

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)  
Meeting 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

Present		
David Brown	(DB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ken Buchan	(KB)	Dorset Council Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Karen D Diggins	(KDD)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Alex Dyson	(AD)	Power Boat Club Sub
Peter Fosh	(PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Sam Harding	(SHA)	Harbour Assistant
Sally Holman	(SH)	Sailing Club Sub
Catherine Kinnersley	(CK)	Gig Club Sub
Cllr Brian Larcombe	(BL)	Town Council Councillor
Jo Law	(JL)	Sea School Trust Rep
Nick Marks	(NM)	RNLI Rep & (Consultative Group Chair)
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin Officer, Note Taker
Steve Postles	(SP)	Vice Chair - Boatmen/Charters Sub
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Mat Styles	(MS)	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Chris Turner	(CT)	Sailing Club Rep
Philip Wright	(PW)	Assistant Harbour Master

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Lee Roper – Power Boat Club Rep Cllr Mark Roberts - Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair Nick williams - Boatmen/Charters Rep	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
The ongoing concern regarding dogs on the Cobb where fisherman unload.  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 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.  Waiting on an update.	BB – MR
4. Harbour's Advisory Committee Chair's updates	
Ed Carter Weymouth Harbour Master will be taking on a new dual role as of 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024. As well as continuing as Weymouth Harbour Master he will become the Dorset Council Harbours Manager and lead on the delivery of the Harbours Strategy, Business Plans, engagement in the Levelling Up programme, and work with JR over at Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours to deliver projects.  Where there are Service Managers for Environment, Leisure, and Flood and Coastal Risk Management there has, since Local Government Reorganisation, been a gap for Harbours. With changes over the last year or so at Weymouth Harbour and the introduction of two Assistant Harbour Masters, this gives some additional capacity for the Weymouth Harbour Master role to become a Harbours Manager/Weymouth Harbour Master. Other decision-making authority is determined by the Council's Schemes of Delegation and through the Council's constitution which can be accessed online.  SH – Asked how will that be affected in Committee? KB – Ed Carter will report at Committee as I would on matters regarding Harbours.  NM – Requested Ed Carters contact details and a role description to be circulated amongst the group.	KB- BM

<p>BL – Asked, is Ed Carters new position available due to an extension of KB role?  KB – Replied, no, the role Ed Carter will take on will free up time to concentrate on other areas of Environment &amp; Wellbeing. Ed Carter will report to ken.  BL – Asked what extra power does ED Carter for decision making?  KB – Overall operational decisions and licensing etc will be made between both Ed Carter and James Radcliffe as they currently are.</p> <p>DB – Asked if we could provide a staff structure.  KB – A staff structure diagram is in the new business plan which will be published in the next few weeks.</p> <p>NW – Asked where information could be found.</p> <p>Terms of reference - <a href="#">Harbour Consultative Group - Lyme Regis Harbour</a></p> <p>Harbour Advisory Committee – <a href="#">Committee Structure - Dorset Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">Committee details - Harbours Advisory Committee - Dorset Council</a></p>	
5. Harbour Masters update	
<p>Harbour Storage Building – The removal of the pole is booked in for 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> February with National Grid. We are looking at the end of April for completion.</p> <p>SP – What is the store going to be used for?  JR – Our own storage and a section for the fisherman however this does need to be built first.</p> <p>SP – Asked if there were plans to rent out more commercial space on the slipway?  JR – No</p> <p>Dredging - Arrival of the dredger in West Bay is currently scheduled for 12 Feb. From where it will be towed to Lyme Regis and dredging commencing week of 19 Feb. On shore beach work at Lyme Regis is currently scheduled to start the week of 11 March.  No change in handling and disposal of dredged material. West Bay it is released on West Cliff beach – as per licensing requirements. On Lyme Regis it is released on Sandy beach, where it is used to replenish and shape the beach, as per the Beach Management Plan. Operations will be governed by the Health and Safety plan and the measures it put in place to keep the public and operational staff safe. That involves, fencing off site areas and presence of H&amp;S wardens during operational hours.</p> <p>Phase 5 Cobb works is now scheduled to begin May 2025.  SH – Asked if there is anything the group can do to help push this along as this is extremely important?  JR – The area is monitored continually.  More information can be found on Dorset Coast Forum website.  SH – Requested updates as the information from DCF is currently a bit vague.  JR – Will request an engineer’s update to present at the next meeting.</p>	JR
6. User representatives reports	
<p>Reports received and circulated with notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harbour Masters report</li> <li>- Lyme Regis Sailing Club report</li> <li>- Lyme Regis Sea School report</li> <li>- Lyme Regis Town Council report</li> <li>- Non-Boating Water Activities report</li> <li>- Non-Commercial Moorings report</li> <li>- RNLI report</li> </ul> <p><b>Lyme Regis Town Council</b> – What are the plans for Cobb arms toilet block?  KB – They will remain open this summer. Nothing is planned for the foreseeable future.  We’re initiating a project to install footfall counters into all DC public toilets to collect usage data for the next year. This will assist with any evidence-based decisions in the future.</p>	

DB – Added the toilets facilities for mooring holders aren't great for early morning or late evening users.

