

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: D Brown, D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, R Doyle, S Goodwin, Cllr C Huckle, J Pullin, Cllr M Roberts, A Sargent and T Studley

Cllr K Wheller, Chair Harbours Committee as an observer

Apologies: T Day, A Frost, A Higgins

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

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

26. Apologies and substitute members

T Day, A Frost and A Higgins sent their apologies. There were no substitute members.

27. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

28. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 November 2019 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbours Committee meeting held on 4 December 2019.

29. Weymouth Harbour Update

Peninsula Development

The Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project covers the quayside from No.1 Berth to the Ferry Steps. The project is supported by £3.8M from the Coastal Communities Fund, which has to be spent by the end of March 2021. Works has already commenced with the demolition of the Terminal Building (Building A), demolition of the Ferry Steps Building and repair of Wall D (Ferry Steps).

The wider development of the Peninsula is under review as part of a further assessment 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. Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/business-consumers-licences/economic-development/weymouth-quay-regeneration-project.aspx>

In the space created by the demolition of the Terminal Building it is intended to provide further parking spaces.

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 September 2020 as there have been some further 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.

Harbour Strategy

In the forthcoming months it is intended to develop a new longer term strategy for the harbours. This work will engage with all harbour users who wish to be involved and provide an opportunity to have a say in how the harbour is developed and managed in the future.

Harbour Consultative Groups

Harbour Consultative Groups are planned to be formed for Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours to replace the more informal users' meetings. The Terms of Reference for all 3 harbours managed by Dorset Council will be aligned.

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 two years.

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.

Harbour Wall D (Ferry Steps)

Knights Brown have almost completed the repair to Wall D (Ferry Steps). There is some work to be done on railings around the steps and the edge facing the road; it is hoped these and some other minor jobs will be finished by Easter.

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. Again it is hoped this will be complete by Easter.

Harbour Walls Condition Survey

A summary of the condition of the harbour walls was provided to the Harbours Committee in December.

Recent Harbour Works

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

- The proposed sewage pipe for connection of Westwey Road toilets to the mains is still facing some difficulties due to the land ownership of the proposed pipe route.
- BT/ Open-reach have now confirmed there is insufficient data capacity in the area of North Quay and Westwey Road to support our WiFi project. The grant money to provide WiFi to the general public is no longer available. It is still hoped to enhance the current provision but it will not be total coverage.
- The electricity bollards on Arm C of the North Quay pontoons will be replaced soon.
- The remainder of the wood decking on the main North Quay pontoons' walkways and the access ramp will be replaced by pvc grating.
- The harbour's slipway CCTV camera will be replaced and improved.
- Lighting for the Commercial Road pontoons is still being considered.
- The high mast light nearest to the former Sealife Tower has been removed.

Maritime and Local Events

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

2020

22 Mar	Weymouth Half Marathon
8 – 10 May	VE 75 th Anniversary Celebrations
23 May	Weymouth Gig Regatta, Weymouth Beach
23 – 24 May	Fayre in the Square
30 – 31 May	Wessex Folk Festival
12 – 14 June	Poole Boat Show (Weymouth Harbour stand)
20 – 22 June	Armed Forces/Veterans Celebrations
6 – 12 July	National Maritime Safety Week
11 – 12 July	Seafood Festival
11 – 12 July	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
11 – 12 July	British Conger Championships
12 – 14 August	Weymouth Conger Festival
12 – 13 September	Weymouth Yacht Regatta
18 – 19 September	European Bream Championships

20 September	Ironman 70.3
12 – 16 October	Weymouth International Boat Angling Challenge
18 October	Lions Beach Motocross
5 November	Bonfire and Fireworks
19 – 20 November	Weymouth International Boat Angling Challenge
25 December	Christmas Day Swim
Various dates	Quayside Music Festivals

Weymouth Rowing Club

A Rowing Club lease for renewal has been agreed with the Club. The lease cannot be signed until after the HRO has been approved and with Harbours Committee endorsement. A temporary arrangement is being investigated.

Weymouth Inshore Lifeboat Boat

The new larger Inshore Lifeboat will be housed in the existing boathouse, which will be modified slightly.

North Quay Facilities

A fob system has been installed on the gents facility at North Quay and the facilities have reverted to single sex. Visitors will only be able to use 13 Custom House Quay.

North Quay Council Offices Redevelopment

No significant change.

4th Harbours Committee Independent Member

Lee Hardy has been nominated as the 4th Independent Member for the Harbours Committee. This has been endorsed by the Harbours Committee (4th December) and Full Council (18th February).

Unfortunately Matt Walkden has resigned as an Independent Member for personal reasons. He is thanked for his contribution over 3 years. A replacement will be recruited.

Sealife Tower

The Sealife Tower is almost all removed and the surface returned to a car park surface.

Chain and Sinker Moorings

Advice has been given to some chain and sinker moorings' holders to ensure their boats are correctly moored with adequate fore and aft sinkers without being weight-bearing on the harbour wall.

Tenders should also be clearly marked with their associated boat's name.

Oil Spill Exercise

A successful Tier 2 Oil Spill Exercise was held on Tuesday 19th November.

Sewer Repairs

Essential sewer repairs will be carried out by Wessex Water in the North Quay area from Harbour Junction along North Quay to Trinity Road and Cove Row. Repairs will begin on 2nd March and will take around 4 weeks. Temporary traffic lights will be in place at Harbour Junction along with a road closure to westbound traffic on North Quay. All work will be carried out using no-dig technology.

Points from last meeting

It is still planned to have some glass recycling bins on the North Quay and Westway Road pontoons and will be part of a refresh of the bin compounds.

