

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHHCG)
Wednesday 17th February 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
Mary Harris	MH	Harbour Traders Representative Substitute
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Kathy Claydon	KC	Inner Harbour User Representative
Alice Higgins	AH	Leisure Weymouth Beach users Representative
Neil Bedwell	NB	Boatfolk moorings Representative
Rhiannon Jones	RJ	Dorset Coast Forum Co-ordinator
Jon Ayling	JA	RNLI Representative Substitute
Steve Goodwin	SG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS
<p>No apologies for absences where received.</p> <p>JJ – Welcomed everyone and requested anyone attending but not mentioned to send a message to him or Sarah.</p>
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
<p>KC – Declared that she has now become a Trustee of WSC</p>
3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR
<p>JJ – Application of interest received from Andy Sargent, seconded by Alice Higgins. Application had been forward to all members and as no other applicants was put to the vote. Unanimous decision Andy Sargent welcomed as Chairman extending his term until someone else steps forward no longer than 3 years.</p>
4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICE CHAIR
<p>AS – Application of interest received from Dave Caddy, seconded by Tim Day. Application had been forwards to all members and as no other applicants was put to the vote. Unanimous decision Dave Caddy welcomed as Vice Chairman.</p>
5. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
<p>Previous minutes accepted.</p> <p>JP – Asked if there would be a section in the meeting for the Councillors to respond to comments and discussion from the previous meeting. Also had additional items for AOB.</p>

AS – Confirmed that he also had notes regarding the previous meeting minutes and they would be covered by updates from the HM. Anything else can be covered by the group updates, including outstanding items from February.

6. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

JJ – Congratulated Andy Sargent and Dave Caddy on their new positions in the Group.

- Commercial Rd pontoons light and electric supply - have successfully won a grant from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to provide both light and electric bollards along the length of Commercial Rd pontoons from the bridge towards the slipway and work will commence on the 8th of March to install. Bollards to be installed and SECC to complete the connection work by the end of March / early April. At the end of March work will commence on the installation of light and electric bollard in the Cove area to service the commercial vessels there. Continue to seek grants to cover the Commercial berth holders not covered in this round of improvements. JP requested to pass details onto the Working Harbour Association.
- Face to face meetings have not been able to take place due to the latest round of COVID-19 restrictions. Some have been completed with the associations whilst the majority have been completed via Teams meetings. For operational matters please contact the Harbour Office where the team will deal with enquiries and the website is being updated with point of contact for each of the industries.
- Security - Weymouth Harbour Watch Community Group has begun and Mary Harris has taken up the position of Chairman with support from the Harbour team. The group is initially being set up will include more harbour users as it gets running. The objective is to increase the safety and security within the harbour and Marina. There will be further information from Mary and Sarah when they've set the website up.
- KC raised a question regarding extending the bridge opening times in September. It is shared jointly with Highways, so there are discussions with highways about the end of September and whether we can operate the bridge for another two weeks. There is a wage cost associated with that as requires two members of staff and the engineer having to be on call as well. It is a total of 6 hours per day for two weeks, which will have to be budgeted for. Update to be provided once checked against this financial year and Highways confirm their budget for next financial year.
- Formal Risk Assessment for the harbour including most of the stakeholders present in the Health & Safety team. One of the biggest areas that was highlighted as a risk was out in Weymouth Bay with the conflict of various users trying to use the shore area from within 400 meters of the Metropolitan beach. A big consultation which involved the RNLI, RYA, the Personal Watercraft Partnership and Dorset Marine Police. A meeting was held to look at how to split up in between the zones to try to basically deconflict vessels interacting with each other and decrease risk of an incident from occurring. This has led to the Bowleaze area, where there was a personal watercraft or Jet Ski lane coming in and out of the beach area, now being designated as a non-motorized area. So it would be basically access for paddle boarders, kayakers, surfers to use that area without any risk of motorized vessels coming in there and causing an

incident. And the second part was where there are 8 knot buoys, we are looking to drop that speed to be 4 knots within 400 meters of the shore. The main reason is to ensure that swimmers can actually be seen by those persons operating those craft. The objective is completely to allow all water users to use that space without fear or risk of any other party.

