

**Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHCG)**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (WTC Chamber and Teams, 19:00-21:00)**

**Present**

Andy Sargent	AS	RNLI Representative and Chair
Dave Caddy	DC	Harbour Traders Representative and Vice Chair
Cllr Mark Roberts	MR	Chair of the Harbours Committee
Jamie Joyce	JJ	Weymouth Harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	RH	Vice Chair of the Harbours Committee
Ken Buchan	KB	Head of Environment and Wellbeing
Cllr Colin Huckle	CH	Weymouth Town Council Representative
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Tony Hurley	TH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Substitute Representative
Kathy Claydon	KC	Boat Owners/Non-Commercial Moorings Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Harbour Traders Representative Substitute and Weymouth Harbour Watch
Rob Gray	RG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Terry Studley	TS	Commercial Fishermen Representative
Jon Ayling	JA	RNLI Substitute Representative
Simon Arscott	SA	Project Engineer – Highways Dorset Council
Kevin Davis	KD	Site Agent (South) Dorset Council
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

**1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

**AS** welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Apologies from Neil Bedwell, Dave McCune, William Lawrence, Christopher Peck, Alison Roberts, Dawn Heath, Dan Bell, Will Holmes.

Simon Arscott and Kevin Davis from DC Highways presentation regarding Weymouth Town Bridge planned repairs.

- Advised that the Town Bridge requires repair work on the slot welds on the deck plates. Based on sample tested, it is estimated that approximately 25% may be defective.
- We will not know the actual number affected until the surfacing is removed and the deck is blasted clean. Tents used to allow the work to take place in poor weather. All welds will be tested.
- Defective welds will be removed by milling. The defective welds will be re-welded and tested before being ground flush. The deck will then be blasted clean again prior to resurfacing
- Discussions with contractors and procurement processes currently on-going. It is hoped to start around the 26th of September.
- Proposed that Bridge lifts will need to be limited to 8am and 6pm during the week and operate as normal at weekends.
- The bridge will remain closed to traffic during the week and at the weekends. The bridge will remain open to pedestrians at all times.
- The extent of welds affected will not be known until surfacing is removed however the aim is to open the bridge to traffic before the start of December.
- Actual phasing is dependent on what we find however it is currently hoped to repair one half this autumn and one half in either spring 2023 or autumn 2023.

**SA** – To investigate option of opening just one leaf of the bridge to enable continued access to the inner harbour for all vessels.

**SA** – To look at diversion for bridge closure for vehicles due to the flooding that occurs during spring tides on the road leading under the bridge. Investigate the broken pipe to the sump via the drain under the town bridge.

**JJ** – Confirmed that the restrictions will be publicised through all channels and also Notice to Mariners will be issued in advance of the work to ensure full notice of any restrictions is given.

**AS** – thanked the HW Project Engineer for consulting the group in an open and honest manner.

**ALL** – All Representatives to canvass their associations regarding the impact and feed any questions relating to the work to SA directly on email. **SJ** to provide separately to Representatives.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

## 3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**AS** confirmed no comments had been received regarding the previous minutes that were circulated.

**DC** confirmed that the Car Parking length restriction signs are not currently being enforced though still present in DC Car Parks. **MR** confirmed that if a car parking space does not have a white bar denoting the length, then the restriction does not apply.

**CH** advised that he was not listed on the meeting minutes but was present and had emailed to highlight this.

## 4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

The season has got off to a great start with visiting vessels producing 20% more income than this time last year. Also, the Marinas are now running at over 96% capacity which has been the result of some very hard work completed by our moorings team.

- **Conservancy** - Our Engineers have nearly completed the process of a sampling plan of the inner harbour sediment for the MMO to complete our licence application to remove any future build-up of material at this location.  
We have enhanced the local port traffic service with a new CCTV system to monitor the bay, entrance, and entry channel to the Harbour to improve safety especially for the rowing ferries.  
We also have a new weather station system which will monitor the conditions at the harbour entrance and the data will shortly be hosted on our website for all to access and will include tide data (actual and predicted), wind speed and direction, pressure, and temperature.
- **Staff** - We welcome the following members of staff to the Harbour team:
  - Assistant Harbour Masters: Dave Brown and Matt Brown
  - Berthing Officer: Richard Drabwell
  - Marina Maintenance: Jamie Briggs
- **Commercial** - We have been successful in our application for grant funding to install light and power to the Commercial Pontoons situated downstream of the Town bridge. The components have been ordered and installation will commence shortly.
- **Quay Regeneration development** - The Mural artist has completed work to paint the old toilet block at the pleasure pier. The second phase of improving the public realm through new benches, signage and surfaces will commence shortly. The pleasure pier is also due to be surveyed by the engineering team with a view to carrying out identified remedial works this financial year along with replacing the safety rails around the perimeter. A new contractor has been working on the delivery of the rest of the project and have completed their investigations and pricing schedule is now with us, with a view to commencing work in late September.

### **And finally....**

A big thank you to all the members of this committee and the organisations that they represent for the support and collaboration over the past two years that I have been at Weymouth. I believe that the Harbour is in a good position both financially and reputationally and most importantly it is in a position to develop and grow with the people that are here today.

