

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)  
Meeting 06 October 2022 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

**Present**

David Brown (DBW)	Weymouth Assistant Harbour Master
David Brown (DB)	Non-Commercial Mooring Rep
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Karen Durham Diggins (KDD)	Non-Boating Water Activities
Max Gollop (MG)	Harbour Traders Rep
Sally Holman (SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Chris Joiner (CJ)	Sea School Rep
John King (JK)	Boatman/Charters Sub
Jo Law (JL)	Seas School Chair
Nick Marks (NM)	RNLI Rep & (Consultative Group Chair)
Becky McGowan (BM)	Admin Officer, Note Taker
Steve Postles (SP)	Commercial Fishermen Rep
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair
Lee Roper (LR)	Power Boat Club Rep
Chris Waller (CW)	Gig Club Sub
Nick Williams (NW)	Boatman/Charters Rep

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room individual introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Chris Turner – Sailing Club Sub Will Reed – Harbour Traders Sub Brian Larcombe – Town Council Rep Cllr J Broom – Town Council Sub Mark Green – Town Council Sub Peter Fosh’ – Non-Commercial Moorings Sub	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
CT – Queried the chain length provided by the Harbour to the customer from the main chain, is it 2m or 3m? JR – Confirmed chain length replacement will be no longer than 3m.	
4. Election of the new Vice Chair	
One single application for Vice Chair had been received from SP SP was elected.  SP – Encouraged group members to discuss any issue with him they feel necessary.	
5. Harbours Committee Chair Updates	
Weymouth Harbour Master left post on the 12 August 2022, He laid great foundations for Weymouth to continue improvements. We are now recruiting for this position.  Gary Smart retired from Dorset Council at the end of September 2022, Gary was a long-standing member that worked with us for over 50 years.  Weymouth town bridge in need of repairs, some crucial welding works is currently underway. Bridge lifts will continue to operate however need to be booked before 4pm the day prior.  Cllr MR – Attended the BBA launch recently and the Southampton boat show and expressed his thoughts on how great they were.  The grant for Phase 5 engineering works on the Cobb has been approved, unfortunately with some delays due to surveying. Works are scheduled to start	

<p>during the summer 2024 on the seaside wall. During the winter works begin on the inner wall. Some further discussions are to be held with natural England for approval.</p> <p>SP – Asked if there are options to add new project works alongside current project works, for example adding dry docks? Funding could be sourced from fisherman’s funding or the MMO. JR – Responded that this could be investigated, further discussions to be held.</p> <p>Q - It was asked where dry docks could go? A - Dry docks could be placed by where boats do their works currently or the slipway.</p> <p>SH – Commented, consultations are online but would like on site consultations also. JR – Responded, there are more consultations to come and will ensure they are spread wider to encourage more feedback.</p> <p>A benchmark Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) audit was undertaken by the Designated Person (DP), William Heaps of Marico Marine on the Marine Safety Management System. It was the opinion of the DP that Lyme Regis Harbour was not compliant with the requirements of the PMSC at that time. A schedule of action was presented at the Harbour committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 with a timetable to bring the Harbour back into compliance.</p>	
6. Harbour Masters Update	
<p>JR – Presented the HM report.</p> <p>Q - It was asked why the substation is being moved? A – To upsize. Sitting next to the current building and leaving the grounds from the existing substation for future use if necessary.</p> <p>The works will cause some disruption to roads and some closures may be put in place as cables will run underground. The works will be advertised, and notice given in good time.</p> <p>MR – Commented, the Bridport news reported incorrect figures for Harbours highlighting a decrease in activity. These figures were produced up to July, August figures were missed which does prove otherwise that the Harbours were well used this year and at full capacity in some areas.</p> <p>NW – Highlighted continued issues/concerns on cobb around cleanliness. SH – Supported these concerns and mentioned the Cobb is messy, dirty, and smelly with items left lying around. JR – Advised Harbour staff do monitor the area and clean. Messages have been sent out to fisherman to clear their own gear and to keep these areas tidy. JK – Advised raising a discussion within the Fisherman Association meeting to encourage everyone to help keep the area tidy.</p> <p>JR – Will speak with Resort Cleaning within Dorset Council waste services to find out what areas they are responsible for and to negotiate assistance.</p> <p>NW – Raised concerns over the staff shortage, it is felt staff are not seen enough around areas of concern.</p> <p>LR – Asked if it was usual practice for life rings to be checked by Harbour staff. JR – Responded, yes, it is Harbour procedure to undertake health and safety checks daily, weekly, and monthly.</p>	JR
7. User representative reports	
<p>Reports Received and Circulated with Notes.</p>	