- A request from the Chairman and Vice Chairman for a new tab on the Weymouth Harbour website for the HCG has now been created to help navigate to the page. Please would all Representatives provide a picture and short bio to be uploaded to this page within the next 2 weeks to Sarah. Once complete it will be promoted on the Weymouth Harbour Facebook page to allow all harbour users to identify and contact who represents them at these meetings.
- Odyssey Recycling will be providing a skip to recycle old fishing equipment from the 8th of March. More details to be provided but generally items to be recycled are hard plastics any old fishing nets, any whelk boxes. A skip will be placed at the Commercial area at the Port and we will invite all those people have got those kind of or piece of equipment and now redundant to come up and deposit them up there. The program will for the next six months and then be reviewed.
- The HRA or Harbour Revision Order came into force today and there is a six week challenge period to this process, but following this will be commencement of working on Harbour general directions. The objective behind that is to modernize the wording of our Bylaws and reflect the present use of the harbour.

Questions then raised:

- TS – Questioned the timing of when the facilities would be upgraded on the pontoons on Custom House quay from the Bridge to the knuckle as the state of the piles currently supporting the pontoons would need to be reviewed as they are starting to fall apart.
JJ confirmed that it is not in next year's budget though currently reviewing the asset management plan at moment and an agenda item will be raised with the Committee to discuss that asset management plan and also combine it with the strategic direction of the harbour as well. Once the strategic direction is aligned with the asset management plan then that may include things like putting in new pontoons. TJ then requested timescale and JJ confirmed applications for further grants would be in March and take around 2 months to come through.
- JJ – Advised that there is now an incident reporting form on the Harbour website for any defects from around the harbour to be reported. Under the Incident Reporting tab on website only just launched please feel free to use.
- AS – Confirmed that Substitute Representatives to provide their pictures and bio for the HCG page on the website as well.

Outstanding Matters:

- AS - Feedback on the communications and public meeting for counsellors that was raised at the last meeting. Requested feedback from the officers regarding that.

- AS – Flood defences update requested.
JJ - A meeting was held last week, they've visited the harbour again and new plans of what the flood defences looks like will be drawn up. These will be supplied to the HCG once confirmed.
- AS - Peninsula update (not part of the Harbours Strategy)
JJ - Mildren construction have started the demolition works and are knocking down the old arrivals Hall first and then moving through in sequence to all of the buildings that are on the peninsula and then our contractor is coming in. At the moment they are conducting a value engineering survey. Which includes coming to site, having meetings, looking at what the proposals are and ensuring that they can do that a within the budget. Or other recommendations are to be made to achieve a better outcome. Once the information has been received it will be fed back to the commercial users and make sure they are actually good with all the improvements being suggested.
- AS - Road Closures update KB to speak to Highways about possible closures this year and would there be some consultation prior to it.
KB – Confirmed that there's nothing planned for this year at the current time. There has been consultation on the proposal for Customs House Quay area but that is a Highways issue. He has spoken to Cllr. Ray Bryan earlier. He said he's happy to talk with anyone about any of this sort of future proposals in terms of any closures, but he said that at this current time there is nothing planned. The proposal around Custom House Quay wouldn't result in any pedestrianisation or closures that related to COVID.
- AS – Previous item 23 relating to the Harbour Master to contact the BID in respect of actually orchestrating information from this group down to the businesses. KB – Confirmed recent changes in the BID with a new Operations Manager Dawn Rondeau now in place and he will make contact advise her of the HCG.

7. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **NB – Boatfolk.** First meeting attendance, nothing to report sought advice on what to report back on regularly.
- **SG - Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Terry Pavey potential retiring from Substitute role, TBC and replacement to be organised by association.
- **KC - Inner Harbour Users.** Nothing to report.
- **JP - Charter Boat Associations.** COVID-19 distancing signs requested for pontoons where passengers will be accessing them. JJ to contact WTC to request more signs. Questioned the new fire extinguisher requirements on berthing renewals as coded vessels have to have minimum requirement of fire extinguishers on board. JJ confirmed coded vessels meet that requirement and it was more for recreational vessels to comply with these requirements.
- **TF - Training & Education Schools.** Not present.
- **AH - Leisure Weymouth Beach users.** Nothing to report.
- **TS - Fishermen & Charter Boat.** Raised concern over commercial loading areas on Custom House Quay with proposed changes. JJ confirmed Chris Peck has provided update and will distribute for review. They will re-consultant on the proposal in March.
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** Nothing to report.
- **AS – RNLI.** ILB shed completed in December increased by 1M to accommodate the new Atlantic 85 Class lifeboat. Training on it will commence

when lockdown restrictions are eased.