## **5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE**

- **AS – RNLI.** Quiet at the moment as other vessels have been providing assistance to vessels with issues. The ILB has been dealing with various paddleboard incidents recently. The Weymouth Lifeboat Station is due a refurbishment next year as it is 35 years old.
- **RG – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Nothing to report.
- **KC – Boat Owners/Non-Commercial Moorings.** Requested an update on the gate at the NQ pontoon being electrified again to assist with openings. **JJ** confirmed that currently awaiting feedback from the NQ Development Project and the implications on the gate house. This is due within a month and a temporary option to be considered as well.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** The Rowing Club have completed the concrete pad at the front of their building and WSC will be looking to do the same towards the end of September/October to stop drainage and run off going into the harbour.
- **TS - Fishermen.** Season has pickup up to the point that they are flat out and very busy at the moment. Would like updates on the Quay regeneration for the Commercial users. The pedestrian area of Custom House Quay is looking dirty though is keeping the area near to his boat clean.
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** Currently busy all around the harbour. The large refuse bins along CHQ have replaced the smaller fix bins are these to be a permanent fixture? Complaint from the art gallery regarding the artist who is selling their work on the cargo stage just along from the gallery, are they allowed to do this? **JJ** confirmed that they will be spoken to regarding this.

**AR – Dorset Marine Police.** Read by **JJ** - emphasised the importance of people reporting incidents to the police as everything in policing is very much evidenced based, including the distribution of resources. Please encourage everyone to report non-urgent incidents via 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk (often quicker than calling 101) or if there is an immediate threat to life or damage to property call 999.

Things of note: On 23rd & 24th July Op Seagoing / Seabird – Poole / Weymouth slip way. This was a joint operation with Dorset Police Marine engagement team / Force Support Group and Rural crime team, along with Marine management organisation, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Southern IFCA, Border Force to name a few.

We carried out a slipway engagement between 0730 – 1500 hours, engaging with members of public, mainly regarding anti-social behaviour from jet ski riders.

Weymouth harbour have a VERY good approach regarding jet skis, and thankfully seem to manage them very well when compared to other areas along the coast.

There have however been reports of jet skiers disturbing the dolphins off Portland and a small number of anti-social behaviour incidents, so it was an opportunity to educate those leaving the slipway. We provided advice around the local byelaws (handed out the keyrings with the QR code) and gave general theft prevention advice to boat owners down there. It was also an opportunity to get chatting to the locals and advise on things to look out for which may be of interest to the police and Border Force, as well providing the opportunity for MMO and Sifca to educate the fishermen and women of their rules and regulations.

Quiet at the moment, however, there have been a handful of thefts / attempt thefts from boats over the past few months in the following areas:

Portland boat club (outboard stolen)

Hamm Beach (fishing equipment stolen from boats)

Custom House Quay – theft of anchors

Cosens Quay – break to boat

Weymouth harbour are having issues with pier jumpers, and I have a meeting on Thursday to discuss this.

- **MH – Weymouth Harbour Watch** – Very happy to have face to face meetings again and will now continue to work with the AHM's and the website developer to progress the website. The FB page is going well and have a number of likes.
- **MR – Harbours Committee.** The revised HRO for West Bay and Lyme Regis is currently with the MMO but is making slow progress as it should now be issued out for public consultation. The Harbours Committee have reviewed the Weymouth Harbour Pilotage Report and agreed that this service is no longer needed. The withdrawal of the Pilotage service at Weymouth Harbour this would allow for the tenders of visiting Cruise ships would be able to berth bringing passengers directly into Weymouth. They are continuing to interview for a replacement Harbour Master to ensure that all the good work Jamie has achieved continues.
- **JJ** – Advised that with and the replacement of the pontoons at the Cargo Stage in September would be able handle a greater number of passengers. **KC** asked about the fuel pontoon in the pontoon replacements, and this will be included in the improvements. All full update has been requested for the next meeting.
- **TH – Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users.** WTC are currently negotiating on the lease with Dorset Council for the promenade. Town Council is producing a Seafront Masterplan for the area of the promenade and beach that is leased from Dorset Council and they have just completed a public consultation to get views – they received 2,200 responses to this. The draft masterplan will be consulted on in the autumn. Thanks for arranging the painting of the railings along the Pavilion area and lighting up the Town Bridge in purple.

#### 6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **AS – Email correspondence.** Scam emails have been sent to various Representatives using his name but not his email address. Please ignore and delete. Future emails to this group will sent B'CC to try to reduce this.

#### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **SJ – HCG members 3 term dates.** Advised that Kathy Claydon, Terry Studley, and Dave Caddy will have completed their 6-year term in October. **KB** confirmed that the terms of reference state that they need to go to their associations and canvass for a replacement. **KC** requested assistance from the Harbour Office with contacting the inner harbour users. As **DC** is Vice Chair the Terms of Reference will need to be checked and confirmed.
- **AS** – Concern that his summary report was not read out at the Harbours Committee Meeting last time. **MR** to confirm who this needs to be forwarded to.
- **AS** – Regarding the representatives of the various associations, when the main representative is not able to attend then the substitute should be there, this has not been the case for Training Establishments and the Terms of Reference are to be checked in regard to this.
- **TH** – Request received from a WTC Councillor from a member of public to attend, it was confirmed by **KB** that it is a private meeting and that other than the Association Representatives guests can only be invited by the Chairman to attend.

## **8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **Harbour Consultative Group**

- 17 November 2022 at Weymouth Town Council Chamber and online via Teams.

### **Harbours Committee**

- 28 September 2022
- 8 December 2022