

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHCG)
Thursday 13 November 2025 (WTC Chamber and Teams, 19:00-21:30)

Present

Tim Day	TD	Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Ed Carter	EC	Weymouth Harbour Master
Dave Caddy	DC	Vice Chair and Harbour Traders Representative
Andy Alcock	AA	Commercial Fishermen Representative
Alan Hale	AH	Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boats
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch
Simon Kershaw	SK	RNLI
Paul Swain	PS	Boatfolk – Weymouth Marina
Adrian Best	AB	Dorset Marine Police / Dorset Police
Marion Fischer	MF	Parking Enforcement Team Leader
Cllr Kate Wheller	KW	Weymouth Town Council
Cllr Rob Hughes	RH	Harbours Advisory Committee Chair

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

TD opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Callum Seggie, Rob Gray and Matt Piles.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

TD asked if anyone had any points from the previous minutes.

DC Requested a correction to the previous minutes to add the word 'illegally' when referencing the complaint about parking.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

Jamie Pullin was elected as Vice-Chair.

5. Confirmation of HCG Representatives & Substitutes

EC Confirmed with the members present who their substitutes are in the event they cannot attend a meeting.

4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1.0 Harbour Use

EC delivered an update on Weymouth harbour. He provided statistics about marina occupancy, he noted that there was a growing trend in people taking up a 6 month berth and there was little change in commercial berths.

Visiting leisure craft numbers were down by approximately 3.6% compared to the previous year, while slipway and PWC permits were up by 10.5% and non-resident fishing vessel visits had dropped by nearly 29% compared to the same period last year.

There were vacancies in the Harbour team for the Assistant Harbour Master and Moorings Officer and Dorset Council had agreed permission to recruit in those positions.

2.0 Incidents

EC There had been 23 recorded incidents in the harbour since the last meeting, including minor diesel slicks, minor personal accidents, a missing life ring and several reports of fishing nets near swimmers in the bay from one individual. He noted that they were considering several routes forward, including circulating safety advice to swimmers and fishermen to ensure that people were kept safe when using the harbour for sea swimming. Another option raised was to put in place a designated swimming zone over the winter, however there were concerns around the enforcement of that.

3.0 Operations

3.1 Oil Spills & Response

EC Over the summer a number of minor diesel oil slicks were identified, however it is believed that the source of the diesel spills has been found and the vessel had gone in for maintenance over the winter.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

EC The bathymetric survey has been brought forward by a month as a large fishing trawler vessel had touched the floor of the harbour when leaving, however there had been no other reports of vessels grounding.

5.0 Harbour Works

5.1 General Works

EC There were several infrastructure projects that would be carried out over the winter. Other projects that were being costed up included the replacement or refurbishment of the stone pier railings and a full resurface of the cargo stage.

6.0 Upcoming Events

EC The only upcoming event scheduled was the Christmas day swim.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **SK RNLI** – There had been 22 launches since the last meeting and the reasons for those were listed.
- **PS Boatfolk Weymouth Marina** – The summer had been steady and ownership of Boatfolk had now been transferred to Premier Marinas. Rebranding of the marina was anticipated to take place over the next few months. They had also been working with Litter Free Dorset on the Weymouth Water Quality Project following the e-coli spike. They had also seen a reduction in the foam forming around the sluice gates, but it would still be continually monitored.
- **AH Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative** – Raised concern about the amount of potentially hazardous material under vessels on the chain and sinker moorings.

EC – Noted the concern raised and stated that they would explore options by assessing the situation and potentially removing any material by hand where possible.

AH – Raised a concern about the amount of dust and debris that would end up on peoples' boats as a result of the works on North Quay.

EC – There was regular contact with the project leads and the people carrying out the work were mitigating impacts on harbour users as much as possible, through damping down and plastic walkways. The recent wet weather has been helping in keeping dust levels low.

AH – Reported on boat owners requesting drinkable water on the pontoons.

EC – Wessex Water had highlighted that signage had to be in place stating it is non-potable as it comes from a break tank, however the water is tested regularly and all equipment serviced and cleaned. It is not permitted for all the pontoon taps to be connected to the mains, however a route to having a single potable water point in each marina is being explored. This will only provide a station for the filling of small containers and water bottles.

AH – Raised that berth holders were concerned about inadequate safety lighting on the pontoons.

EC – Stated that the spotlights on both gangways are being completely replaced and we will be assessing the marinas to try and identify particularly dark areas and see what can be done to rectify the issue.

AH – Raised a concern from some berth holders that some of the boats were overhanging their moorings and causing difficulty for others to get past.