TC – Responded, the toilets have a contracted cleaner however they are only open certain hours of the day to prevent vandalism.

The accreted land on Monmouth Beach and agreement on its terms and intended use?

KB - Proposed management plan put forward for the area and an application for SSSI consent which is currently under review from Natural England can take up to 3 to 4 months to consider.

The front beach drift of sand and pebbles West to East and the need to perhaps look to extend the length of Cobb Gate breakwater (by around 20 – 30 feet) to help prevent the drift of beach material otherwise moving Eastward which in the event lessens the beach profile, lowers the seafront protection, and results in the beach having to be re-profiled. - Lyme's seafront beach previously had both an extra stone breakwater (landward towards Lucy's ledge) and wooden groynes on the beaches either side of it, all of which served to prevent the beach material movement and loss. – These were removed and replaced by a higher beach profile, but which still moves; extending the Cobb Gate breakwater could provide real benefit to offset this trend coastal shift.

KB - The FCERM Team are reviewing the Lyme Regis BMP, this work will commence in the new Financial Year – in April. This revision will have a re-look at the natural forces and coastal processes that impacts on the beach. We will certainly be able to identify any possible and necessary infrastructure schemes -or repair/maintenance – work for future consideration. We are also doing a comprehensive round of surveys at Lyme Regis this year. To understand the movement of sediment from the beach, and how the underwater landscape changes between dredging operations. It will give us a better understanding of what is happening, which in turn will enable us to better design and plan dredging.

PWC update,

KB - Officers have been going through the paperwork submitted by the Lyme Regis powerboat club and there have been initial discussions with the legal team which have highlighted several issues which need deeper consideration. Because of this there will be no trial this coming season. The initial feedback from DC officers and legal team:

- Any trial would have to be run by Dorset Council/the Harbour as the Statutory Harbour Authority
- There is no ability for enforcement outside of harbour limits so need to consider the implications of this. Will harbour staff be pulled away from harbour duties to deal with complaints outside of harbour jurisdiction?
- Cannot limit the trial to Powerboat Club members. If the trial was run as currently proposed and was successful, continuing to operate in this way would likely be unsustainable. It is not reasonable to expect people to join the PBC. We need to consider challenge from other PWC users.
- Current legal advice is that we wait for the new Harbour Revision Order to come into place. This will give powers of general direction to the Harbour Master to control activities more formally.
- Once everything is in place there can be further consideration by the Harbours Advisory Committee if they approve running a trial – allowing any PWC to launch from Lyme and Bridport with licence and management control for a season.

BL – Asked what the groups opinion was on the National Park proposal that includes maritime?

The group felt more information is needed to comment.

No new National Park information has been seen by Harbours or Management.

[An extraordinary challenge: Restoring 30 per cent of our land and sea by 2030 \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk)

[Nature recovery to be accelerated as the government delivers on measures to](#)

[protect land and sea - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

**Non-Boating Water Activities** – Is more signage needed for water users?

BL – Will take back to Town Council to look into.

NM – Mentioned the starfish QR code providing water safety information that is placed in RNLI and HM office notice boards, and around the Harbour. This had been used to avoid overload of signage.

DB – Asked what the feedback on starfish was?

NM – It is thought to be good by the locals, but more feedback is needed for from tourists. Perhaps starfish stickers could be provided to letting properties and parking attendants etc.

BL

**Non-Commercial Moorings** - Long stay parking permits?

JR – Mooring Holders providing evidence can now apply for Flexi Permits from Dorset Council.

New mooring holders will be informed.

JR

**Commercial Fishermen** – What are the plans for the Gate system for the fisherman and trader’s car park?

JR – Is looking at options. The surrounding posts and chain will be replaced.

MS – Asked if the white lines can be repainted?

JR – yes, will look into it.

JR

MS – When will the bait rack and mooring eyes be complete?

JR - Townsend are booked for week after next.

SP – There is some uncertainty on lists for traders and fisherman’s car park, can we confirm our spaces?

JR – An email has been sent to everyone from a list supplied by the associations.

**Gig Club** – Nick Bale now chair of the Gig Club Committee, and we are now moving forward with restructure.

**Power Boat Club** - The tractor will be back near end of march and winter storage should be clear by then.

**7. Harbour Watch Scheme**

Lyme Regis Harbour Watch Launch Day will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

The PCC will be in attendance to open the event along with marine police, the RNLI, and Coastguards etc.

