

Harbours Committee - 23 September 2020

Public Participation

Susan Boyd

Question 1 – To Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair

The Weymouth Harbour Port Marine Safety Audit was conducted in October 2019 and released to Dorset Council in November 2019. One of the key findings was that the Weymouth Harbour Master did not keep a formal system for recording incidents or near misses nor was any analysis of such incidents undertaken. The appointed Designated Person recommended that an incident database is established at the earliest opportunity and backdated to report and analyse the most serious or significant incidents for at least the previous year. Has this retrospective report now been compiled and if so has it been shared with the Harbours Committee for review.

Question 2 – To Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project Office

The Weymouth Harbour Master's update of the Peninsular development for this Dorset Council Harbours Committee meeting on Sept 23rd 2020 states that the next steps for the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project are to complete preparations for demolishing Building B (Former Departures Lounge on Quayside), and a full design for the Quay Regeneration and obtaining the necessary consents.

His update states that further details can be found at the following link:
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/business-consumers-licences/economicdevelopment/weymouth-quay-regeneration-project.aspx>

The information in the link provided has not been updated since November 2019. Please could the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project Office provide to the Dorset Council Harbours Committee and Weymouth Harbour users an actual update of the status of this project.

Richard Bright-Paul

It would appear from the minutes that no items or feedback from the Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group were brought forward for action by the Harbours Committee in the whole of 2019.

At September's Harbours Committee the Harbour Consultative Group chair reported no material items for feedback, commenting that the meeting was primarily being used by the Harbour Master as a briefing session. No action was taken by the Harbours Committee.

In November the Official Dorset PMSC audit noted that, unusually, the Weymouth Harbour Master felt "obliged to record and produce the minutes from each [Harbour Consultative Group] meeting himself". Clearly such a stance offers an unusual

concentration of power over proceedings to filter negative feedback, but no action was taken.

At December's Harbours Committee nothing emanated from the Harbour Consultative Group with regards to the plan to relocate passenger boarding for the entire commercial fleet because these plans were never presented to it. At that Committee meeting the Weymouth Harbour Master refused, upon questioning, to provide details of the public consultation on this matter to the Committee. However, a widely supported public petition was lodged against the proposal leading Jim Clarke to comment that there was clearly something deeply amiss with the consultation process. The chair noted the point, but no resulting action was taken by the Harbours Committee.

Following February's Harbour Consultative Group a Group member lodged a formal complaint having been shouted down for asking questions in the meeting. No action was taken as a result of this complaint.

The consultation process in Weymouth is clearly failing on multiple levels. Is the Harbours Committee not concerned that the failed Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group model is being rolled out, unaltered, to the other two harbours without the underlying issues having been in any way diagnosed or addressed?