- **MR - Chair of Harbours Committee.** County Council approved the budget strategies for all the harbours which will cover leases and HRO. In addition to the 4 independent members on the committee, it has formally ratified a new member of William Elwood. The HM and several members of the committee attended a Marine Safety Update from the BPA. This course is available if anyone else would be interested in attending, please let Cllr Roberts know.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** Pontoon work around the WSC house due to begin in April. Been asked to represent the Divers club as well. His 3 year term is now expired. KB – confirmed that the association to confirm if they wish Tim to continue.
- **JJ – Terms of Service.** Copy of current representative list and term dates to be provided to AS to review.
- **TS – Commercial vessel rumours of berth moves.** JJ confirmed that there is no intention to move any commercial operator from their berth unless they request it and the Harbour team will do their best to accommodate that request.
- **MH – Substitute for Harbour Traders.** Weymouth Harbour Watch. Looking for support for community project, liaising with Poole Harbour Watch. Set up with help from Dorset Marine Police and Harbour Office shortly.
- **JA – Substitute for AS RNLI –** Nothing to report.
- **JP –** Raised question about additional substitute to cover Mary as she will be reporting on WHW. It was agreed that Mary would continue in both roles unless it became too much. Concern was raised about increasing the group. KC confirmed that she would be able to feed back to the group if required as she is also involved in the WHW.

8. HARBOURS STRATEGY UPDATE

RJ – Presentation of the Dorset Coast Forum, what it is and what has been happening. Where they are in the process and what is next. The Consultation Report will be made public in the coming weeks. Then a 3 week consultation with this group, a draft vision of the mission and the strategic goals will be sent out for discussion with your association. Feedback is essential from the group to ensure that the overall direction of the strategy is on the right track.

KB – Very important to ensure that this is disseminated to your constituents and feedback captured via the group. The Harbour Office can assist with this.

AS – Requested it is added to the HCG page on the Harbour website.

MR – Acknowledged the work that has been done by RJ and the Dorset Coast Forum.

RJ – This 3 week consultation is just with HCG and key stakeholders only at this point, public consultation will follow once responses have been formulated and fleshed out.

JP – Commended the work and communication that RJ and the Dorset Coast Forum have provided in their consultancy and involving the HCG.

9.. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- KC – Allocation of parking places for North Quay Marina users in the North Quay development plan. JJ – Harbour will ask for consultation on the North Quay Council building redevelopment. MR – Being raised with Cllr. Ray Bryan who is the Cabinet Member for place covering highways and parking. KB – Suggested that AS raises it as a concern at the next Harbours Committee Meeting to be minuted there.
- JP - Mooring relief for businesses that are unable to run in these current

conditions. MR – Discussions will be had about the request and advised that the ARD grants have just opening up the phase 2 grants. Will raise this to the local MP Chris Loader. JJ advised anyone with financial trouble to contact the Harbour Office initially for support short term. TS confirmed markets have closed and the commercial fisherman are struggling.

- MH – Discuss road closures/pedestrianisation similar to last summer. Covered by KB previously.
- MH – Are there any plans to widen the attendance to the WHCG meetings?
AS – Improve access to information and documents to be communicated to everyone by all group members. JJ confirmed the website will be updated to make it easier for people to identify who they need to contact via the bio's on the page. KB – confirmed that residents should contact their WTC representative. CH – confirmed that WTC want to hear from residents. DC confirmed that he will be canvassing local businesses to advise them on contacts for the HCG and plans to meet the new CEO of the BID.
- DC – To increase the frequency of the meetings to 6 per year from the current 4. Agreed to have the 4 formal meetings but allow for 2 additional informal meetings to be held. AS to contact members for 1st informal meeting in mid-April. Any updates will be posted on the page on the website.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- NB – Requested a possible digital solution to the clearance on the town bridge so his customers can check prior to leaving their berths. JJ confirmed that Poole Harbour has one and could investigate. AS advised there is website for checking and will provide.
- TS – New road markings on Commercial Rd for cycle lanes on both sides of the road behind Debenhams. Concerns about the space left for vehicles to pass when cyclists occupying both sides. DC confirmed that the Highway Code advises you can enter the cycle lane to pass another car.
- JP – WIFI in the harbour around Commercial Road. JJ confirmed currently undergoing an IT update and will confirm when completed.
- DC – Thanks to JJ and team for sorting out the lighting and electric supply on Commercial Rd.
- AS – Thanks to JJ and team for supporting the HCG and looking forward to moving forward.

11. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- Mid-April TBC (Informal)
- 12 May 2021 (TBC)
- 18 August 2021 (TBC)

Harbours Committee

- 17 March 2021
- 16 June 2021 (Provisional TBC)
- 22 September 2021 (Provisional TBC)