

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHHCG)
Wednesday 12th May 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	Elected Member
Jamie Joyce	JJ	Weymouth Harbour Master
Andy Sargent	AS	RNLI Representative
Dave Caddy	DC	Harbour Traders Representative
Jamie Pullen	JP	Charter Boat Associations Representative
Terry Studley	TS	Fishermen & Charter Boat Representative
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Kathy Claydon	KC	Inner Harbour User Representative
Neil Bedwell	NB	Boatfolk Moorings Representative
Steve Goodwin	SG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Dave Brown	DB	Dorset Marine Police
Jon Ayling	JA	RNLI Representative Substitute
Mary Harris	MH	Harbour Traders Representative Substitute
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Callum Seggie – Representative for Training & Schools had advised he was not going to be able to make it though no substitute was confirmed.

AS welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

JP and MH confirmed they had not received the previous meetings. JJ confirmed that they are to be supplied prior to the committee meeting to be confirmed and accepted by all. SJ to forward previous meeting minutes to be reviewed and confirmed to AS by all by 17th May 2021. KB advised that these minutes are to be circulated within 1 week of this meeting to ensure they are seen by all and confirmed prior to the Harbour Committee Meeting.

4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

- The Harbour vessels Melway and Regis have been sold. Melway going to the Blue Seas Protection Group on the Isle of Wight, where she will be refurbished and used for environmental protection. For continuity of service an agreement has been signed with Portland Port to provide piloted services as and when needed. A new Highfield Rib has been ordered and a hired Rib from them will be provided whilst the order is being fulfilled so there will be no loss in service.
- An analysis project has been undertaken to review the dredging data from the last 5 years. Working with an Engineering team to establish control depths and dredging program to maintain the harbours conservancy. Updates will be provided and any new charts from the Hydrographic Team.

- Peninsula Development – demolition phase complete, construction phase with new buildings for Harbour assets and staff, repairs to the Commercial berth walls and the new Fish Landing Quay now underway. Special thanks to Terry, Bob Summerhays and other members for their contributions that have been critical in establishing the baseline for the infrastructure requirements for the Fish Landing Quay including bait, catch storage, ice making, fish equipment and storage areas. This has been passed onto the contractors Midas who are in the process of value engineering the project.
- COVID-19 – Following the British Port Authorities guidelines regarding reopening of the marine industry and officially reopened to self-contained recreational visitors on the 12th of April. Full reopening of all facilities commences from the 17th of May. A marked increase in recreational bookings from this date has been seen in the Harbour, particularly from the next Bank Holiday and we are fully booked for the following week.
- Commercial Road electrical bollard update - Meeting held with SSE last week to agree a plan to establish the connections required for the electrical box. This has been forward to Highways for approval and a date will be advised to start the works. Completion date of the works and when access will be available will be advised in due course.
- Bird Scaring – contact has been made with the Environmental Team and Natural England to discuss parameters. Currently investigating the requirement for permits and correct methodology for bird control. Will update when we have more information from both agencies.
- Seabins – Contacted a couple of companies for the supply of these, though an estimate cost of a single bin is around £5,000 and would require 4 to 5 bins in the harbour to make a difference. Attempting to collaborate with several suppliers to bring the cost down through a partnership programme or even renting the equipment. Using specific methodology, we want to test the capability of the units before committing to such a big cost.
- Recycling – Partnering with Odyssey, on 13th May Bob Summerhays will be officially opening the new Recycling Skip located on the Fish Landing Quay for the recycling of hard plastics including gillnets and whelk pots. Full guidelines will be posted on the bin and emailed out to Commercial berth holders of what can be put in it.
- Waste Disposal on Pontoons – Issues on both pontoons over the last month with general waste being put into the recycling bins and oversized waste left, this results in the refusal to collect the waste. The Harbour team has to spend 2-3 hours cleaning up the waste before it can be collected by DWP. HM requests that all representatives attending that have members on the Inner Harbour pontoons to assist with rubbish management. New signage and an increase in available bins by 100% on North Quay and 50% on Westwey Road have been provided by the Harbour Team though help is needed to stop people putting oversized material next to the bins. This incurs a cost to remove and would like people to either take oversized items home or put them in more suitable bins located around the harbour.
- Incidents – request that all incidents are reported to the Harbour Team and appropriate authorities. Aware of a couple of incidents along Custom House Quay with the Commercial fleet and the public, where alcohol was involved. All organisations need the factual record of the incident to be able to make a change.
- Question regarding works at Nothe Area and outside of the Old Harbour Dive Shop. Confirmed with the Engineering Team that work is proposed to start around late September / early October but with no fixed programme, yet it is envisaged that work will be completed no later than February 2022. They have a proposed design but it with the Contractor for review, to determine the methodology and programme. More information is due in the next few weeks which will include an engagement meeting that will be held prior to this.

