

MEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	18 October 2016
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee's main function is to consider and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the harbour and to receive Members' observations on matters directly related to the harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present a brief update for the attention of the Consultative Committee for the period April 2016 to October 2016.

2. Pwllheli Harbour (outer)

- 2.1 In 2016/17, the number of boats on moorings in the outer Harbour were as follows:-
- 58 boats were moored in the harbour. This compares with 87 boats that were moored in 2015.
 - 69% of our annual customers have a yacht. 31% have a powerboat.
 - 46% reside in Gwynedd while 54% reside outside the county.
 - There are 8 commercial boats in the outer harbour; 6 Fishing Boats; 1 Charter Boat and 1 Commercial local yard Boat.
- 2.2 On the whole, a reduction in the number of customers was seen over the last year and several customers who used to moor in Area 5 and Area 6 in 2015 have taken advantage of the opportunity to moor on Plas Heli pontoon moorings in 2016. This arrangement was through the permission and cooperation of Plas Heli. The main reason for introducing the offer to re-locate boats to Plas Heli pontoon was due to significant planning work required on moorings in Areas 5 and 6 and a concern regarding the condition of the moorings.
- 2.3 18 boats have taken advantage of the opportunity to moor on Plas Heli pontoon and 7 boats remain on moorings in Areas 5 and 6. This means that the total number of boats on moorings in the outer Harbour is 83.

2016	Not allocated	Berth Fee per mtr	No of berths available	Percentage empty
Area 1	0	63.55/85.89	1	0.00%
Area 2	4	78.06/104.36	12	33.00%
Area 3 (piles)	7	149.12/161.26	39	17.94%
Area 4	5	17.95/18.43	10	50.00%
Area 5	8	83.92/113.47	16	50.00%
Area 6	8	77.95/105.36	8	100.00%
Area 7	24	77.95/105.36	28	85.71%
	56		114	

- 2.4 The table above gives information regarding the number of boats moored in every area of the outer harbour. Whilst some users wish and require to continue with the

maintenance of Areas 5 and 6, it is inevitable that the financial value is considered against the cost especially when several piling moorings are free in the outer Harbour.

- 2.5 If moorings are requested in Areas 5 and 6 the intention is that all existing mooring equipment will be removed (or lost in the mud when it is not possible to save) a row of trot moorings will be re-located in the area. This means that there will be capacity to moor up to 10 boats with a maximum length of 26 foot in this area.
- 2.6 A total of 1001 Powerboats have registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares with 987 that registered in 2015. 110 boats registered in Pwllheli's outer harbour and all boats had registered in line with the externalising procedure of the outer harbour's slipway management.
- 2.7 729 Personal Watercraft have registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares with 696 that registered in 2015. 46 registered in Pwllheli's outer harbour and all were registered in line with the externalising procedure of the outer harbour's slipway management.

3. Marine Safety Code

- 3.1 A copy of the Marine Safety Code has already been distributed to all Committee Members and it is also available on Gwynedd Council's website. The Senior Harbours Officer in consultation with harbour colleagues is reviewing the Marine Safety Code.
- 3.2 We anticipate that a Senior Coastguard Inspector will visit the Council early in 2017 to inspect the Marine Safety Code and will present feedback on the Code that is relevant to the municipal harbours of Gwynedd Council. Although the code is not statutory, it is good practice to comply with the code's requirements.
- 3.3 The document is regularly reviewed and it is necessary to receive the comments and views of the Consultative Committee on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code as well as observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the activities of Pwllheli Harbour. It is possible to add sections to the code that will be relevant to a local Harbour.
- 3.4 No matter or cause for concern has arisen at Pwllheli Harbour during 2016 which are relevant to Harbour safety.

