

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHHCG)
Wednesday 10th November 2021 (Teams, 19:00-21:00)

Present

Ken Buchan	KB	Head of Environment and Wellbeing
Cllr Mark Roberts	MR	Chair of Harbours Committee
Cllr Colin Huckle	CH	Weymouth Town Council
Jamie Joyce	JJ	Weymouth Harbour Master
Andy Sargent	AS	RNLI Representative and Chair
Dave Caddy	DC	Harbour Traders Representative and Vice Chair
Terry Studley	TS	Fishermen & Charter Boat Representative
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Dave McCune	DM	Inner Harbour User Substitute Representative
Steve Goodwin	SG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Dave Brown	DB	Dorset Marine Police
Rob Gray	RG	Commercial Passenger Substitute
Neil Bedwell	NB	Boatfolk Mooring Representative
Dawn Heath	DH	DC Highways Team Lead Representative
Christopher Peck	CP	DC Highways Cycling and Walking Representative
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

AS welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Mary Harris apologies received unable to attend.

Dave McCune attending as substitute for Inner Harbour Users, apologies from Kathy Claydon unable to attend.

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 and they were then presented to the Harbours Committee Meeting by Dave Caddy in September.

MR confirmed that Highways were asked to attend, **DH** and **CP** were then welcomed to the meeting.

Regarding the lack of attendance from a representative of the Training and Education Schools to these meetings – **KB** confirmed that the Terms of Reference state that the HCG can then decide on approaching other organisations to obtain a substitute. **AS** to contact Callum Seggie and the Harbour Office to support with contact other organisations to look to get a substitute.

4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

It has been a particularly busy period following the end of the holiday season where we have been completing repairs, dealing with unexploded ordnance brought into the Harbour and hosting the MCA who have conducted audits on the Harbour with regard to our oil spill response capabilities. And the commencement of our key regeneration at the peninsular.

- Commercial Road electrical bollards – They are now complete and operational, electric smartcards can be purchased from the Harbour Office if required.
- Cosens Quay Car Park – Reviewed the Loop car park and Cosens Quay for extension. Work in Cosens Quay is complete resulting in:
 - 7 x extra parking bays exclusively for the use of Loop car park permit holders.
 - 3 x extra spaces for public use.
- Commercial Road bin - We were requested to look at bin capacity in the Commercial Road area. On reviewing CCTV and speaking with Waste partnership it was apparent that a large number of general members of public were utilising the bin, which is dedicated to the Commercial Operators. Therefore, a cover and lockable keypad has been put in place to ensure that the bin is only utilised by the commercial operators. The padlock code has been issued to all Commercial Operators.
- Fishing Landing Quay – The wire cable and hook has been replaced following an inspection by Zurich which revealed that the cable was showing signs of deterioration.
- Marina Trolleys – Kathy requested that the marina trolleys were looked at and along with two marina trolleys purchased in August a further two trolleys have been purchased with the larger pneumatic wheels. The two trolleys that were damaged have been repaired and put back into service, totalling in 6 available trolleys.
- Marina Facilities - The Gents facilities at North Quay is undergoing refurbishments with two shower cubicles to be replaced and both hand dryers to be replaced along with the lights being rewired.
- The waiting pontoon is now fully accessible with the cessation of the RHIB charter rides.
- A request from an operator to place a barrier at the bottom of the ramp at North Quay to prevent accidental falls at this location has now been put in place.
- A light audit is being conducted to replace any non-working lights and the team will also be working through the winter repairing any loose planking and fibreglass boards on NQ and WW Rd pontoons.
- We are working with Contractors to improve the water delivery system to the Marinas and berths and looking to install new pipework throughout the Harbour.
- The hot water facilities at Custom House Quay will also be replaced with new pipework and a new boiler system this December.
- Quay Regeneration Development - The peninsula project construction phase has commenced with surveys along the Commercial berths at the entrance to the Harbour. The first stage of the construction is to repair any damage, replace safety ladders and fendering. Once complete they will move onto the Fish Landing Quay and other areas, more updates will be given when the contractors have completed their surveys and firmed up their construction timelines.
- Fish equipment storage on pontoons – A couple of emails have been circulated with regard to ensuring that fishing equipment on pontoons is stored in a safe and proper manner, which is stated within the Berthing Conditions: Storage of equipment must be contained within 2 x 227 litre tubs and ensuring a 1m wide walkway is available at all times. 90% of the operators have complied with this and we've just got 10% which we just need to ask to have a really good look at the pontoons and clean those areas up. We do acknowledge that at the moment, with the peninsular development, there is access issues with the peninsula and that the proposed self-storage fish equipment area, which forms part of the key regeneration project, will certainly ease this situation in the future, but for the time being we just ask you to work with ourselves.

