

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHHCG)
Tuesday 10 November 2020 (Teams, 19:00-21:00)

Present		
Ken Buchan	KB	Head of Environment and Wellbeing
Cllr Mark Roberts	MR	Chair of Harbours Committee
Cllr Mary Penfold	MP	Elected Member
Cllr Colin Huckle	CH	Elected Member
Cllr Rob Huges	RH	Elected Member Democratic services.
Jamie Joyce	JJ	Weymouth Harbour Master
Claire Connolly	CC	Finance & Admin Manager Weymouth Harbour
Allister Clarke	AC	
Jamie Pullen	JP	Fishermen & Charter Boat Representative
Terri Studley	TS	Fishermen & Charter Boat Representative
Andy Sargent	AS	
Mary Harris	MH	
Tim Day	TD	
Kathy Claydon	KC	Inner Harbour User Representative
Dave Caddy	DC	
Roan Doyle	RD	Dorset Police
Dave Brown	DB	Dorset Police
Alice Higgins	AH	
Becky McGowan	BM	Harbour Admin Bridport & Lyme Regis (Note Taker)

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS	
No apologies for absences where received.	
Individual introductions from all attendees.	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
None	
3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
JP – Queried whether a previous question he raised to committee had been answered and circulated to group and Committee members. MR - Responded, the question had been circulated to committee members however this had not yet been discussed as a separate item as no questions were raised from answers at previous meeting.	
4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE	
HM – Took this opportunity to introduce himself to the group and provided some background information of previous experiences. HM has completed his first week as Weymouth Harbour Master and expressed, “I feel very fortunate to be appointed to the Weymouth Harbour Master position and to be working with an exceptional team. I would like to build on the hard work that yourselves and Keith have completed, and continue to operate Weymouth as a safe and efficient harbour. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you all and gain the benefit of your expertise and knowledge. In the meantime, and for the future, please feel free to come into the office and discuss any concerns, new ideas or experiences”.	
5. HARBOURS STRATEGY UPDATE AND GROUP INVOLVEMENT	
KB – Gave thanks to all members for their participation in the virtual Harbour Strategy workshops and promoting surveys. Weymouth held 2 meetings and 1 for Bridport and Lyme Regis each. Registration was high for attendees, In excess of 500. Rhiannon Jones (DCF) are currently in the process of analysing surveys which hold detailed responses to filter key points and early priorities for Committee discussion. Next, a	

sub group from Harbours Committee will draft the priorities for the Harbour Consultative Group to fence check and give their feedback before they are put out for public consultation. All returns will help draft the Harbour Strategy. Once in place, further consultation with the Harbour Consultative Group and Harbours Committee will be held and Strategy finalised. Timeline, looking at next Spring.
KB - "I am happy to answer any questions regarding this, please get in touch".

There will be an initial set up of formal sessions for Harbour Consultative Group, we hope all are prepared to join in.

An informal meeting of Harbours Committee will be held November 2020 to discuss Harbour fees n charges for next year.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

KB – This is AC last meeting as chair of WHCG, a representative from Dean & Reddyhoff will take over until the election of new chair has been sought.

KB – MR is the new Chair for the harbours Committee. The purpose of the group is to update terms of reference, agree new Harbour Strategy and look to make improvements on how it is currently. Harbours Committee is the primary consultative body on all matters including improvement regulation, safety policy and improvements on shore. It was advised to send any recommendations and share information with the HM to keep an open channel of communication between Harbour users, community and visitors and the Harbour Committee.

KB – Put forward some questions to the group;

Do you feel the Consultative Group works in its current format?

Could anything be improved in the way it operated in order to feed back to Harbours Committee?

Do you feel you have the support you need to harvest that information from the users you represent and gain feedback, any support we could give to allow that?

Responses;

AS – Explained the Harbour Consultative Group had been running since late 200's. His thoughts are, previous to a restricted membership personal views and self-interest caused conflict instead of working together as a group. To keep a restricted group will allow a better group work force by supporting each other.

JP – Has been standing within the group for some time and feels that there is consistency as a group, however, expressed others should also have the opportunity to sit in the group for broader input.

JP – Asked how many group members have emailed constitutes for discussion to their members and do their members know who they should be emailing?

Expressed representatives should be sending the agenda and minutes to their members for further reach within the Harbour town for feedback.

TS – Welcomed the HM. Explained he communicates with around 30-40 people in Weymouth and Portland association, (Fishermen) and picks out who is best to discuss issues or requests if there is anything anyone wants himself to discuss within the meeting.

TD – Expressed confusion on how much interest committee should have on certain subjects. Should some issues stay with Heads of clubs and send down to group members?

KC – As an inner Harbours representative, anything important would be circulated

however, the lack of contact information available to her made communication difficult. A further discussion to be held with HM.

MR - Pedestrianisation, Cabinet members for Place and Car Parks set across other areas have representatives that can feed information into the appropriate channels. Committee will discuss issues and values on all points. Please discuss any issues with HM.

JP – Expressed the need for Committees to work side by side to prevent distrust as new people emerge within the groups. Key point going forward would be for everyone to have a clean slate and build up trust and allow free flow of communication.

HM – Proposed to set KC as an official committee member so that people are aware of her role and to add contact details to the contact list on their website.