- Harbour Masters report
- Lyme Regis Sea School report
- Non-Commercial Mooring report
- Non-Powered Water Use report
- PWC's LRSC Proposal
- RNLI report

**Non-Commercial Moorings** – Questions were raised regarding space between tender racks and moorings, could they be stretched out slightly?  
JR – We will look at spacing however we need to consider loss of mooring spaces.

Dredging timings were criticised for the delay this year and is hoped to be corrected for 2023.

NW – Queried the impact on Cuttlefish-Ing if dredging works were completed earlier.

JR – A licence is out for consultation currently for dredging, who consult all bodies.

Q - How many vacancies are there for moorings?

A - Around 13 spaces, offers were made to everyone on the waiting list.

**Sailing club** – There were few incidents this season, the only issue raised which has improved is access being blocked on the slipway.

Fishing boats have rafted up and blocked the Harbour entrance on occasion but also has improved.

Thanks were passed onto harbour staff for their help during the Phantoms Nationals.

LR – Added the Phantom Nationals worked well and was greatly organised.

It is hoped we hold the OK world championships next year, 22 - 30 June 2023 with sailors coming from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

Information will be provided in due course, and cooperation will be needed during this time.

SP – Queried times of entering harbour, when large numbers of sailors are leaving/entering the harbour during events such as the recent Phantom National.

NM - Agreed that a mechanism would be found to warn other harbour users of the likely times of leaving/entering harbour during large sailing events.

It was mentioned, launch trollies are left at bottom of slipway at times and become submerged.

SH – This is trying to be avoided but space is sometimes an issue.

**Lyme Regis Sea School** – Jo Law has taking over as chair from Chris Joiner.

**Non-Boating Water Activities** – KDD gave an overview of report received.

Added, Bluetits are encouraging water safety for swimmers, including the use of brightly coloured hats and the use of tow floats.

Swim line in the winter has been requested.

A few complaints have been received regarding foils swerving in and around the swim buoys.

JR – Advised contacting the group through WhatsApp again to remind them of the boundaries.

KDD - Will speak to Murray Saunders (her HCG sub and a keen foiler) to get the message out.

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DB – In support of the sewage issue, a club member has had an eye injury due to faecal matter in the sea. It was mentioned that dogs defecating along the beach is also an issue.

KDD

<p>A short discussion was held around the water companies use of Bio beads which are used to filter toxins from the water however they are escaping from sewage works and found in huge numbers on Charmouth and other nearby beaches.</p> <p>It was encouraged that individuals, associations and councils contact Defra, Environmental agency and push our MP regarding this matter.</p> <p><a href="#">Lyme Regis residents urged to stay out of 'toxic' River Lim as beach considered for 'downgrading' - LymeOnline (lyme-online.co.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Water companies face new penalties up to £250million - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><b>RNLI</b> – NM gave an overview of the report received.</p> <p><b>Gig Club</b> – It has been a good year's recovery. Thanks were passed to Harbour staff for their support during the regatta.  SP – Asked for support towards the girl's team from Woodroffe school as they begin their rowing.</p> <p><b>Power Boat Club</b> – There has been no racing for 2 years.  One issue arose due to young people being used to banksman the tractor; a new risk assessment has been written.</p> <p><b>Harbour Traders</b> – Lyme Regis trade has been steady this year, and half terms being busier than expected.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Rob Perry, Lyme Bay Boats, and Mobile Marine will be represented under Harbour Traders.</p> <p><b>Commercial Fisherman</b> – Fisherman are aware of issues raised around items left on the Cobb and confirmed messages had been received from JR.  It was mentioned that a specific area could be useful to store and prepare nets for short periods of time especially during different weather conditions and tide times.  NW – Emphasised SP's view.</p> <p>Q - Disabled parking for individuals loading and unloading wheelchairs, can a space be designated on the slipway?  A – The slipway can always be used for this purpose.  NW – Emphasised the idea of projects being added alongside others and asked if this could be looked at also.  JR – Yes, vehicle access along with the use of pallets for fisherman and charges can be investigated. Will discuss with Town Council as necessary.</p> <p>Q – Why are so many fishing vessels coming in?  A – Visitors can't be stopped.</p> <p><b>Boatmen/Charters</b> – No concerns raised.</p> <p><b>Town Council</b> –. No concerns raised.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>8. Water safety Update - Subgroup</p>	
<p>NM – Gave an overview of the progress made with the subgroup.</p> <p>Five meetings had been held in total.  QR code is up and running, it is linked to the Harbour website, water safety page. Text can be edited accordingly. It is the beginning, and this can enhance further. The idea is replicable for other areas to use.  Information is on social media platforms e.g., Facebook.  KB – Suggested communication with the Comms team within Dorset Council to gain more reach through social media and Dorset Council websites.  Stickers have been placed on the lifebelt ring canisters.  Signage around the Harbour are under review. Funding has been applied for.</p>	