Additional Questions

- **KC** asked if the Harbour Office will be putting out a clear message to the Berth Holders regarding the waste issue and bins. JJ confirmed that an email will be going out to the Berth Holders with a very clear message and DWP had provided more bins and signage that will be on the pontoons.
- **JP** asked to bring up the issue of the bins at Cosens Quay Car Park and that they are always full to overflowing. JJ confirmed that the frequency of the collections to the Harbour bins by DWP has increased due to the summer season now started and requested that the bins were monitored and fed back if continue to be an issue.
- **TD** requested that any advance notice regarding the work at Cove Parade would be greatly received as the work would hinder the WSC and the Rowing Club members with their trailers etc; JJ confirmed that engagement meetings will be held with everyone in that area that it will affect.
- **TS** asked about Commercial oil disposal and where it available from now. JJ confirmed that a new oil disposal unit is available at the Port area and to contact the Port Security Officer Garry Smart to arrange. JP confirmed that on contacting the Harbour Office, they were able to advise and help with the disposal.

5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **NB – Boatfolk.** Confirmed that they have issues with rubbish on the marina as well and they have looked at Seabins as well but continue to manually collect the rubbish.
- **SG - Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Terry Pavey having now retired as the Substitute will be replaced by Rob Gray (Jnr).
- **KC - Inner Harbour Users.** Commented that the rubbish does start to build in March and would like more trolleys to be provided on the pontoons. JJ confirmed more trolleys will be supplied shortly.
- **JP - Charter Boat Associations.** Parking at the Loop/Tramway has the overflow option of Cosens Quay Car Park, then NQ parking and finally the Swannery when full. When the vessels were out in Cosens Quay being maintained it has been a major problem this year for the customers of the charters. TS suggested that the lines in the Loop area where the area is wider are changed to angled lines at 45° to fit more space in. JJ to speak to Highways and Parking on options and report back at next meeting. MR will speak to the Council Cabinet Member who has this area in their brief. DC acknowledged the issues with the crane and agreed that the lines being changed would be a good idea and can be resolved.
- **CS - Training & Education Schools.** Not present.
- **TS - Fishermen & Charter Boat.** Raised concern over the mess in the mornings along Custom House Quay where they work. Littering fines should be imposed on the people leaving the mess there but felt it's an area that is neglected by the Council. DB advised that it is a Council responsibility and it's the CECAS officers that should be there, and he will feed it back via Weymouth Police. Issues need to be reported to the Police to record and to be able to provide more resources in the town.
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** CHQ covered in the agenda items.
- **AS – RNLI.** The new Atlantic 85 Class lifeboat arrived and has been on service for 4 weeks now. Crew familiarisation has been completed and it's a metre wider and longer than the previous vessel. Incident reported to the Harbour of the Helm on the ILB being hit by a 5oz lead weight on the leg, DB requested that they are advised as well in the future.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** With the COVID-19 restriction easing the rowing club has opened again and lots of boats have been launched from the WSC yard.

Buoys have been laid in the bay and the Clubhouse pontoon work is due to begin on the 24th of May, though is weather dependent.