AC – KB's request, in previous Harbour Consultative Group meeting to have debate of performance and to feedback to us to improve communication or methods of. Any ideas are welcome, please liaise KB with ideas.

JP – Previous Harbour Committee meeting, MR mentioned public meets for free flow of information, for example public meets on YouTube channels. Is this something still in thoughts of going ahead?

KB – Asked, do the group members think it will be beneficial for sectors to have regular open meetings, 2-3 times a year? Currently in discussion with HM of how it would work.

Further discussion was held around communication between the group members. It was agreed to hold association meetings with HM to build up relationships and to bring any other individual issues to HM attention.

KB – Suggested upon ease of Covid restrictions, next spring, to think about larger get together of the group, i.e. ocean room at pavilion with 70 people with a panel to answer questions.

JP – Responded, careful of constituencies, might be free for all? Perhaps section down to a smaller scale, angling club for instance for location, perhaps 40-50 so everyone can be heard. Also suggested a representative from the working Harbours association join the Harbour Consultative Group to help spread information to other groups. Suggested involvement from police to include everyone.

DB – Suggested the Harbour Watch group (Currently up and running well in Poole) could be a way to monitor public share of information and proposed KC to lead? KC added meetings targeted on particular groups are more valuable as you can get more out of it.

Further discussion was held around the Harbour Watch group. It was felt there was mistrust due to previous events and there is a need for a new association to evolve and open up more communication.

JP expressed the need for someone else to take on some work due other commitments during busy periods.

Clarification of the Harbour Watch group is needed. What is the general makeup and terms of reference? A proposal would need to be submitted to Harbours Committee with the mandate for the group, make up and cause. Are they single focused or support wider issues etc.

AC - Clarified that the proposal from Working Harbours group re Harbour Watch group is to be proposed at a later date to allow Covid issues to ease and the new HM

to settle in and get to know his surroundings. To get it started it was suggested the HM to liaise with each association and discuss voice of constituency.

MR – Recommended either himself or another member of Harbour Committee be present to hear views or HM to bring views to Committee. The thought was would people express views more openly without a Cllr being present?

HM - Suggested to start the meetings, set the scene, state what the process is and what they can bring to meeting, get an overview of questions being raised and go back to committee to answer questions within definitive time.

A discussion was held around representative substitutes. It is now within the terms of reference, substitutes are to receive meeting agendas, previous minutes and invitations to the consultative group meetings.

Future meeting invitations and added agenda requests will be sent by Becky McGowan. The Chairman will take on future requests or questions to be added to the agenda.

MCA port ways management exercise and audit. Questionnaires will be sent to representatives to gain their feedback to get engagement on the efficient use of their assets.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

1. WSC is applying via HM to MMO for licence to extend squib pontoon outside clubhouse.
2. Are there any start dates or plans for start of flooding defences? Concerns over potential impact for access to WSC/WRC.

HM to apply for MMO, position to do works on lower squid pontoon, one towards entrance. Proposing to replace 2 piles below the life boat and another pile further down the river and put a pontoon on the dead water area. Waiting final approval from sailing club committees. Environmental permit and MMO sent off for assessments to get ball rolling.

KB – Flood defence and harbour wall works, some scoping investigative work has just started. Nelsons walk north parade, consultation will be starting soon. It will be beginning of next year before any major works start along that wall. Engineer's consultation will discuss concerns which will be passed on to committees.

1. I would like to raise the issue of the date when the harbour goes into 'winter mode', at present September 15th. I believe this is too early to stop the 20.00 bridge and to remove harbour pontoons.

Feedback from visiting yachts has expressed it is early to reduce access to inner and main harbour. HM explained that the pontoons will always be dictated by weather to prevent damage.

The team made an investigation and presentation on what picture the Harbour bridge is building, how it looks and how we go from here. HM Will look into it.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TS – Asked what was happening on the development for fishing side on peninsular?
KB – Responded, the plan consists of a number of phases and changes, it is still ongoing and plans are being developed. With the changes and effects of Covid it has delayed engagement with the architect. The original completion date was March 2021, The fund management has agreed due to Covid there will be an extension, end September 2021.

The oil shed commenced Monday, Looking at 3-4 months before completion.

RD – Gave a police report update. There were limited calls in Weymouth but if anyone knows of incidents that have occurred please let us know.

The Sailing Academy reported a bike stolen in October 20.

A bottle was thrown at boat by HM office October 20,

DB – Reported dive crime in Dorset throughout Covid has reduced. There is usually a spike around this time of year but feels it's due to more vessel use by owners. There had been few boats stolen from land and taken out of county. Theft of fuel, the latest crime was in Weymouth and jet ski issues have subsided.

AS – Asked if there was an opportunity to discuss road closures and how they have affected us.

KB- Responded, this sits within a wider consultation, highways within DC. KB is unsure of plans if any for next year. Criticism had been received due to lack of consultation on that. Will provide an update in February's meeting by speaking with highways. MR to discuss with RB and feed through for comment.

DC – Raised a safety point of view issue regarding lack of lights by pontoons by Commercial Road, point of view.

HM – Noted point of view.

Thanks where given to AC for being their Chairman.

9. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group - 17 February 2021

Harbours Committee - December 2020 & 17 March 2021