EC – Stated that the Harbour team will be asked to keep an eye out for this issue when doing their regular checks and to ask any vessel owners who were are positioned in the mooring properly to adjust their vessel.

- **JP Charter Boats** – September had been quieter after a mixed summer.
- **TD Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative** – The Sailing Club were planning a boxing day race.
- **WH Weymouth Beach Leisure Users** – It had been a relatively successful summer followed by an abrupt September.

DC Asked about the water sampling test that had been carried out.

EC Reported on the data that had been retrieved from the sampling. On 11 and 24 August, the seabird marker was detected as being high concentration in both samples which contributed directly to the sample failure against the EU Bathing Water Directive. There was also a low concentration of the human marker in both samples, and a low concentration of the dog and horse markers in one of the samples.

KW Stated that the Town Council was taking the test results extremely seriously and all test results are publicised so members of the public can see that the water quality is good the majority of the time.

- **AA Commercial Fisherman** – Poor weather has caused trouble for the commercial fishermen. There is also a ladder in the way of a crane at the new FLQ.

EC – One of the ladders has been moved and the other is on the jobs list to be moved very soon.

- **DC Harbour Traders Association** – Pubs and cafes have benefitted from cruise ships arriving later in the year. Asked about the status of the seafood festival.

EC Provided details about the seafood festival including the location and boundary of the festival and parking.

DC Asked for an update on proposed harbourside developments in Weymouth.

EC Confirmed that he would set up a meeting in early 2026 with Matt Piles and other relevant officers and councillors at Dorset Council to discuss this matter with the WHCG. **EC confirmed** that harbour revenue and land areas are protected by the Harbour Revision Order 2021.

DC Asked about the communication around works to the North Quay.

KW Stated that no overall decision had been made before the works were complete, it was only when funding became available that a final decision was made, which was why it wasn't communicated to the WHCG earlier.

DC Asked about the drain under the bridge and the sand jetty.

EC Confirmed that he had chased the drain up again with Highways but had no further updates. He also stated that the procurement process was underway for consultant services, and a full survey of the sand jetty structure is planned.

DC Asked about the 4.8m limit for car lengths in council car parks, which is impacting some peoples' usage of the car parks as their vehicles are too large.

MF Stated that 4.8m was a standard car park space length and the policy was in place to prevent loss of revenue from larger vehicles taking up multiple spaces.

EC Stated that the option of limiting the Cosens Quay car park to harbour users only could be explored in the future.

DC Noted that there had been an artist setup selling their pictures from the pavement over the summer.

EC Stated that he was aware of the individual and had spoken to them to inform them that they were not allowed to trade in that location.

- **MH Weymouth Harbour Watch** – A security marking event scheduled for the end of September was postponed until Easter 2026 because of the poor weather.
- **AB Dorset Marine Police** – Reports of crime in the harbour had been relatively low, however the importance of reporting any incidences was emphasised.
- **Cllr RH** – The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority had been invited to receive an award for outstanding work in their commitment to sustainable fishing and their use of drone technology. He also noted that he would be attending the Dorset Coast Forum Annual Conference, celebrating their 30th year.
- **Cllr KW** – Nothing further to report.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

TD Raised the seaweed farm development in Ringstead Bay.

EC Stated that he had responded on behalf of the harbour to the MMO, which TD had seen. In the response, notes about scheduling work sustainably and clear communication were included. The response will be circulated to members.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MF Explained the blue badge restrictions and stated that if there were any particular areas where people felt were unsafe as a result of blue badge holders parking on double yellow lines, they could look into those areas. A survey had been undertaken to identify where lines were not consistent with Traffic Regulation Orders and the areas identified in need of updating had been passed onto the relevant team.

JP Asked if there were any updates on the draft of pleasure boat vessel and boat person licencing policy.

EC The recent draft release of a new vessel licensing policy has been done by Dorset Council Licencing and does not apply to vessels that are already licenced by the MCA or by the harbour authority directly. The harbour authority can licence passenger carrying vessels operating solely within the harbour area under the Public Health Act, but any vessels coded and licenced by the MCA do not require a further licence from Dorset Council. The predominant aim of this new policy is to encompass businesses, such as the hire of paddleboards away from harbour statutory areas, to ensure that correct safety measures are in place. The policy has recently been through public consultation and is currently being revised. One of the matters for revision is to make extra clear to who, and crucially to who it does not apply to. It is recognised that this new policy has caused concern for vessel operators already licensed by the MCA.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 11 February 2026

Harbours Advisory Committee

- 03 December 2025
- 04 March 2026