PMSC Items

Nothing to report.

Questions from HCG Members

None submitted.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 19 to 31 Jan 20

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end January 2020	
No Visitor Nights	5408
% variance compared to 2018/19	Up 9%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 8.4%
No short stay (<i>Jan 2019: 251</i>)	203
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (<i>Jan 2019: 384</i>)	397

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 240 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 84 of 106 at end of period.

Dates for future meetings (Commercial Road)

- 20 May 20
- 26 Aug 20
- 10 Nov 20

- 17 Feb 21

The following points were discussed as part of the update:

There will be further engagement with harbour users on the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project as part of the planning permission application process. Similar drop-in sessions to last time will be organised. Details will be promulgated when known. J Pullin voiced his concern that it is not earlier but the timeline for the Project was re-emphasised.

The engagement for the future strategy of the harbours will be by both drop-in sessions and also on-line. Details will be promulgated when known.

Regarding harbour works, it was stated that the waiting pontoon will be re-decked in March as it is delaminating.

Planning permission will be required for the small alteration to the Inshore Lifeboat Boathouse.

22. Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Issues

The Harbour Master raised the issue of 2 jet-skis that have been operating close inshore to the beach at high speeds. They have been reported on at least 2 separate dates. The owners are being sought so that some education on the dangers of colliding with swimmers in this zone can be given. The help of the marine police is being requested.

23. Items from members

Proposal to increase membership of the group by having an additional harbour traders representative.

The Chair, D Caddy and the Harbour Master explained that the engagement events and subsequent discussions had identified the strength of the south harbour-side community. It had been suggested that the Group's harbour traders' representative's area of responsibility could be split to have two representatives, one for the north side and the other for the south of the harbour. Phillip Cox of the Harbour Stores and Mary Harris of the Old Harbour Dive Centre have both expressed their interest in such a post.

After some healthy discussion it was decided to maintain only 1 representative but invest better in the substitute and communication. This is in effect endorsing the decision on membership that was made by the Group at the November meeting with Mary Harris being the substitute. Mary would be contacted by D Caddy, the Chair and the Harbour Master.

It was suggested that the BiD may be able to help with informing harbourside businesses about the Harbour Consultative Group and other information available on the harbour website. The Harbour Master agreed to contact the BiD.

24. Any other further business

Dave Brown and Roan Doyle of Dorset Police briefed the Group on the recent statistics of reported marine crime. There have been very few reported incidents which seems to

conflict with the perception of some harbour users, meaning some crimes are not being reported. It was stressed that reports of incidents are needed to justify the use of the Marine Police Team and local assets so all harbour users are encouraged to report accordingly. Harbour users are reminded that when reports are made to the Police that it is stressed that it is a marine incident. An example was given of 4 youths recently being caught by the police for casting 2 vessels adrift one night.

In response to S Goodwin's question, the Harbour Master confirmed that the Fisher Report was still being used but it was not fully endorsed as Dorset Council policy. There are elements of the report that are still being considered.

D Caddy asked whether the Seafood Festival would have improved security this year as there are concerns about the amount of thefts that occurred last year. The Harbour Master informed the Group that the organisers have had some meetings with the Police and that Brian Cooper planned to come to the next HCG meeting to brief the Group. The Harbour Master said he would relay concerns to the organisers but also stated that individuals could also discuss their concerns directly with Brian Cooper. D Caddy said he did not intend opening his shop this year because of the potential loss of stock.

K Claydon again raised the issue of the cormorants causing damage to boats berthed at North Quay. The Harbour Master said that the pattern of birds seemed to have changed with the new decking on the pontoons and that it is likely to happen again when the remaining wooden decks are replaced. He also said that he would raise the issue with the bird control operative. It was recognised that there can be little control of the number of birds especially as the Inner Harbour is adjacent to a bird reserve.

K Claydon highlighted that the RYA will be running some match racing competitions at the same time as the Yacht Clubs of Weymouth Yacht Regatta on 12/13th September, which will be the Women's Match Racing Championships. There will be an additional event on 5/6th September 2020, which will be the Youth Match Racing Championships.

A Sargent added that RNLI Lifeboat Week will be from Sunday 26th July until Saturday 1st August 2020.

J Pullin raised a number of points and questions that had not been submitted prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Harbour Office would try to get the reminder for points out with 1 week's notice. Group members were also asked to be proactive knowing the dates of the Group meetings. The following questions were raised and will be answered in due course to Group members:

- Why has the number of commercial berths reduced from 107 to 106?
- Would the harbour consider offering a discounted winter rate, competitively priced in line with hard standing costs to increase their inner harbour winter revenues?
- Why has there been no apparent progress on lighting on Commercial Road?
- Why have none of the thefts around the harbour been caught on CCTV?
- Why have there been no prosecutions?
- How is CCTV footage accessed?
- Why have stall holders taken precedence over commercial berth holders for power supplies?
- Will commercial moorings get power in the future?
- Why is Melwey the only commercial mooring with power?
- Does the harbour have a publicly viewable list of near misses and lessons learned from such occurrences within the harbour jurisdiction?

- Can the statistics for visiting yachts be given in terms of revenue?
- The final question regarding the membership of the Group was dealt with as part of the Agenda item.

The Harbour Master gave a brief on the latest version of the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project and answered questions. It was stressed that the design is still work in progress.

25. Dates for future meetings

- 20 May 20
- 26 Aug 20
- 10 Nov 20
- 17 Feb 21

Duration of meeting: 2 hours 30 minutes

Chairman

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