4. Performance Measures

- 4.1 The Service continues to develop Performance Measures in relation to harbour management. Committee members' initial ideas or suggestions on performance indicators were invited at the previous meeting of this Committee. Members are requested to consider if additional information needs to be submitted to the Consultative Committee in the context of indicators and measures in the future.
- 4.2 The purpose of such measures is to measure and monitor the outcomes of the service offered. When drafting such measures, the Service ensures that any information or data is current, relevant, suitable and clear for scrutiny by Members at the Consultative Committee. No information will be presented unless Members are of the opinion that the information is useful for the Harbour.

5. Main Matters

5.1 Navigation

5.1.1 Trinity House Lighthouse Authority conducted an inspection on 26th July 2016. Compared to previous reports the 2016 report confirmed an improvement in the condition and locations and the condition of Navigation Aids in Gwynedd harbours. This is heartening.

5.1.2 Concern remains regarding the 'Hafan y Môr' Navigational Aid that continues to be off-station. The Council will correspond with 'Hafan y Môr' managers drawing their attention to the need to re-locate the Navigational Aid on its station as a matter of urgency.

Although it is not the Council that owns or is responsible for the Navigation Aid, it is the Council who is the 'Local Lighthouse Authority' and therefore has responsibility to ensure that the owner of the Navigation Aid conforms to the requirements of Trinity House.

5.1.3 No Mariners' Notice is in operation in Pwllheli harbour. All navigation aids are on their appropriate stations

5.1.4 Following consultation with the Consultative Committee it was determined to continue with the siting of seasonal maximum speed zone buoys within the Harbour area opposite Marian y De beach. In accordance with the Committee's recommendation, minor improvements were undertaken to the maximum speed zone buoys in the Glandon area. There was an addition to the number of buoys during the summer season as powerboats travel close to the shore sometimes at high speed.

5.1.5 Several complaints have been received from the public since undertaking minor improvements, these were based on concerns about powerboats navigating at high speeds through the site in the Glandon area. The Service has identified the boat and the boat owner has received a warning letter.

5.2 Maintenance

5.2.1 See the attached summary. Oral reports will be presented by the Harbour Manager at the meeting on the work programme and arrangements for maintaining Pwllheli harbour's Navigation Aids.

5.2.2 The Harbour Manager will also submit a maintenance work programme which is to be undertaken at Pwllheli Harbour during the October - December period, and will provide an outline of the work programme which will be undertaken in January - March 2017. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered during this period.

5.3 Staffing Matters

5.3.1 The Pwllheli harbour reviewing procedures and staffing structure remain. Following the success of the re-organisation, it is anticipated that the arrangement will continue in the near future. The Service will review the safety supervision procedure and night

supervision. The Hafan supervision continues 24/7 and it is necessary to review if this arrangement is effective.

5.3.2 The employment period of the Aberdyfi and Porthmadog Harbour Assistants (seasonal) has been extended to the end of October 2016. Two harbour assistants will be part of the wider Maritime team to ensure that it is possible to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Pwllheli, Porthmadog, Aberdyfi and Barmouth harbours.

5.4 **Operational Issues**

5.4.1 Dredging Strategy - an update on the Dredging Strategy will be submitted at the meeting as well as the associated work.

5.4.2 Arrangement for dredging the harbour entrance - winter 2016/17. The Service will undertake an inspection of the channel during the most favourable low tide in October/November.

5.4.3 Review outer harbour moorings arrangement. The Service will invite quotations from local companies to remove all the existing moorings from Area 5 and Area 6 and to re-locate a row of moorings on the most favourable line.

5.4.4 A new CCTV system has been installed in the outer Harbour in order to improve the security of the site. The system is working excellently.

6. **Financial Matters**

6.1 A summary of Harbour budgets will be submitted before Members at the meeting. It is proposed to submit information regarding the general financial position, position of income and expenditure at the end of Quarter 2 (April-September) of the current financial year.

6.2 The fees and charges of the Outer Harbour for 2017/18 will be considered during the next few weeks. It is anticipated that the inflation rate of Gwynedd Harbours for 2017/18 will be 1.84%. Therefore it is anticipated that it is likely that fees and charges will increase in order to meet the inflation rate.

