

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)
Meeting 05 October 2023 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

Present

Amanda Anderson (Teams) (AA)	Dorset Police
Cllr Belinda Bawden (BB)	Dorset Council Ward Member of Lyme Regis – Town Council
David Brown (DB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Cllr Stuart Cockerell (SC)	Town Council
Karen D Diggins (KDD)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Peter Fosh (PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Max Gollop (MG)	Harbour Traders Rep
Sam Harding (SHA)	Harbour Assistant
Sally Holman (SH)	Sailing Club Sub
Jo Law (JL)	Sea School Trust Rep
Nick Marks (NM)	RNLI Rep & (Consultative Group Chair)
Becky McGowan (BM)	Admin Officer, Note Taker
James Mitchell (Teams) (JM)	Dorset Coast Forum
Steve Postles (SP)	Vice Chair - Boatmen/Charters Sub
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Lee Roper (LR)	Power Boat Club Rep
Chris Turner (CT)	Sailing Club Rep
Nick Williams (NW)	Boatmen/Charters Rep
Philip Wright (PW)	Assistant Harbour Master

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with introducing the first speaker JM	
2. Apologies	
Brian Larcombe – Town Council Mark Green – Town Council Matt Styles - Commercial Fisherman Rep Murray Saunders - Non-Boating Water Activities Sub Will Reed - Harbour Traders Sub	
3. Harbour Watch Scheme – Amanda Anderson, Dorset Police	
AA – Dorset Police and NHWN, Resilient Communities Coordinator Harbour Watch Scheme and its purpose is to improve communication between the harbour community, whether that be boat owners recreational or commercial, local business, residents, or visitors etc and Dorset Police to retain overall management and oversight of marine policing issues. Suspicious activities reported will also feed into Project kraken which is a joint law enforcement operation tackling maritime border crime. Harbour Watch Dorset Police It has been launched in Weymouth Harbour already and proved to be working well. We hope to also launch the Harbour Watch scheme in Lyme Regis and Bridport. The group members agreed this would be a good facility to have. AA – Asked if a marketing event could be held in Lyme Regis to meet to local Marine Policing Team along with other activities. NM - Proposed the RNLI station could hold this event and offered the date 13 th April 2024 JR – To check and agree this date. JR – Agreed and advised the beginning of the new of season next year would be a good time to start.	NM - JR

Interested members can join Dorset Alert which is a two-way community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows us to exchange information with you by email or phone at no cost.

[Home Page - Dorset Alert](#)

KDD – Asked if police presence would be increased?

AA – Police presence will not be increased however it is hoped to increase communication, even what is deemed as minor should be reported. These will then be logged, and appropriate action can then be taken, and support given.

4. Lyme Regis Cobb Phase 5 works – James Mitchell, Dorset Coast Forum

JM – Dorset Coast Forum Project manager

Lyme Regis Cobb Stabilisation Scheme survey closes 18th October at 5pm

[Lyme Regis Cobb Stabilisation Scheme | Dorset Coast Have Your Say](#)

Feedback has been good, and thanks were passed to the group members for taking the time to complete the survey. All feedback will be passed onto the project team to decipher the best plan to minimise disruption during the works.

Any questions are welcome.

SH – Advised that many have concerns over the phase V project.

JM – Reassured everyone that all feedback will be looked at and the team will be available to raise any concerns with or questions.

Currently there is a 1.5 million Shortfall for the project however we are doing everything in our power to source other funding.

A question was raised, with the shortfall of funding could this lead to descope of the project?

The surface of the Cobb still needs to be completed.

KB – With any budget restriction, the priority overall is the defence structure. Cosmetic works can be dealt with later.

SH – Asked if the Cobb is being monitored?

JM – Yes, is it being monitored very closely.

DB – Suggested breaking down the project into smaller phases as the longer the project takes to get approval from various channels the cost seems to be increasing.

JR – Planning consultants haven't completed a design yet and submission to other channels haven't yet been done.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The ongoing concern regarding dogs on the Cobb where fisherman unload.

KB - Informed there is a consultation starting soon for public space protection order for dogs, this may be an opportunity to mention the Cobb.

The public space protection order consultation is now closed. The recommendations will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 7 November 2023.

Place and Resources Overview Committee

[Issue - items at meetings - Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order- Renewal - Dorset Council](#)

BB – Explained the survey didn't include the area on the Cobb in question, this was aimed at the Marine Parade and Cart Road, footpath from Charmouth Road car park to Church beach and sea wall.

