

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHCG)
Wednesday 20 May 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
Rob Gray	RG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Jamie Pullen	JP	Charter Boats
Paul Swain	PS	Boatfolk – Weymouth Marina
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch
Sara Cornick	SC	Training and Education Schools

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Hughes, Cllr Kate Wheller and Simon Kershaw.

Matthew Piles introduced himself as the Strategic Director for Weymouth at Dorset Council.

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.

No matters arising.

4. UPDATES TO HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUPS TERMS OF REFERENCE

EC – It was explained that several updates had been proposed to the terms of reference for the harbour consultative groups. The first change was to ensure that meetings could still go ahead if a Chair for the meeting hadn't been elected, in this case the Harbour Master would step in as acting Chair until one could be elected. The second change was to introduce a code of conduct. These updates would be brought to the Harbours Advisory Committee at one of the future meetings.

5. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1.0 Harbour Use

EC delivered an update on Weymouth harbour. The occupancy in the marina peaked at 92.2% and the current occupancy was at 82.4%. There were currently

some vacancies in berths over 10m, which was unusual compared to past figures. Commercial berths remained at nearly 100% let.

The end of year figures for 2024 showed that revenue from visiting craft was slightly ahead of the 2023 figures, however revenue from the slipway and PWC permits showed an overall decline. Recent activity in the harbour had been high, due to the good weather during April.

There were several large events to be held over the coming months which were hoped to increase activity within the harbour.

The Weymouth Sailing Club pontoon works were completed in March and the addition of an extra arm would big difference to the club and make operating safer.

2.0 Incidents

2.1 It was reported that there had been a couple of incidents since the last meeting, these included a vessel being navigated by person under the influence of alcohol, which the police investigated but didn't take any action. There was also a report of vandalism, a person jumping into the harbour and a collapsed mast.

DC – Stated that they were present when this event took place and considered that the police response may have been too heavy handed and included accusations against the wrong person.

3.0 Operations

3.1 Oil Spills & Response

EC – There had been a spill early in the new year, but there was nothing else to report since then.

There was also a report of a small quantity of sewage coming into the harbour from a rainwater drain near the Newstead Road junction. The Environment Agency had been contacted to see if they can identify the source.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

EC – The RNLI had teamed up with RYA to push boating skills and had asked for support from Harbour Masters, therefore a letter had been circulated to all harbour users containing the relevant information.

A new CCTV system had been put in place, which provided further coverage and the old systems were set to be connected to the new network to provide better surveillance from the Harbour Office.

5.0 Harbour Works

5.1 General Works

EC – The only maintenance work that had not been carried out yet was the Westwey Marina gatehouse work, which has been pushed back to the end of the summer.

The work to the Town Bridge, which was scheduled for September had been pushed back to January next year, with it being merged with other works to be completed all at once, rather than in two separate stages.

The Weymouth Quay project area was now fully open and the commercial areas were being used by fishermen. The old fish landing quay was closed on 31 March and the area had been cleared.

Full use of the fuel pontoon had been delayed due to issues with the originally identified payment merchant, the length of time taken to connect the site to the main grid, and most lately the company that was conducting the installation has recently gone into administration.

A policy is being developed by Dorset Council on how to manage commercial operations and this would be going out to public consultation in the future.

No acts of pilotage had taken place since the last meeting.

AA – Raised a concern about vehicles using the fish landing quay and blocking access to the area.

6.0 Upcoming Events

EC – Reported on the upcoming events to take place in the harbour, these included visiting vessels, the Wessex Folk Festival and the Iron Man race.

EC – In response to a question he confirmed that bus companies had been contacted and informed not to use the slipway area for turning.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **RNLI.** There had been 27 launches since the last meeting. A significant number were due to mental health issues but also included broken down vessels.
- **PS – Boatfolk Weymouth Marina.** An update was provided on the sale of the company, which was anticipated to take place at the end of July or beginning of August. The sister marina in Portland had signed up to a scheme called TransEurope Marinas, which may see a decline in visitors from northern Europe as they go to Portland instead. There had also been some opportunistic thefts of bikes and one was fortunately recovered.

Samples of the water had been taken around the sluice gates to determine what the substance in the water was.

- **RG – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Not in attendance.
- **AH – Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative.** Welcomed the good response by the harbour team, in the provision of safety ladders and replacing missing bollards.
- **Dan – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels** Business was fairly quiet despite the recent good weather.

- **TD – Clubs of Weymouth.** – Nothing to report.
- **SC – Training and Education Schools.** – Maintenance had been done to the fence around the dinghy park to address complaints and a tree stump was removed. There was one large event upcoming which was a regatta in July, they were anticipating around 200 people attending.
- **WH – Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative.** – The VE Day concert went successfully and Weymouth beach had been awarded the seaside award.
- **AA - Commercial Fishermen Representative.** Raised a concern about lost revenue from the departure of the William Henry.

EC – Was in the process of contacting the owners to find out why they left, as it was hoped that any issues could be resolved without them having to relocate.

- **DC - Harbour Traders Representative** – The harbour had been busier with the good weather. There was uncertainty around the north quay road improvements, as local residents and businesses had not received communication from Dorset Council about these works.

MP – Aware of the issues about communications with the local residents and businesses and this is being worked on. The works are aimed at improving the footways to make the area safer for pedestrians and would included moving the crossing and widening both sides of the footway, while narrowing the carriageway.

MP – Also addressed concerns raised about buskers and explained that the licensing team at Dorset Council were aware of the issues.

EC – Responded to a question around the sand jetty and explained that it had been assessed by engineers that the structure was sound and was being monitored.

- **MH – Weymouth Harbour Watch** – The Harbour Watch had been fairly quiet. Two new boats had been acquired by the police and although they were based in Poole, they had the ability to cover Weymouth Harbour.
- **EC** – Reported on behalf of Cllr Rob Hughes that the two vacant positions on the Harbours Advisory Committee had been appointed.
- **AB – Dorset Marine Police / Dorset Police.** Not in attendance.
- **RH – Harbours Advisory Committee.** Not in attendance.
- **KW – Weymouth Town Council.** Not in attendance.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

TD – Weymouth Rowing Club have had near misses with people casting into the harbour. Last month there were three different instances of rowers passing underneath where people were casting into the water.

EC – Will investigate the issue and talk to the rowing club to see if they can address it.

AH – Raised the idea of a dedicated short stay area for users of the chain and sinker moorings for washing down.

EC – Concerned about providing a dedicated space as it would be a loss of revenue making space.

EC – Provided an update on freshwater supply to the pontoons. Wessex Water had visited and advised that users should be notified that it is not potable water and a tap would be added to each area and be labelled as drinking water.

EC – Asked staff to see what they can do regarding toilet paper in West Way Road toilets.

DB – Raised the issue of a smell near the pavilion, potentially being caused by fish being washed into the drains.

EC – Explained that he had looked back through the site plans and was not convinced it was the drains that were causing the problem, however had asked highways to come have a look.

DB – Raised the question of the ferry step operators having their own hut.

EC – How commercial operators advertise, and where, would be addressed through the new policy.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 20 August 2025
- 12 November 2025
- 11 February 2026

Harbours Advisory Committee

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