

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHCG)
Wednesday 20 August 2025 (WTC Chamber and Teams, 19:00-21:00)

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
Dan Bell	DB	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Jamie Pullen	JP	Charter Boats
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch
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 Adrian Best, Simon Kershaw, Matt Piles and Paul Swain.

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 Noted that in the 'Harbour Master Updates' the following points were attributed to **DC** in the minutes rather than **AA**:

- Harbour Master Updates 2.0 incidents
- 7 Agenda items from members – 'Raised the issue of a smell near the pavilion, potentially being caused by fish being washed into the drains'
- 7 Agenda items from members – 'Raised the question of the ferry step operators having their own hut.'

The group discussed the possibilities of changing the timing of the consultative group meetings to allow for time the group members to review the minutes before they are sent to the Harbours Advisory Committee or circulating the minutes earlier as an alternative.

4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1.0 Harbour Use

EC delivered an update on Weymouth harbour. The current occupancy in the marina was 92.4% which was comparable with last year and recently there had

been a decline in demand for larger berths and increase in demand for smaller berths. Commercial berths remain high at around 100% let.

The summer had been generally positive, with good weather conditions and the harbour continued to be popular for visiting vessels. The new fish landing quay was also seeing lots of usage over the summer and one of the ice machines had been upgraded.

In response to a question **EC** stated that going forward the new ice machine could be provided to other commercial users of the harbour.

CCTV had been installed in the ice machine and catch storerooms and the Quayside office was being fitted with desk space and Wi-fi.

EC noted that he could look into the possibility of offering event organisers the option of using local vessels for their events, rather than organising their own in the future.

2.0 Incidents

2.1 It was reported that there had been 40 incidents reported since the last meeting, 40% being vessel related, 17% crime and theft, 28% anti-social behaviour and several instances of people jumping into the harbour. There was no marine crime included in the 17% statistic and further work would be done to narrow down the categories to get a better insight into what incidents were occurring.

EC A comprehensive management plan had been written and would provide a range of actions for harbour staff to follow in interactions with harbour users and closure of the pier was only recommended for serious behaviours, where people were refusing to leave.

A concern was raised on fishing gear being left, causing a hazard for harbour users, **EC** stated that the harbour team would look into this and check whose jurisdiction that area was in.

31% of the vessel incidents were made up of by-law offences, however this represented a fairly small number given the total of 40 incidences.

3.0 Operations

3.1 Oil Spills & Response

EC – There had been a spill of less than a litre from a waste oil tank. External notification was not required because of the small nature of the spill and a second waste tank had been acquired. Additional processes were in place by the contractor to make sure that their systems were being double checked.

Further oil spill response exercises were being planned for this year to ensure compliance.

Various communications to berth holders had gone out over the past few years, giving people information on properly disposing of oil, however unless vessel owners reported oil spills to the harbour team then the only response could be after any incident.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

EC – The Weymouth Harbour Revision Order had completed consultation in July and no objections or actions were raised. Further detail on the timescale would be provided in the future.

The ‘Love Weymouth Harbour’ campaign had been launched to raise environmental impact of littering and encourage people to interact with the harbour in a more sustainable way and pop-up events had been organised by the campaign.

The Weymouth and Portland Marine Litter Facility had concluded its second year and had made a significant impact on the level of litter in the harbour.

5.0 Harbour Works

5.1 General Works

EC Following a concern raised at the Consultative Group meeting the Cosens Quay car park was being investigated to determine the cause of the slump in the tarmac and further details would be provided once that work had been carried out.

The sand jetty was raised at the last meeting also, a more thorough investigation was being planned to determine the scope of deterioration and to understand the remaining lifespan of the jetty.

The planned repair to the Town Bridge is set to be pushed to early next year and disruption will be kept to a minimum. **EC** confirmed that the team would investigate the report of intermittent bells on the Town Bridge.

Regarding the Weymouth Quay Fuel Pontoon, recently HMRC had given their approval and the fuel would now be available on demand rather than self-serve, which would result in a higher staff cost as a result of having to have a member of staff on demand to serve fuel.

6.0 Upcoming Events

EC The Santa Maria visited the harbour over the summer and the Waverley was set to arrive in early September.

7.0 Other

No acts of pilotage had taken place since the last meeting and pilotage was now only compulsory for vessels over 80 meters in length, replacing the previous threshold of 50 meters.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **DB Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels** – Nothing to report.
- **AH Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative** – Passed on the thanks of the berth holders for the excellent condition of the toilet facilities.
- **JP Charter Boats** – Nothing to report.

- **TD Clubs of Weymouth** – Suggested that it may be useful if Portland Port shared details of events with the Harbour team to avoid a situation where a serious incident can take place during an event that the Harbour Office is unaware of.
- **WH Weymouth Beach Leisure Users** – The Town Council were looking at potential options to replace the rafts. The Environment Agency had carried out their testing of the bathing quality of the water, last year the results went from excellent to good due to spikes in e-coli and testing this year resulted in higher levels than last year, which would put bathing quality at poor. The Environment Agency were currently testing that sample further to determine the cause of the low quality sample.

Cllr KW asked whether there was anything the Harbour team could be doing to investigate if there was any particular cause for the poor testing result, such as run off pollution.

EC Stated that they could come up with a sampling regime to ensure that the samples being taken are consistent and they would look into the cost of this.

- **AA Commercial Fishermen** – Raised an issue of obstruction of the ice store by trailers and vehicles on the slipway. **AA** Raised a concern about some vessels remaining on their marina berth until the Town Bridge was actually raised, rather than waiting in the channel. This then results in vessels navigating too fast from the marina in order to make the bridge on time.

EC stated that he would ask harbour staff to look into both issues, as they hadn't been reported previously. Training for conflict resolution was also set to be carried out by harbour staff so that they are equipped to manage users who are not compliant.

- **DC Harbour Traders Association** – Raised an issue around cars being illegally parked for long periods of time, which had meant that lorries couldn't stop without blocking the road.

Cllr KW Stated that she had been sending photographic evidence to parking enforcement to encourage them to carry out a nighttime patrol to enforce parking restrictions.

EC Noted that he would look into this issue with Highways at Dorset Council.

- **MH Weymouth Harbour Watch** – Dates had been arranged for several security events set to take place in September.
- **Cllr RH** – Met the new Chief Executive for Dorset Council, who has experience working with Harbours in her previous role.
- **Cllr KW** – Nothing further to report.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

AH Asked about facilities for emptying toilets on the pontoons?

EC Stated that it would be hard to provide in the short term, due to the requirement of needing specialist disposal, but can look into providing that type of facility in the future.

EC Confirmed that mops / floor scraper blades were on order for the North Quay shower block.

EC There were no plans in the short term to upgrade the Westwey Road Facilities, however general maintenance would be carried out.

EC Wessex Water have stated that the water cannot be classed as drinkable water, tests are carried out regularly which shows that the quality of the water is good, however it has to be classed as non-potable water, due to it going through a tank.

EC There are concerns about fitting latching devices to the gates, due to the risk of them being left open.

EC Additional security measures are being installed, including CCTV on the pontoon gatehouse.

EC Signage can be installed to ask that people don't use the metal ladders, however installing chains across them would be a safety concern.

EC No decision has been made on the chain and sinker moorings or joining up the North Quay and Westwey Road pontoons.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MH Raised concerns about buskers.

EC Stated that he could raise that point with Matt Piles when they next meet.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 12 November 2025
- 11 February 2026

Harbours Advisory Committee

- 17 September 2025
- 03 December 2025
- 04 March 2026