

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	8th November 2022
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	Maritime Service

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the navigable channel into the harbour has remained relatively constant over the summer period. A new, temporary port hand aid to navigation, was however deployed in the channel at the start of the busy season, to assist mariners in negotiating a spit of sand that had encroached into the navigable waters.
- 1.2 The channel approach to the harbour will continue to be monitored by harbour staff during the forthcoming period and whenever necessary, changes will be made to the positions of the navigation marks following approval from Trinity House utilising a local contractor.
- 1.3 The Service received its annual inspection of the Navigational Aids within the Harbour of Barmouth and the channel approach by Trinity House staff on the 4th October 2022. Following examination all navigational aids were found to be in good and efficient order.
- 1.4 There is currently one Local Notice to Mariners in force at Barmouth Harbour; Local Notice to Mariners number 05/22 – The ‘Fairway buoy’ safe water mark positioned at 52° 42.796’ N 004° 04.906’ W is currently not on station.
- 1.4.1 The existing ‘Fairway’ buoy is to be replaced by a newly refurbished buoy which has been prepared by harbour staff. Subject to weather and tidal conditions, in association with availability of the mooring contractor, the refurbished buoy will be placed on station as soon as possible, complete with a new mooring anchor, new chain and shackles at cost to the Service of £2,964.22,
- 1.5 Mariners are reminded of the need to contact the harbourmasters office prior to any departure or approach, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 **Summer Season:** The summer weather brought many visitors to the harbour area. Whilst the vast majority of visitors were respectful of the harbour environment, there was again a noticeable increase in the number of incidents of staff subjected to verbal abuse or gestures during the performance of their duties. The wanton discharge of litter around the harbour continues to be a problem during the summer months.
- 2.2 The ‘Powercat’ Harbour patrol vessel suffered engine problems throughout the summer. Despite regular maintenance both engines suffered from carburettor issues, fundamentally due to the grade of fuel now in general circulation. In consequence, to ensure vessel and operator safety, the Service are now looking to replace the engines on the vessel at a cost of approximately £15,000.

- 2.2.1 The road trailer supporting the harbour patrol vessel has also been subject of recent repair. Once it has been returned from the fleet maintenance department of the Council, the harbour vessel will be removed from the water and taken to Porthmadog Harbour for winter overhaul and storage.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Two of the three 'visitors' moorings operated by the Service were renewed and relocated into deeper water within the harbour prior to the start of the busy season. This included the provision of new riser chains, shackles and swivels in addition to new 'Hippo' mooring buoys. The third visitors mooring, located near the rail bridge, was also inspected and maintained by a local mooring contractor.
- 3.1.1 The visitors' moorings were utilised throughout the summer, with a number of visitors also taking the opportunity to moor alongside the quay wall.
- 3.1.2 Maintenance checks were conducted by harbour staff on the recently laid 'large trot moorings' and the 'small trot moorings' operated by the Service to ensure customer safety.
- 3.2 A new bench has been installed by harbour staff, located on the harbour front adjacent to the 'Lobster Pot' premises. The cost of the bench and the associated plaque has been met by the 'Home Office' as a legacy of the independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Similar benches have been installed at various locations around the United Kingdom.
- 3.3 During the summer harbour staff have cleaned the historic 'Ty Crwn' (Round House) situated near the harbour compound and renewed the security locks on the gates.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Barmouth Rail Bridge Restoration Works:** The Bridge works remain on-going. Presently the bridge is currently open to the public and rail traffic until 2000 hrs the 13th of November when it will close for further structural works. The bridge will then re-open on the 10th December for the festive period.
- 4.2 **Harbour Compound:** The Service has appreciated the efforts made by plot holders to tidy their individual plots within the compound. Further work is to be undertaken to enable the re-enforcement of individual plot limits including the removal of accumulated sand.
- 4.2.1 The Service intends to renew the traffic barrier at the bottom of compound road with an automatic type barrier, to prevent the unauthorised use of the on-site car parking spaces. Estimated costs for the project are currently being obtained. In the interim, the existing barrier will be maintained by harbour staff.

H5 Events

- 5.1 A number of events were held at the harbour and nearby main beach during the summer months including;
- The Queens Jubilee Celebrations
 - Barmouth Food Festival
 - Barmouth Striders 10k Road Race
 - Three peaks Yacht Race
 - Kite Festival

5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of future events of the need to provide early notification to the harbour office. No events will be allowed to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service