to thank the Town Council, and all those involved in supporting the project.
- 3.1 New primary and secondary safety signage will be installed in Fairbourne to improve safety information.
- 3.2 Harbour staff are continuing the process of numbering mooring buoys to ensure customer moorings can be easily identified, particularly following the arrival of new vessels in the harbour.
- 3.7 Working in partnership with compound users, harbour staff have been clearing unwanted items and debris from the compound, with multiple trailer loads having been removed.

d) Events

- 3.8 Poor weather led to the cancellation of the Colwyn Bay Jet Ski Club Ride Out 2025. However, a beach event at Morfa Bychan went ahead successfully, raising thousands of pounds for local charities. The service extends thanks to the organisers for their hard work and efforts.
- 3.9 10km Run: Another sold-out event for the 10km race across the railway bridge and along the Mawddach estuary.
- 4.0 Bermo Fest: An overcast weekend led to slightly lower attendance this year, however the event was still very successful and well organised.
- 4.1 Water Fest: Despite challenging conditions, the main attraction, the annual raft race, went ahead. The event drew large crowds and proved to be a fantastic day for all involved.
- 4.2 Food Festival: This festival continues to grow year on year, with 32 stalls showcased this year, offering a wide variety of produce. A strong turnout and very positive feedback was received.
- 4.3 Sea2Sky: Now in its second year the event featured two races (25km and 50km) and attracted hundreds of competitors.
- 4.4 Moto X: The event is scheduled for the 18th and 19th October, a week prior to the Autumn half term holiday period.
- 4.5 Hurly Burly: The event is scheduled for the 10th of October.
- 4.6 Fireworks and Bonfire Night: The event is scheduled for 1st of November.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to identify and accept the contents of this report.