- Sunken Fishing vessel Gitte - As you may be aware the Fishing vessel Gitte berthed near the entrance to Harbour, had a catastrophic failure and sank within 3 minutes on the 1st October. This vessel had been an abandoned vessel and as such a contractor had been appointed to wreck the vessel in the beginning of summer and had been awaiting a permit from the Environment Agency to conduct this work. A new methodology of retrieval has been submitted to Environment Agency and a permit based on this has been issued by the agency. The vessel is due to be lifted from the water this week and then wrecked on the quayside. The costs associated to this retrieval and wrecking are the subject of an insurance claim. Outcomes to be provided when the project is finalised.

5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

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- **AS – RNLI.** Quiet last month, a steady year with spikes and troughs. Mainly leisure and a couple of Commercial breakdowns. 4 Paddleboards had to be rescued without proper gear for the area and an increase with despondent persons on the sea front. Vessels running well, 85 running well though yet to be named – hopefully will happen in the Spring 2022
- **NB – Boatfolk.** Boatfolk are part of a group called TYHA working towards a clean marina award, I'm looking at our environmental credentials and our sustainability's. The main part of it, and that's something that we're working on.
- **SG - Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Nothing to report.
- **DC - Inner Harbour Users.** Nothing to report.
- **JP - Charter Boat Associations.** Not present.
- **CS - Training & Education Schools.** Not present.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** Sailing and rowing clubs still going. Rowing club had their pontoons out for maintenance. Sailing club keeps racing until Boxing Day and then there will be a series of lift outs including the buoys in the bay. A 3 foot in diameter buoy with a large F on it has gone missing from the Bay if anyone sees it please let them know.
- **TS - Fishermen & Charter Boat.** Issues with work on the quay side when trying to access vessel and loading. Bass fishing good but shellfish is not good, Far East markets not good currently.
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** Nothing to report, generally a busy summer with things now slowing down. Access issues as well.
- **DB – Dorset Marine Police.** Currently there has been a lot of thefts of large outboard engines along the coast, very organised and targeted though requires access for vehicles to load them into. Locally 7 thefts reported in the Poole and Portland area with 3 thefts reported in Weymouth Harbour. County Lines may turn to the boating industry as transport for bringing drugs in as has been hit hard on the roads. Anything suspicious or out of place please report so they can investigate it. As a previous vessel collision proved to be very interesting as the owner was known but not for having a vessel. All information is key for intelligence. A PCSO was assaulted along the harbour recently but appears to be okay and is now back at work. Planning for next year has started so assistance can be provided for any campaigns please get in touch to arrange a meeting.
- **MR – Harbour Committee.** Committee update for all 3 harbours. The Harbour Revision Order is in place now for Weymouth. But at a slightly later stage with the ones that Bridport and Lyme, currently with the MMO and will shortly come out for public consultation. I think it's eight weeks for that one, and if anyone has any interest in those two harbours, they may well want to have a look at that. The visitor numbers and leisure berths have been much better than expected in view of the pandemic at all three harbours and the commercial numbers have been very constant. The infrastructure at Weymouth regarding the piling wall at the end of

the peninsula, has deteriorated fast and the replacement cost somewhere around 6/7 million but the Environment Agency have agreed that it can be part of Dorset Council's contribution to the whole 140 million Harbour Walls program. It was scheduled as part of that for a few years hence, and the Environment Agency has signalled that they're happy for us to bring it forward. So, with one or two cabinet members, I am looking at ways of where we can get the capital budget to come from to start the works on this as a full replacement rather than a repair. The COB at Lyme Regis has survey work going on and there's going to be some considerable work starting probably in 2023. And works at West Bay, the timber piling on the eastern side of the harbour will be replaced. They were purchased from Bournemouth from the old groins there, so they've been sitting in the railway yard waiting to go in. The Harbours Strategy, which you've been consulted on that's now out for public consultation until the end of November. Please, if you've got anything further to add, please do, it's online and you can add it to a sheet with primers and pointers of things you might like to comment on and to fill out. At the December meeting we will be considering the pricing and fees for the coming year. Another point from one of the other consultative meetings, the question of sewage outfall and into the sea came up and the other day I was out in Poole Harbour where the oyster fishery and the clam fisheries had had to cease for several days due to the high levels of sewage due to the excessive rainfall nearly two weeks ago. I will be taking this up with a couple of the MPs and the Environment Agency and if anyone got any comments on how sewage might be affecting their business, I'd be very grateful to receive those.

