

tMEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DYDDIAD	11th March 2025
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management and Operational Issues
AUTHOR(S)	Commercial Manager & Assistant Manager/Harbourmaster Hafan & Pwllheli Harbour

Introduction

The main function of the Committee 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 Pwllheli Harbour.

The purpose of this report is to give the Committee a brief update on the harbour's functions for the period up to the end of February 2025, in order to get feedback from the members on security and operational issues of the Harbour.

The Pwllheli Harbour Committee is a non-statutory Harbour Committee, established in accordance with the approval and support of the Council. The consent provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Pwllheli Harbour Advisory Committee. There is a comprehensive list of the groups and organisations that are represented on the Harbour committee in the programme.

In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, representatives of each group and organisation will be required to provide evidence of their constitution to the Council together with a letter from their organisation confirming their named representative. The above does not apply to a member of the County, Town or Community Council.

The Council is currently completing an audit and review on the membership of Harbour Committees, with a discussion point included in the agenda.

1.1 Port Marine Safety Code.

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) sets out the national standard for all aspects of port marine safety. Its aim is to improve safety for all those who use or work in the marine environment of ports and harbours. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice recognised by a wide range of stakeholders in the industry and Cyngor Gwynedd understands that not adhering to good practice can be a sign of a harbour authority breaching specific legal duties. The Service is required to receive the comments and opinions of the Members of the Advisory Committee on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code and to receive regular comments on its content, so that it can be reviewed and is relevant to the activity of the harbour, navigation, aids, suitability of bylaws, safety issues and general day to day work at Pwllheli Harbour.

A transition period has taken place, whereby the Senior Harbour Officer, Arthur Jones, is retiring this month with Dan Cartwright, previous Harbourmaster at Barmouth, taking over his role. Our Harbourmaster, Sarah Hattle, is working closely with the pair to review and update the current Code to maintain appropriate standards. A copy will be provided to the committee for any comment ahead of final draft.

1.3 Pwllheli Harbour Long Term Strategy

As reported previously, Cyngor Gwynedd's Asset Management Plan has supported financing the long term ambition of Pwllheli Harbour to be a sustainable asset for Pwllheli, with £5.4million invested over the coming years. The investment is secure and in place to develop a full Investment model for the two elements of work, dredging and upgrading infrastructure namely the pontoons.

In terms of dredging, there are currently two elements being scoped out. Firstly a Marine Licence to release dredged material in to Ceredigion Bay, whilst the other is to identify land reclamation around the old Island site to deposit dredged material.

The infrastructure around the pontoons are currently being reviewed. Whilst a pontoon survey has identified it's current state, and life expectancy, the next phase is to conduct a piles survey, whereby a number of sample piles will be selected to determine their condition. Once the results are in we'll be able to consider the extent of the project needed to replace the infrastructure.

In other parts of the plan on-going work is taking place on North Quay to re-plank the viewing points and footbridge along with replacement shelters. This project has been co-ordinated by the Economy Department through funding secured from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund. The initial funding is part of the wider Placemaking Plan for Pwllheli, which has been developed to identify improvements for towns such as Pwllheli.

Work is being undertaken to improve the old island site, led by the Council's Environment Department. A report was developed to identify the landscape and biodiversity on the land, with opportunities to enhance and develop the area to benefit the local community. The Town Council has been in discussions on the land and opportunities available, and once the clearing and drainage works is complete an action plan of managing the site will be developed.

1.4 Dredging

The main focus for 2024/2025 for the team has been the dredging campaign with a number of projects taking place in the harbour:

- Through a tendering process the work to empty the stilling lagoon took place, at a cost of £500,000 which enabled the lagoon to be emptied of 10,417m³ of silt
- Royal Smals, the company engaged on a 5 year dredging engagement acted upon a dredging campaign on specific areas within the harbour, including risk areas such as the fuel pontoon and channel and realised a total of 10,400m³ of silt removed to the stilling lagoon at a cost of £144,921.41
- Recent land-based dredge of the harbour entrance and channel realised a removal of 16,000m³ of sand at a cost of £74,720. These are approximate figures as the final calculations are not yet in.
- The additional sand in the stockpile was offered commercially through a tendering process, with Jones Bros offering the best price. Approx figures currently indicate 15,000m³ transported away, potentially realising £93,750 income. Part of the income will need to be given to the Crown Estate as part of an agreement.

The replenishment of South Beach sea defences saw 18,500m³ of sand transported along the beach to shore up sea defences by the golf club. This project, managed by YGC, was funded by a grant from Welsh Government.

1.5 Financial Matters

Fees and Charges were approved by Cyngor Gwynedd over the Christmas period, which enabled us to communicate the new fees and charges early in the New Year. The aim is always to set them well ahead of the new season to enable our customers to decide, whilst also providing us to capture new customers ahead of them making alternative arrangements. The increase only took account the council's inflation rate of 2.89% being applied for both the Harbour and Hafan, whilst electricity charges reduced a further 4.9%.