JR – We were led to believe that if there was enough feedback this area could be

<p>an area to be looked at. Feedback was given through the survey from fisherman. BB – Will investigate this and request a walk around with environmental health. MR – Advised assistance with his matter also.</p> <p>No other matters arising.</p>	<p>MR - BB</p>
<p>6. Harbour's Advisory Committee Chair's updates</p>	
<p>A New independent member has been appointed, Mark Saxby who is a retired head teacher and has extensive leisure boat sailing experience.</p> <p>I had the pleasure in meeting the ok's international judges at the Ok opening with Cllr Borden. I attended the Squib national champions and enjoyed seeing a good Harbour profile.</p> <p>The Designated Person - James Hannen, attended the Harbours Advisory Committee meeting and delivered his report on Bridport. Weymouth will be next year and the following year Lyme Regis.</p> <p>MR – Attended the Coastal special interest group meeting, a speaker from MMO was due but didn't turn up.</p> <p>The sediment testing in Lyme Regis showed good results.</p>	
<p>7. Harbour Masters update</p>	
<p>JR – Presented the HM report.</p> <p>LR – Asked for clarification on the statistics 22 and 23 figures. JR – Confirmed 22 and 23 figures were up to August.</p> <p>SH – Asked if there were any practical difference whilst waiting for the HRO. JR – No practical differences but there is an increase in income.</p> <p>DB – Asked if there is a breakdown between sailing and powerboats? JR – No</p> <p>Pilotage review – It has been recommended to Commence the process of removing the Harbour Authority's Pilotage functions, as provided for under The Marine Navigation Act 2013.</p> <p>MG – Asked if the firm from Holland will be used for dredging again this year? JR – This is out to tender and there are few parties interested.</p> <p>NW – Mentioned the silt build up at the Harbour entrance. JR – This area will be looked at in the dredging plans for March.</p>	
<p>8. User representative's report</p>	
<p>Reports Received and Circulated with Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lyme Regis Sailing Club - Lyme Regis Sea School - Non-Commercial Moorings - Non-Boating water Activities - RNLI - Town Council <p>LRSC – SH gave thanks to PF for his kind comments regarding the running of the OK's event, they were very much appreciated.</p> <p>Boatmen/Charters – Reported the season hasn't been great due to the weather, few people, and finances.</p> <p>Commercial fisherman – Reported a 38% decrease due to weather and increase</p>	

in fees for property and parking etc.
 SP – Asked BB if they can use the car park space in the Winter?
 BB – Agreed the Town Council car park can be used.

NM – SH Commented, car parks seem busy considering what’s being reported.
 SH – It has been reported that hoteliers have had a decrease of 30%
 DB – Added the Charmouth market has had no activity this summer.
 BB – The Town council hasn’t any evidence the traders or car parks have suffered a decrease in visitors due the parking fee increase and requested evidence of this. Dorset Council are reviewing the impact due to car parking charges. Town council have proposed a new charging period to be added.

NW – Asked if there are any plans to deal with the overspill of parking?
 BB – There are schemes running currently to work on this.

SH – Asked if commercial parking permit fees will increase? And did the meeting go ahead as per the last meeting minutes?
 JR – Prices may see a slight increase in April.
 The position of the parking compounds has been determined; they have been handed back to the Harbour to be handled directly by us. Both associations have been informed.

SP – Asked if the extra month parking through October offered to the fisherman is the same price as parking permit?
 JR – yes, the fee has been pro ratad.

PF – Raised the question in his report regarding mooring holder parking permits? And reiterated he managed to gain a permit through running a registered business in the area.
 NM – There is a 10-mile radius for mooring holders, this should be considered also for parking permits.
 JR – Will discuss with car parks.

BB – Dorset Council have introduced a flexi permit for those residing in the area, businesses or non-Dorset residents but work in the area.

[Flexi stay car park permit - Dorset Council](#)

BB – Advised organisations with volunteers that may need parking to report to Town council.

JR

9. Personal Watercraft – Lee Roper, Lyme Regis Power Boat Club

LR – Produced a proposal for a trail run of PWC’s managed by the power boat club. This was circulated amongst the group members prior to the meeting.

The procedure for agenda item requests to the Harbour Advisory Committee was confirmed.