- **SJ – Weymouth Harbour Watch** – update read out on behalf of MH. Confirmation that the services of the gentleman who has done Poole Harbour Watch Website have been secured as has the domain Weymouth Harbour Watch.org.uk. Sherrins the printers have done a fabulous logo and the next step is to contact the Marine Police upon Mary's return to confirm the rest of the content and appropriate contact numbers for the website. A full update will be provided to AS once MH is back.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **SG** – Confirmation of point of contact for Council Licensing, waiting lists, their use/misuse/penalties. **JJ** confirmed the Harbour Office is the guardian of the waiting lists and when a licence becomes available the lists will be honoured. Those persons without a vessel at that point will not be offered a licence and asked if they want to remain on the list or go to the bottom of the list. Every 3 months the lists are checked and the persons on the list contacted for an update. If those licenses do come up, then they need to have all the vessel qualifications and commercial tickets and insurance in place to take out those licenses, otherwise they get moved to the end of the list. Operating Licences – These refer to particular locations within the harbour, though most of the license areas are in Outer Harbour and the licenses are applicable for passing trade. So, they can pick up trade as they come past the other operators should just be operating on an adhoc basis from that area and picking up people through websites, phone calls. Due to recent events time has been given to allow businesses to recover from the COVID impact but in the forthcoming season they will be reviewed to ensure that everyone is abiding by the licence agreements. **JJ** confirmed that the vessel raised in question of its site fees is operating within its licence and was moved to a pontoon berth due to safety requirements. Other items raised to be covered in a face to face meeting with **JJ**.

- **DC** – No contact or communications with regards to work outside Kingfisher Marine or CHQ. Representative of Highways to attend HCG. Update on the situation regarding the communication over the last week, including Facebook exchanges and a meeting. Confirmed that the work was not making the progress hoped and a second team has now joined them. **CP** confirmed that the letters went out at the end of September to residents and businesses. (A copy is to accompany these minutes) Acknowledged that they could have done a better job and new boards will be going up to confirm that businesses are open along CHQ. Boards were delayed due to awaiting final approval by committee. They are running a bit behind schedule but will be completely off site and the road will be open during of the Christmas period. **DC** raised that there are no “Businesses Open” signs along the sea front. **CP** confirmed the large dot matrix signs at the northern end of the Esplanade will have something on them as well as the “Road Closed” signs being removed over the Christmas period (13th of December for 3 weeks). **TS** advised how difficult it has been for the fishermen accessing their businesses. **DH** requested contact details to pass on to DC Liaison Officer Andrew Bradley to try to ease the situation. Harbour Office to pass on TS’s contact details.
- **AS** – Update RNLI access on Trinity Road. **AS** confirmed that new signage and sounds have been put together with help from **JJ** and **DH** to improve access for RNLI members when on a shout. **AS** thanked **DH** for tremendous help given. They should be in place before the next season.
- **MH** – Requests an update on the “temporary” outdoor seating in Trinity Road, what is the justification for this to continue? Why have these licenses been extended? They were meant to finish on the 25.09.21. **DH** confirmed that the sitting out area licences go through to February 2022, the 25th of September was the date for 2020. The Government brought this temporary legislation in during COVID and are currently looking at the sitting outlaws at the moment. It is what people are allowed to do, so Dorset Council have accommodated that but are not sure which way they Government will go. They should know sometime just after Christmas. And then obviously we can work moving forward once we know what the government is bringing in. But at this present point in time they are licensed till February of next year.
- **MH** – Intended works on Nothe Parade – Have they been postponed, if so until when? **DH** confirmed that she did not have an update on this and will check and report back. **JJ** confirmed that he had spoke to the engineers and it is likely to be January 2022.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **TS** – Sitting out – DH confirmed that it will still be in place until February 2022.
- **TD** – Removal of the fuelling pontoon on Cove Pass. **JJ** confirmed that Mr Curtis has removed them in advance of wall works as he was advised they would be need to in November. Once complete Mr Curtis will review the situation and we will provide an update on it.
- **DH** – Advised that there will be a Toy Run along the harbour on the weekend of the 11th/12th of December where a local business owner has organised with DC for the motor bikes doing the run to go into the closed off area of the road. The Toy Run is for Dorset County Hospital for an hour and a half in the morning.

- **AS** – Will put a note out to see if any requirements for an informal meeting in the New Year – 2022.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 16 February 2022

Harbours Committee

- 8 December 2021
- 16 March 2022