

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, S Goodwin, A Higgins, Cllr C Huckle, J Pullin, Cllr M Roberts, A Sargent

Apologies: A Frost

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Ken Buchan (Head of Environment and Well-being), Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master)

18. Apologies and substitute members

A Frost sent his apologies.

19. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 September 2019 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbours Committee meeting held on 25 September 2019.

Regarding the Condor Ferries note in the Harbours Committee minutes, it was highlighted that in some recent Channel Islands press there had been comment that Condor Ferries closed their operation in Weymouth because the Council did not accept an offer from Condor to pay 50% of the re-development costs to accommodate their larger vessel. Cllr Huckle and the Harbour Master confirmed that this statement is not factually correct. The issue would be referred to Dorset Council Comms to see whether any response from the Council will be given.

21. Weymouth Harbour update

Peninsula Development

Proposals for the re-development of the Weymouth Peninsula site have been considered in 3 phases:

- Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project – covering the quayside from No.1 Berth to the Ferry Steps. Project is supported by £3.8M from the Coastal Communities Fund, which has to be spent by the end of March 2021. This has started with the demolition of the Terminal Building (Building A), demolition of the Ferry Steps Building and repair of Wall D (Ferry Steps).
- Peninsula Phase 1 – a hotel, a pub with rooms and the walkway around the Peninsula.
- Peninsula Phase 2 – further leisure units.

The proposed Peninsula phases 1 and 2 are under review, as part of a wider review of the council's key development sites in Weymouth town centre.

The next steps of the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project are to complete preparations for demolishing Building B (Former Departures Lounge on Quayside), a full design for the Quay Regeneration and obtaining the necessary planning and other consents.

An engagement session specifically for harbour users will be held at Weymouth Library on **Friday 15th November 2019 from 2pm until 4pm**. There will be a brief presentation at 2pm and again at 3pm but will have all the information from the presentation available to view throughout the whole session. The link below covers the press release and details of the wider public engagement session, which is being held from 2 - 7pm 18th November at Weymouth Library.

<https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/2019/10/30/weymouth-quay-architects-appointed/>

In the space created by the demolition of the Terminal Building, the potential to provide further parking spaces is being explored.

Further work will be completed on the woodwork of the Pleasure Pier, including the piles and facings on the edge of the Pier. A café building of similar concept to the ones on the beach is expected to be let on the Pier, planning permission has been applied for.

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22nd February 2018 to prepare and submit a Harbour Revision Order to the MMO in order to modernise and consolidate the current dated legislation relating to the Harbour operations.

The latest estimate for approval of the HRO is November/December 2019 as there have been some delays due to the MMO raising additional queries. Once these have been resolved the approval will be dependent on when it can be laid before Parliament.

If and when the HRO is approved, work will commence on defining the Directions.

There is further work to do on the financial impact of the defined HRO area.

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The FLAG has now fully committed its funds and currently remains closed to new applications. The Board is still meeting to monitor the expenditure and to visit or be presented with some of the outputs from the projects that were funded over the last two years, particularly infrastructure projects under Priority Three of the Local Development Strategy which aimed to

enable safe, sustainable working ports and harbours.

FLAG Board meetings are attended by Weymouth Harbour Master, along with a number of representatives from Dorset Council and Mr R Summerhayes, the Weymouth fishermen's representative.

A successor Fisheries Fund scheme has been announced with further details available in due course but dependent on the Brexit decision. There is an interim fund that has recently been announced as a consequence of government intervention.

Harbour Wall D (Ferry Steps)

Knights Brown are progressing well with the repair to Wall D (Ferry Steps). It is hoped that the piling and major construction work will be finished by Christmas with the detailed finishing jobs being done in the New Year.

The Wall D pontoons have been removed for the duration of the work and will need to be modified as necessary to fit the new wall layout.

Harbour Walls Condition Survey

A full condition survey, including underwater surveys, of all the harbour walls has been carried out for the Council. As a result of the survey, officers are developing a programme of works with associated costs. This is 6 years after the last survey so that comparisons can be made to evaluate any deterioration.

Officers have requested a non-technical summary of the report be provided.

The 2019 engineer inspections are programmed for October 2019.

Additional monitoring is commencing on Harbour Walls F&G (Peninsula) due to the findings from previous asset inspections reports. A detailed laser survey took place on the 25th September followed by quarterly visual inspections.

Recent Harbour Works

The programme to return some investment in to the infrastructure continues:

- Ground soil samples have been taken along the route of the proposed sewage pipe for connection of Westwey Road toilets to the mains. There continues to be discussions with the landowners, the outcome of which will then allow an estimate of the amount of soil to be moved. This will then determine whether it is cost effective to continue with the works.
- It is still hoped to provide WiFi coverage in most areas of the harbour but there remains a complication with Open-reach data capacity in the area. The project has been confirmed for a grant as part of a wider Council project to provide WiFi to the general public but is only valid until the end of the year.

- It is planned to replace some more electricity bollards on North Quay pontoons.
- It is planned to replace some more decking on North Quay pontoons.
- Lighting for the Commercial Road pontoons is still being considered.

Maritime and Local Events

A list of events for this year is available on the harbour website. The following are some of the remaining harbour related ones for which support and understanding are encouraged:

2019

5 November	Guy Fawkes Celebration
25 December	Christmas Day Harbour Swim

2020

12 – 14 Jun	Poole Boat Show (Weymouth Harbour stand)
11 – 12 July	Seafood Festival
20 September	Ironman 70.3

Weymouth Rowing Club

A draft Rowing Club lease for renewal has been shared with the Club and is being discussed.