- **DB – Dorset Marine Police.** COVID19 restrictions are easing for them as well allowing them to be more visible with PWC users and antisocial behaviour on the water. Local teams will deal with the issues on land. 100 days of summer campaign will hopefully be back but there are resource issues as well as for the Devon and Cornwall force. Resources are spread around the country now.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **HM** - Incident management reporting - covered in HM Update.
- **HM** - Rubbish and recycling problems - covered in HM Update.
- **TD** - Sailing by Weymouth Clubs will be recommencing in the bay with marks laid - covered in member's update.
- **TD** - Any planned works scheduled for Nothe Parade? - covered in HM Update.
- **TD** - railings and ASB on Custom House Quay. JJ confirmed that the railings interim solution has now been signed off. Reviewing if it's working for the Commercial fleet and deflecting any persons falling into the Harbour and that it's the correct structure. Now going into the new phase of consultation with the evidence and engineering and looking at long term solutions for the area.
- **AS** - Terry Pavey's resignation. Thanks, and appreciation noted for his contribution over the years. He has offered to be a point of contact should anyone want any information or guidance of what's going on in the past so he is offer that service to anyone should they want it anytime.
- **AS** - Trinity Road restrictions. RNLI concerned about congestion along the road with outside seating at Nana Moons and Bennett's that is now delaying members getting to the RNLI Station for a Shout. Dawn from Highways has been assisting and looking at solutions though it will only get busier now throughout the summer. Updates to be provided.
- **AS** - Use, purpose, and limitations of the HCG. MR confirmed the scope and area of responsibility of the Representative role in the HCG and to clarify any misconceptions on what that role means. The Terms of Reference were reiterated:
 - WHCG are the primary consultative body on all matters that substantially affects the management, maintenance, improvement, conservation, protection, and regulation of the Harbours.
 - To highlight safety issues with Harbour users and promote safety policy and improvements onshore and afloat.
 - To make recommendations to the Harbours Committee and Harbour Masters on the operation of the Harbours.
 - To co-ordinate consultation and community involvement in the development of the Harbours.
 - To provide an opportunity for the sharing of information between the Harbour management and the Harbour users, local community, and visitors.
 - To provide a channel of communication on urgent issues to the Harbours Committee and Harbour Masters.
 - The advice and views of the group will be considered but all decisions will rest with the Harbour Authority and their authorised officers.
 - Conduct of Meetings – WHCG meets 4 times a year preceding the Harbours Committee meeting. Bridport and Lyme Regis will only meet twice a year formally.
 - The Consultative Group may appoint working parties, as it considers necessary, to advise the Group in the discharge of its functions.
 - The Harbour Masters in consultation with the Group Chairs will schedule

meetings for the group identifying venues and times for meetings. Dorset Council will provide secretarial support for the Consultative Group meetings.

- **MH** – Asked if the HCG remit extend to Highway matters as it affects the Harbour? MR confirmed that it is not a Harbours Committee operation but it is the same Dorset Council Cabinet Member that covers the Harbour and Highways so the HM and Cllr Roberts can feed back to Highways via them. The Harbour Committee does not have any decision making but can indicate and recommend Highways issues raised. MH asked if someone from Highways should attend this meeting as matters do pertain to Highways. MR confirmed he would discuss it with officers and the Cabinet Member. HRO will now cover some car parks and issues with them now. MR to raise parking and pedestrianization of Cove Row with Cllr Cherry Brooks and Cllr Ray Bryan.
- **TD** – Public perception of what the WHCG cover and can influence needs to be clearer. MR confirmed that the HRO has clearly laid out what is part of the Harbour now. Recommendations still need to be fed upwards and always worthwhile raising any issues.
- **JJ** – To send out what the HRO as it states what is the Harbour area and owned by it. A part of the duty following the HRO is to create general direction to modify the 1976 Bylaws, a very important bit of work and will be asking the group to look at the general directions and give recommendations to the Council on them. To modernize the laws, powers, and regulations in the Harbour and your assistance will be asked for shortly.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **SG** – Requested an update on Policing resources for the forthcoming May Bank Holiday weekend. DB confirmed that he is aware that the Dorset Police will be providing resources where required using a flagging system based on risk/threat levels managed from virtual hubs around the County though most will be deployed to the coastline/towns. The Police and Council will be working together to manage the areas. Extra staff are doing longer shifts and leave restrictions are in place.
- **TS** – Asked if the years of service on the HCG to be confirmed. JJ confirmed it will be provided asap.
- **JP** – Followed up from previous meeting request for mooring relief to be offered to the Commercial sector. MR confirmed that he had raised it with the Dorset Council Cabinet Member for Finance, who highlighted those grants were available but no new additional grants have been confirmed due to the limited funding from the Government that is passed onto businesses that qualify for it. Assistance from the Harbour Office to spread the cost of mooring was offered and has been taken up by a few of the Commercial Berth-holders. KB confirmed that he had spoken to the Economic Development Team after the last meeting and was advised that a fund of £8.5 Million in additional restriction grants has been circulated to 3,000 similar businesses to the Charter Boats. The Council are not able to support the Charter Boats and ignore the other businesses in a similar position as they would be scrutinised and questions as to why they are supporting one set of businesses and not the other. They are working on another program of additional restrictions grants and the issue of the Charter Boats has been raised with them but was advised that it was around Events business though the criteria has not yet been finalised. KB will forward any links or information on that if provided.
- **AS** – Possible informal meeting 3rd week of June TBC if required.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 18 August 2021
- 10 November 2021

Harbours Committee

- 16 June 2021
- 22 September 2021
- 8 December 2021
- 16 March 2022