6.3 During the period, it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following: -

- Navigation Aids and Lamps
- Area 5 and 6 mooring maintenance
- Extending staff employment periods

7. **Hafan, Pwllheli (Marina)**

7.1 In 2016/17, Hafan's moorings figures were as follows:-

- There are 287 boats on the annual pontoon mooring, namely 68% of the total number of pontoon moorings available. This compares with 292 boats on a pontoon mooring in 2015.
- 52% of annual customers have a yacht. 48% have powerboats.
- 19% reside in Gwynedd while 81% reside outside the county.

- There is 1 commercial boat in Hafan which is a charter boat (fishing).

7.2 Despite the reduction in the number on a pontoon mooring throughout the year, on the whole no change was seen in the number of customers who used the resources over the last season.

7.3 A total of 1001 Powerboats have registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares with 987 that registered in 2015. 119 boats registered in the Hafan through an arrangement with Parking and Launching companies.

7.4 729 Personal Watercraft have registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares with 696 that registered in 2015. 56 boats registered in the Hafan through an arrangement with Parking and Launching companies.

8. Main Matters

8.1 Maintenance

8.1.1 Arrangements and a work programme for maintaining Pwllheli harbour's Navigation Aids will be submitted at the meeting by the Harbour Manager.

8.1.2 The Harbour Manager will also submit a maintenance work programme which is to be undertaken at Pwllheli Harbour during the October - December period, and will provide an outline of the work programme which will be undertaken in January - March 2017. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered during this period.

8.2 Staffing Matters

8.2.1 It is with great sadness that we report on the passing of a popular, friendly and conscientious colleague namely Mr Tony Hughes. Tony lost his battle against a serious illness on the 1st April 2016. He had been employed with the Council for several years following a successful career with the Royal Navy. This is a great loss to the unit.

8.2.2 The Hafan Pwllheli reviewing procedures and staffing structure remain. Following the success of the re-organisation, it is anticipated that the existing arrangements will continue until the start of 2017.

8.2.3 (See the report on the outer harbour). Following changes in the Hafan Pwllheli staffing structure during 2015, the employment period of the Barmouth and Aberdyfi Harbour Assistants (seasonal) has been extended to the end of December 2016. Two harbour assistants will be part of the wider Maritime team to ensure that it is possible to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Pwllheli, Porthmadog, Aberdyfi and Barmouth harbours.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 A summary of Hafan budgets will be submitted before the Members at the meeting. It is proposed to submit information regarding the general financial position, position of income and expenditure at the end of Quarter 2 (April-September) of the current financial year.

- 9.2 The fees and charges of the Hafan for 2017/18 will be considered during the next few weeks. It is anticipated that the inflation rate of Gwynedd Harbours for 2017/18 will be 1.12%. Therefore it is anticipated that it is likely that fees and charges will increase in order to meet the inflation rate.
- 9.3 In the Hafan an alternative system was introduced to the usual system of charging pontoon mooring fees. Two systems exist in Hafan. There is a historical system where some customers (namely customers that have been at Hafan for over 10 years) pay for the Length Overall of the boat (LOA). Customers who have moored more recently in Hafan pay the maximum value of the mooring on a Banding system.
- 9.4 Consideration needs to be given to correcting the pontoon mooring fees in Hafan. To this end, officers will consider the financial implications and will submit a recommendation to the Portfolio Leader as soon as possible. We would appreciate Members views on reconciling the system, and if consideration should be given to returning to the boat Length Overall system (LOA) at Hafan, Pwllheli and if it would be appropriate to do this without any harm to the budget.
- 9.5 It is confirmed that a reduction in costs of mooring charges via Direct Debit was authorised for 2016/17. The percentage has reduced from 8% to 5% with payments spread over a period of 10 months.