A summary of the financial position of the Outer Harbour and Hafan Pwllheli budget is attached to this report.

During the autumn and winter period, additional financial resources from the funds had to be committed to the following areas of work:-

- Dredging work this month on the harbour mouth, as per the annual programme. Albeit it was brought forward to align with the work of replenishing an area of South Beach
- A new pump-out facility has been placed on the fuel quay
- Re-painting of road line markings, including the placing of appropriate disabled bay parking berths by the main building.
- Software and hardware update as the systems were outdated and not suitable for current platforms, and contactless payment hardware on the fuel quay.
- Servicing to our Hoist, new cradles and blocks for our secure compound

1.6 Operational Items

Navigation - All Navigation Aids in Pwllheli Harbour are working and in place. No "Notice to Mariners" is active in Pwllheli Harbour at the moment.

Storm Darragh – the red weather warning issued during Storm Darragh had an impact, whilst no damage to the infrastructure of the harbour and Hafan, 3 boats were displaced from their cradles in the secure compound, one boat sunk (recovered after the storm) and some minor damage to boat covers, sails etc. Team worked admirably over the weekend, and review undertaken to further mitigate risk if red weather warnings are announced again.

Annual Harbour Statistics etc. - Details of Hafan and Harbour statistics for 2024/25 are included with this report. We are still awaiting to confirm the figures for 2025/2026, with contracts coming in over the last few weeks.

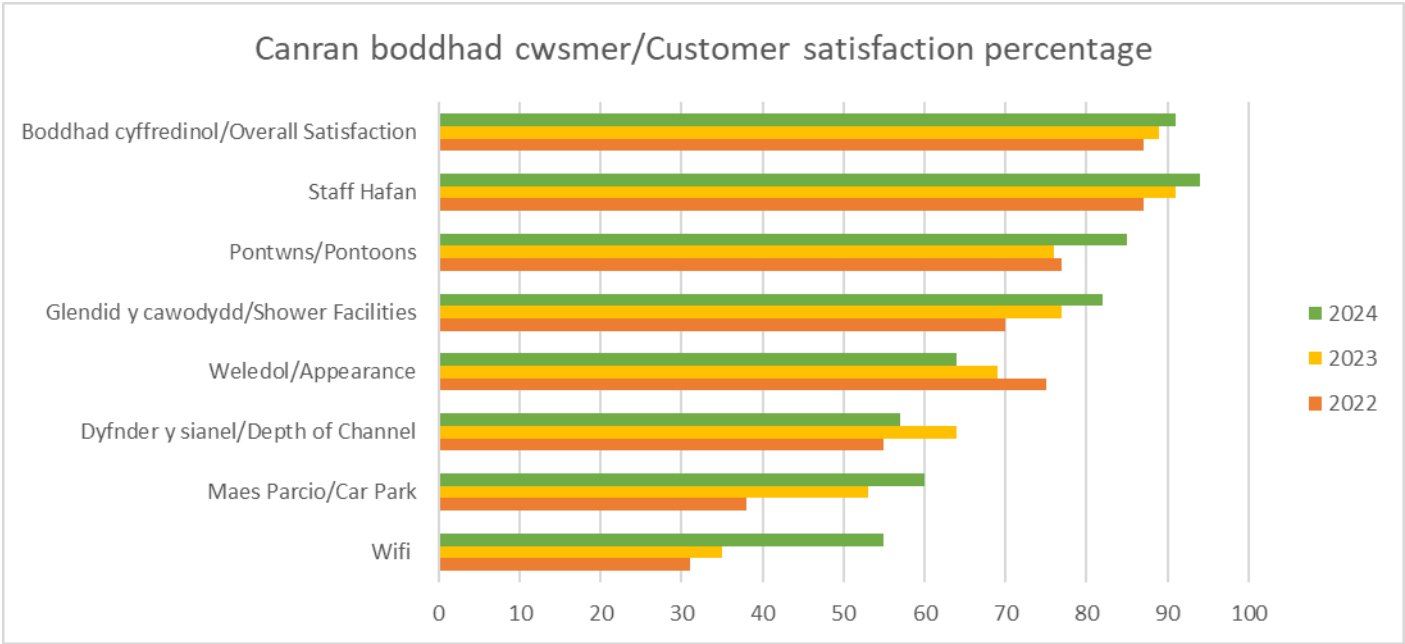
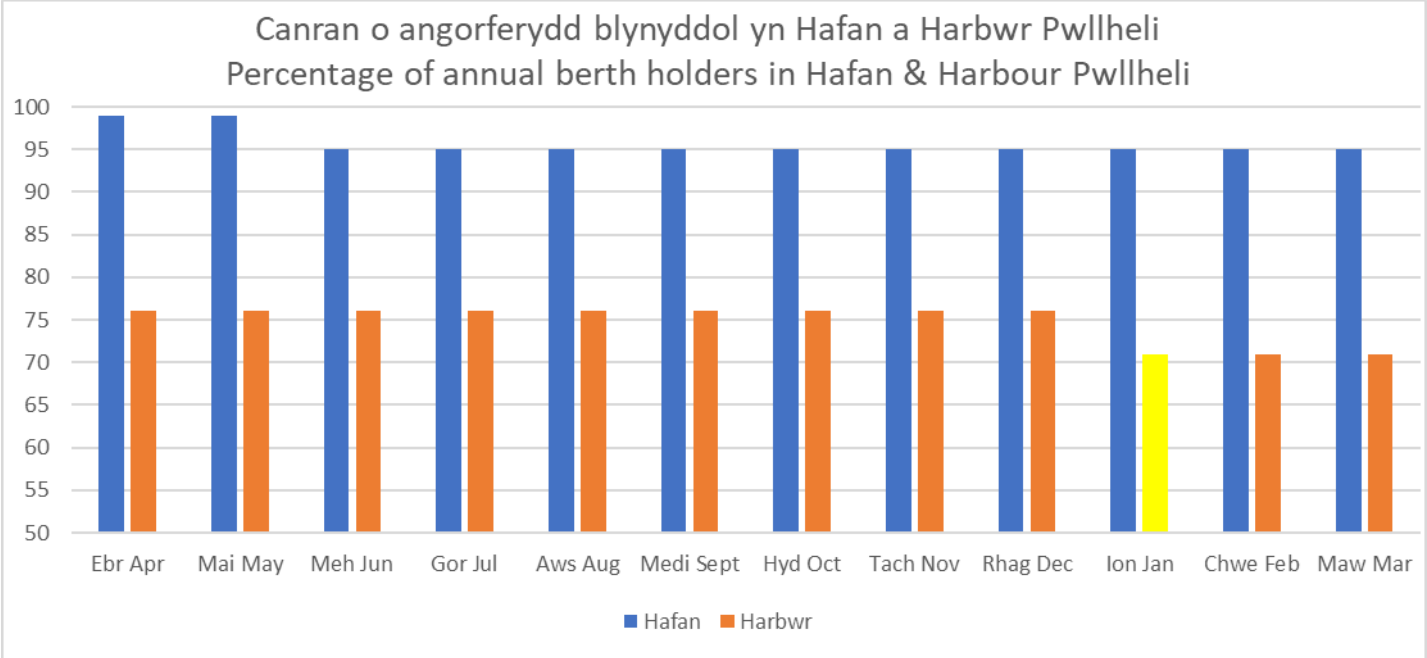
We have reviewed the moorings available in the Outer Harbour, with 45 berths available and 32 being occupied. A further review was made to the potential of re-opening up Area 2 of the Harbour. This area has not been used for a number of years due to siltation issues, however the current profile indicates it is usable although boats will dry out on low tide.