JR – Presented a picture of the logo which will be used and placed around the Harbour. The QR code will lead straight to the Harbour Watch page on the Harbour website which provides information on how and where to Report, Dorset Alert and Dorset Police.

NM – Emphasised the importance of reporting anything suspicious. Stats build up to create a profile for the police to understand where extra support may be needed.

Everyone is welcome, a stand will be available for group members to make themselves available to meet and greet their members where they can learn about the Harbour and what we do for the community.

There will be life jacket tests, and gear marking free of charge.

Please let NM know of your interest.

**8. Roles, Responsibilities and period of Representatives and Substitutes**

The requirement for Dorset Council’s harbours to have Harbour Consultative Groups is set out in the Draft HRO for Bridport and Lyme harbours currently being considered by the MMO the HCG is already formalised for Weymouth Harbour in its HRO so there is a legal requirement for Dorset Council to establish and have Consultative Groups

At meetings we want to be sure that members are representing their associations,

<p>organisations, or groups so there is an expectation that members will gather collective opinions and issues and bring them to the group. If you are struggling to get feedback from your colleagues in this respect the harbour can perhaps help with communications.</p> <p>The role of the Harbour Consultative Group (HCG) can be found in the HCG Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Harbour Consultative Group Terms of Reference can be found at the following link:  <a href="https://www.lymeregisharbour.co.uk/harbour-consultative-group/">https://www.lymeregisharbour.co.uk/harbour-consultative-group/</a></p> <p>This leads on to membership renewals etc.</p> <p>Section 3.7 of the Terms of Reference outline the tenure of group members and some terms are coming to an end in April when you and your respective organisations will need to decide if you will continue to be the key representative on the HCG.</p> <p>3.7 The term of office of a member of the Consultative Group shall be three years from the date of his/her appointment and, on ceasing to hold office, (s)he shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further 3 years only. Members of the Consultative Group may at any time, by notice in writing to the Council, resign his/her office.</p> <p>Renewal is due in April 2024 for those who were in position from the April 2021 – Please discuss your memberships with your group and peers and decide if you would like to continue onto the next term. This includes substitutes. Please let the harbour office know if you plan to continue in your role, or if someone else from your association/organisation will be a new representative. The Harbour office will send out an email outline whose tenure is coming to an end. Should the chair and/or vice chair express that they wish to step down an expression of interest application will be circulated for these positions in advance of the next meeting, and an election will take place.</p>	<p>KB- BM</p>
<p>9.Q&amp;As</p>	
<p>BL – I have received several MMO emails, are you aware of any other initiatives in Lyme Bay?  SP – The MMO attended the meeting held at the fishing college yesterday, they are involved with the local fisheries.  The MMO licence and regulate marine activities in the seas around England and Wales.</p> <p>DB – Asked if there is any WIFI for Harbour users?  BL – The Town Councils WIFI can be picked up along the seafront.</p> <p>KDD – Asked if there had been any movement with Natural England regarding the Sewage?  KB – There has been no communications with NE relating to this. Information will sit with the water companies and Environment Agency as the regulator.</p> <p>DB – Asked what the survey boat was around the harbour?  JR - Dredging survey</p> <p>SH – Asked how far are we away from the HRO being complete?  KB – Weymouth Harbour took 3 years; we are around 18 months into this one.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p>	
<p>SH – Dorset Alert, police drop-in session.</p>	

**Your neighbourhood policing team will at:**

The HUB in Lyme Regis, DT7 3BS on 09/02/2024 between the hours of 1100am-1200am.

Community Contact Points are pop-up events where you can speak to an officer from your neighbourhood policing team to report a crime or an incident or discuss issues affecting your community.

These are drop-in style events with no need to make an appointment.

Please come along as this is your opportunity to speak with your local officers to discuss any issues of concern to you.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to attend a future one, look out for the dates on [Dorset Alert](#) or follow us on social media.

You can report concerns in your area, view policing priorities and a calendar of events from your local neighbourhood policing team via this link:

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/npt>

KDD – Announced Dave Edwards funeral will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Wembury. The PBC will hold a gathering on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 15:00 to celebrate his life.

Dennis Brunsden passed away recently. On behalf of the Consultative Group, we express our condolences. Dennis worked through Lyme Regis phase 1 coastal defence works all the way through and was the driving force behind the application work Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site status.

Phil Wright is leaving his position as Assistant Harbour Master at the end of April. An advert has been published today. We wish him well on his new endeavours. Phil will be part of the MOD procuring defence equipment and services.

Next meeting date 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024