<p>NW – Asked if these include dangers of swimming around certain areas?  JR – Yes  SH – emphasised the concern over jumpers in the Harbour mouth and swimmers.</p> <p>NM - Would like to do a press release to raise awareness of the Water Safety QR codes. As it is now late in the season, it is probably best to wait until the spring half term.</p> <p>Q - Can we see how many people use this site?  A – We can ask the host for figures.</p> <p>Thanks were given to everyone involved in setting up the Water Safety.</p>	<p>BM</p>
<p>9. Storage areas including Monmouth beach</p>	
<p>TC - Approached the Harbour to explain that Natural England have concerns over the storage of power boats on the beach and are not permitting this.</p> <p>The storage areas are now under review and options are being investigated.  JR – Will support all users as much as possible.</p> <p>Meetings have been held between the Harbour Master, Sailing club, Power Boat club and the Town Council. Further discussion is to be had. There is no set date for a decision.</p> <p>CJ - Can any decision be appealed?  KB – No decision has been made yet, but unsure, will investigate it.</p> <p>SP - Monmouth beach, when does the lease end?  JR – Unsure, will investigate it.</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>JR</p>
<p>10. PWC discussion  a. Lee Roper Lyme Regis Power Boat Club  b. David Brown Weymouth Assistant Harbour Master</p>	
<p>LR – Wrote to the Council last year with regards to permitting PWC's to use the Harbour.</p> <p>DBW – Weymouth Assistant Harbour Master attended this meeting to give an overview of how Weymouth Harbour manage the use of PWC's and discussed the benefits.</p> <p>The old Bylaws in Weymouth did not include PWC's. This needed to be changed to include them to provide a power of prosecution.  Weymouth Harbour is the only area with a case law, an incident occurred where 2 PWC's crashed and couldn't be prosecuted under dangerous navigation.</p> <p>There is a supportive group, PWC Partnership who helped Poole Harbour set up their scheme. They could be useful.</p> <p>To begin with, there were a small number of people causing issues, the Harbour Master invited them into the Harbour and gave them dry docks, the owners can make use of all facilities now and upon accepting them they police the area and self-manage safety.  Any issues raised are generally by people not launching from Weymouth Harbour.</p> <p>A good strong plan needs to be established and followed as word can carry quickly and could become a problem.  Bowlaze Cove had many injuries, where launching was permitted but not managed effectively. The Harbour Master discussed these issues with the landowner and the slipway was closed. Launching is only permitted in Portland and Weymouth where it can be monitored and controlled.</p> <p>. Zones are in place for non-motorised, swimming and a section of the beach where they can come in to pick up PWC's.  . There is a 4-knot speed limit in the area reaching Bowlaze Cove.</p>	

- . Any user needs to provide evidence of liability insurance, certificate from the RYA to prove competency and have paid for a permit to launch.
- . The minimum age is 16 years.
- . Working alongside PWC association to include the update of the Harbours signage as old signage couldn't be understood.
- . We have 2 full time staff members who deal with PWC applications, bookings, and monitoring. It can be labour intensive.

Q – What were the takings in Weymouth?

A - DB gave figures from HM report.

Numbers have risen, to give an example, there are 16 parking bays that sell out quickly. On a good day Weymouth Harbour could see up to 30 crafts lunching.