Commercial Fishing Pontoon – a Welsh Marine and Fisheries Scheme through Welsh Government is currently available and we're currently applying for a replacement commercial fishing pontoon for the Outer Harbour. A grant of up to £100,000 is available. We've engaged the fishing community to identify the needs and will be applying on this basis.

Staffing - The time came to say goodbye to our Harbourmaster, Wil Williams recently. After 34 years of service at Hafan Pwllheli, having led the construction of the marina, overseen the expansion, and maintaining the highest level of service to boaters, he quietly stepped down from his role, not wanting any fuss or fanfare.

As a team we're indebted to his passion and commitment to Hafan Pwllheli, and his guidance over the last few years will hopefully maintain standards with the new Harbourmaster, Sarah Hattle.

Annual Statistics for *Hafan Pwllheli* & Outer Harbour– to March 2025



HAFAN PWLLHELI	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 - November 2024 Review		
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	OVER (UNDER)
Employees	£351,750	£385,218	£33,468
Buildings	£565,680	£625,760	£60,080
Transport	£12,320	£6,619	-£5,701
Supplies & Services	£130,410	£148,109	£17,699
One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves	£0	£476,847	£476,847
Income	-£1,852,900	-£1,903,212	-£50,312
Contribution from Reserves Towards One Off Costs	£0	-£476,847	-£476,847
Total	-£792,740	-£737,506	£55,234

PWLLHELI HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 - November 2024 Review		
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	OVER (UNDER)
Employees	£32,340	£31,598	-£742
Buildings	£15,260	£7,413	-£7,847
Transport	£790	£0	-£790
Supplies & Services	£15,770	£2,027	-£13,743
Income	-£47,810	-£41,114	£6,696
Total	£16,350	-£76	-£16,426