Weymouth Inshore Lifeboat Boat

Discussions continue regarding a solution for housing a larger Inshore Lifeboat.

North Quay Facilities

A fob system is being installed on the gents facility at North Quay so that the facilities can revert to single sex. This unfortunately still negates the use of the facilities by visitors who now all have to use 13 Custom House Quay.

Weymouth Water Safety Group

The Weymouth Water Safety Group led by Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society continues to meet and seeks opportunities to deliver water safety messages. Some successful events have been held this year.

North Quay Council Offices Redevelopment

The site of the former North Quay Council Offices is one of the Weymouth town centre key redevelopment sites under review. The interest to this group is the potential impacts of any development on the North Quay pontoons, including access, parking and unloading for harbour users.

An application for the demolition of the offices at North Quay was recently withdrawn, and will be re-submitted in the next few months with additional

information in relation to the sustainability and reuse of the building and the potential environmental impact of its demolition.

Harbour Staff

Sarah Johnston has been recruited to replace Claire Flowers as Moorings Officer.

4th Harbours Committee Independent Member

A 4th Independent Member for the Harbours Committee has been nominated but this needs to be endorsed by the Harbours Committee (4th December) and then Full Council (13th February).

MCA Fishing Boat Consultation

The MCA held a consultation on 14th October at the Angling Club where local fishermen were briefed on and discussed a proposed new Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels covering the following:

- Construction, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity
- Stability
- Machinery
- Electrical Installations
- Crew Protection
- Man Overboard Recovery.

Oil Spills

Over the recent weeks there have been a number of diesel spills reported in the harbour. All berth-holders have been requested to check their bilges before pumping out to ensure only clean water is discharged in to the harbour. If an auto-bilge pump is fitted bilges must be clean. Bilges must be checked and care be taken. Any spills should be reported to the Harbour Office.

Sealife Tower

The Sealife Tower is expected to be removed in the coming months.

Points from last meeting

It is still planned to have some glass recycling bins on the North Quay and Westway Road pontoons once the arrangements and costs are settled.

PMSC Items

Nothing to report.

Questions from HCG Members

See item 23 below.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 19 to 31 Oct 19 (Updated from 30 Sep 19 at the meeting)

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end October 2019	
No Visitor Nights	5324
% variance compared to 2018/19	Up 11%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 9.8%
No. short stay (2018: 248)	197
No. FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2018: 382)	392

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 254 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinkers Moorings – 28 of 30 at end of period but the 2 vacancies are under offer
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 83 of 107 at end of period.

Dates for future meetings (Commercial Road)

- 23 Jan 20.

The following 2 items were added at the meeting:

Peninsula High Mast

The high mast lights nearest to the Sealife Tower will be taken down soon as the structure has been condemned.

Oil Spill Exercise

There will be a Tier 2 Oil Spill Exercise held within the harbour on Tuesday 19th November. A Notice to Mariners will be issued. There should be little impact on harbour users but the potential increase in activity, including the deployment of equipment by Adler and Allan, should be noted.

22. Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Issues

No further PMSC Items were raised.

23. Items from members

Composition of the Group including communications within areas of responsibility.

Jamie Pullin – Can the constitution of the Group be re-considered with particular reference to dive charter boats.

There was a short discussion about how Group Members were reaching out to their

respective sectors. A number of ways were discussed and the Harbour Master encouraged members to try to pass any messages as far as possible, complementing the information that is sent out from the Harbour Office. He offered to help members with their distribution lists if required.

It was explained to the Committee that the dive charter boat community felt that they should have their own representation on the Group due to their unique circumstances. After some discussion, the members agreed that the number of boats concerned does not merit a specific member in the Group. There are already examples of members who have wide communities and this is now working well. Efforts will continue to embrace the dive community through the charter boat representative. There remains the option to invite guests to group meetings on a case by case basis if there are specific items that cannot be covered by the existing members. It was suggested that the Dive Shop owner might wish to consider being the substitute member to the harbour traders' member as there is a vacancy there; Dave Caddy will follow this up. Consideration will be given to who is the charter boat member and substitute when they change in the future to try to include the dive charter boats in one of those positions.

It was reported that none of the dive boat owners are able to attend the engagement meetings for the Quayside Re-generation due to leave and other significant reasons. If this is the case the Harbour Master would arrange a catch-up session.

Mess and damage from sea birds

Kathy Claydon - Please could we discuss what action can be taken to improve our fight against the infestation of seagulls and shags/cormorants. They are making it impossible to place anything on some of the pontoons e.g. D pontoon. They are also damaging equipment on boats and causing a real mess on all part of the boats.

The current arrangement with the bird of prey patrols was explained. Some of the bird patterns have changed due to the removal of the gasholder off Westwey Road and also because of the synthetic decking being placed on 2 of the North Quay arms. It is hoped to replace the remaining 2 arms at North Quay with synthetic decking over the winter, which should help the situation on D arm. The arm was cleaned when it was last reported to the Harbour Office as an issue.

24. Any other further business

Dave Brown and Roan Doyle of Dorset Police briefed the Group on the current situation with the Marine Policing Team, which is still evolving how best to support the community. It was stressed that reports of incidents are needed to justify the use of the Team so all harbour users are encouraged to report accordingly. It was advised that when reports are made to the Police that it is stressed that it is a marine incident.

The Harbour Master reminded the Group about the forthcoming engagement meetings.

25. Dates for future meetings

- 23 Jan 20.

It was agreed by the Group that the Weymouth Town Council room was suitable for the meeting and accepted that there will be a small charge to cover the costs of security to open and man the building.

Duration of meeting: 1 hour 30 minutes

Chairman

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