A discussion was held around the use of PWC's in Lyme Regis Harbour, some concerns were raised.

. There isn't knowledge of when PWC's were originally stopped from launching at the Harbour.

. There doesn't seem to be much support for the use of PWC's from local people.

An email had been received from the Town Council who oppose the idea due to water safety as the area is already congested at times, environmental concerns, and noise pollution.

These concerns were supported by KDD and SH. SH added that the amount of resource, space, and time to manage PWC's couldn't be possible in Lyme Regis.

NW – Asked who would speak with users being a nuisance?

Harbour staff shortage is a concern currently in Lyme Regis.

LR – Added they would police themselves, everyone would have to acknowledge the rules, if broken then a ban be put into place.

DBW – Added that PWC's aren't as noisy as their new designs allow exhausts to power underwater. Information can be found online via PWC websites in support of noise pollution concerns.

. In comparison to Weymouth Harbour, Lyme Regis is very small.

. Parking is already an issue in Lyme Regis, will there be enough parking available for everyone.

JK – Suggested PWC licences are managed through the Power Boat Club.

NM – Asked who would handle complaints? Would this fall to harbour staff who seem to hold enough responsibility already?

LR – Added there has been interest and has already canvassed 4 individuals who would take up a licence through the Harbour Master or Power Boat Club. In support of managing PWC's, if this were to go ahead, licences would be withheld to anyone causing an issue.

KDD – Feels this should be explored further however has concerns over word spreading and many visitors becoming a nuisance.

It was mentioned the risk seems far greater with paddleboarders etc compared to PWC's for example individuals falling off, can't move quick enough or they are in the way.

Q – What are Dorset Council Harbours Committee ideas on the use of PWC's?

A – PWC's are not a main agenda item, we are seeking advice from Weymouth Harbour to get a better understanding of how they are run and monitored.

SH – Has read through LR proposal and feels there are too many question marks, there needs to be more detail in how they propose to manage this.

LR – Responded, that the draft is the first and has had no response from anyone. This explains why there are so many question marks withing the proposal.

NM – Advised to develop the proposal after discussions within the meeting.

MR – Encouraged all members to respond to LR with constructive feedback.

NW – Added, everyone needs to remember the Harbour has duty of care for all its users.

Q – How is Bridport Harbour dealing with these queries.

A – Bridport is in the similar position as Lyme Regis.	
<b>11. Q&amp;A's</b>	
<p>Q – Can we have a disposal scheme for out-of-date flares?  A – HM Coastguard have recently updated their instructions for the disposal of unwanted flares. This is contained in Marine Information Notice MIN 687. Within this there is a link to the BlueGreen website which includes a list of companies able to dispose of unwanted flares.</p> <p>Q – Are Dorset Council increasing mooring fees this year?  A - No fees have been proposed yet however Dorset Council still need to subsidise the Harbours. There is a committee workshop in November to discuss fees. It is said fees will be increasing.  CJ – Commented that the Dorset Echo reported a profit for the Harbours.  JR - £75000 of this figure was contributed by Dorset Council, like this year's figures.</p> <p>Q – How much is in the reserves?  A – Much of this is committed to the store building. £176.000</p> <p>Q – Can the swim lines stay in for as long as possible?  A – Yes</p> <p>Q – When will pontoons be removed?  A – After October half term.</p>	
<b>12. Any other business</b>	
<p>NW – Feels harbour rib and not used enough and perhaps a waste of money.  JR – The RHIB wasn't purchased, and it is used when necessary.</p> <p>LR – Mention the pontoons bending and causing a tight gap for vessel movements.  JR – Chains are tight in high tide and slacker in low tide, the pontoons will move with the wind directions.</p> <p>LR – Expressed his frustration with individuals that have poor boat handling. An individual rafted up and damage was left on the vessel leaving it unsustainable.  NW – The Harbour has CCTV, discuss any issues with the Harbour Mater.</p> <p>Depth gauge is missing.  JR - To replace</p> <p>NW – Queried a commercial mooring previously added, currently not in use.  JR - The mooring referred to is still in use by the mooring holder, should this no longer be needed, other mooring holders have interest to use with larger vessels and will be offered from the waiting list.</p> <p>Meeting concluded at 20:30</p> <p>Next meeting to be held at the sailing club 30 March 2023 18:00</p>	JR