- Proposals for agenda items on the Harbours Advisory Committee need to be requested through JR.
- JR to consult MR for approval before completing the e-form for the support team to add the agenda item to forward plan.
- JR to write up a report for comment by Executive Director(s), Corporate Director(s) Head of Service(s) & Portfolio Holder(s) followed by corporate consultees.
- Members of the public and the views of the Consultative Group can be made at the Committee meeting through the normal democratic committee process. Process Circulated with minutes.
- [*Part 2 Rules of Procedure - Council and Committee Procedure Rules.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)
- Harbour Advisory Committee will discuss and vote in support or not in support, then this will go to the portfolio holders who ultimately make the final decision.

<p>BM – To produce a flow chart and description of rules.</p> <p>SH – How long before the next meeting should an agenda item request be made? JR – 1 Week.</p> <p>BB – Asked if the rules for group members are the same as public for participation? KB - yes</p> <p>MR – Explained that the rules have changes recently, with regards to comments being responded to. The first 6 will that come in will get a response however similar questions or points won't be accepted, so ensure all questions or points are different.</p> <p>JL – Queried other questions or comments past the first 6, will they receive a response? MR – Will find out and clarify.</p> <p>LR – Gave a brief overview of the General responses to Stakeholder Concerns and his responses to these.</p> <p>NW – Raised a concern regarding Natural England and their say in the areas like Charton Bay and East of Charmouth as these are waters beyond Dorset Council remit and advised discussing the proposal with their Councils for comment. MR – Responded that this isn't any different to anyone else launching from the Harbour, Dorset Council are only concerned with the safe use of the Harbour whilst launching and navigating the Harbour area. LR – Mentioned Natural England has previously allowed a buoyed area for the Power Boat Club; people can anchor but not moor. BB – Confirmed that Natural England will not allow mooring on Monmouth beach.</p> <p>KDD – Praised LR for a great report and thanks were given for listening to everyone's views, however there are still concerns regarding social media attention around this and the potential increase in visitors due to this.</p> <p>NW - The channel proposed, would this be wide enough? With people flowing in and out won't this narrow the channel.? And how will this be managed from people coming from outside? JR – Responded that we can't stop people coming in from sea. LR – Acknowledged the risk of outsiders coming in or through. KB – Reiterated Weymouth Harbour had discussion with Bowleaze Cove landowner who had an unmanaged slipway, this caused nuisance with PWC's however since it was closed, and Weymouth Harbour managed the launches there have been significantly reduced incidents. The club can manage carefully launching this way.. Members must RYA certified which includes launching, handling, and recovery skills. Essential safety information provided, essential navigation and seamanship, marine radio and first aid training.</p> <p>JL – Asked LR to confirm how many people would hold licences, as the proposal states 2 named drivers? LR – There will be 10 craft only and 20 drivers in total. JL – The club will hold an annual review; will Dorset Council hold their own review? NM – How will success of the trail be measured? LR – Will investigate this.</p> <p>KDD – If the Power Boat Club have a successful trial, will Dorset Council want to go forward and provide their own launch facility for them? MR – This hasn't been considered.</p> <p>MR – Mentioned finances haven't been mentioned in the proposal, have these been discussed? LR – They would be charged the same as a standard season ticket.</p>	<p>BM</p> <p>MR</p> <p>LR</p>
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<p>NM – Asked if there are any expectations from Harbour staff? LR – Dorset Council must have some input in order to manage expectations of both parties they need to be mutually between Council and the LRPBC</p> <p>DB – Raised concern over trailer parking as manoeuvring can be difficult currently, LR – This is in the report.</p> <p>CT – Asked what the level of insurance would be? LR - 5 million</p> <p>NM – Compliments were passed to LR for his work on the proposal.</p>	
10. Frequency of Consultative Group Meetings – Nick Marks, Group Chair	
<p>NM – Proposed an extra meeting be held as there seems a long gap between meetings currently.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold meetings in February, May, and October in time to feed into the Harbour Advisory Committee meetings.</p>	
11. Q&A's	
12. Any other business	
<p>CT - Questioned the 7.5 tons restriction on the Cobb, was this lifted? There doesn't seem to be any signage. BB – Will investigate this.</p> <p>LR – Mentioned that there is signage for paddleboarders and kayakers around the Harbour, perhaps signage for PWC; s by the entrance could be made up. KDD – Added that there is no signage of water usage on the font either.</p> <p>Concluded 20:45</p>	<p>BB</p>