

## **Public Participation**

### **Cllr Kate Wheller (Dorset Council – Rodwell and Wyke)**

I have some concerns and some compliments to share.

My concern is that with the removal of a designated pilot for Weymouth Harbour, albeit, very part-time and not needed for some years, the harbour ceases to be a Competent Harbour Authority.

During my twenty year plus involvement with Weymouth Harbour it was always impressed upon me by every harbour master (good or bad) that we should not risk losing this designation.

Can someone confirm for me that Weymouth is no longer a designated Competent Harbour Authority? Can you tell me whether an economic impact assessment was undertaken on this?

It is my belief that the loss of that designation seriously impacts on the future of the harbour both economically and to its reputation. Weymouth is an historic harbour significant in protection of Britain since medieval times with a long and well regarded Royal and Merchant Navy heritage.

What is the result of this loss upon Weymouth Town Council pursuing the possibility of a ferry service in the future, however small? Have those councillors pursuing this project been made aware? Are they wasting their time and effort?

I welcome the publication of The Strategic Plan for Weymouth Harbour and congratulate you all on your work, but I am disappointed that it is not more robust and imaginative.

Finally, I congratulate the Weymouth Harbour Master on his management of the harbour budget. I am delighted to see that a designated reserve has been created for the dredging of Weymouth Harbour. This is something that the committee pushed for over many years and is long overdue. Well done and thank you.

## **Response**

I can confirm that Weymouth Harbour is a Competent Harbour Authority and has statutory powers relating to the provision of pilotage within our Statutory Harbour Area.

As a Competent Harbour Authority, we abide by the Port Marine safety Code Guide to Good Practice and in particular the responsibility for keeping the need for pilotage and the service provided under constant and formal review.

The pilotage directions have been reviewed and updated, to include the provision of Portland Port providing Pilot transfers for Weymouth.

The Pilotage Service has undergone a formal review with an independent consultant and as per the Harbour Committee forward plan this report is due for discussion in June 2022.

The strategy has been widely consulted upon in its development including the three harbour consultative groups and their constituents and harbour related competent and relevant authorities.

We are at a stage where additional views are required from harbour users and the general public who have not yet had the opportunity to comment.

We would welcome yours and other comments on how the Strategy can be improved. In the agenda today, it is proposed that the draft strategy goes out for a period of wider consultation after which an updated final version can be approved by the Committee.

With regard to your comment regarding Weymouth Harbour Master's management of the Harbours budget, thank you for your compliment.