

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)
Meeting 09 May 2024 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

Present

David Brown	(DB)	Non-Commercial moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Karen Durham Diggins	(KDD)	Non-Boating Water Activities
Peter Fosh	(PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Max Gollop	(MG)	Harbour Traders Rep
Sam Harding	(SHA)	Assistant Harbour Master
Sally Holman	(SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Brian Johnson	(BJ)	Sailing Club Sub
Katherine Kinnersley	(KK)	Gig Club Sub
Rob King	(RK)	Boatman's/Charters Rep
Jo Law	(JL)	Sea School Trust Rep
Nick Marks	(NM)	RNLI Rep – HCG Chair
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin – Note Taker
Steve Postles	(SP)	HCG Vice Chair
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Will Reed	(WR)	Harbour Traders Sub
Lee Roper	(LR)	Power Boat Club Rep
Mat Styles	(MS)	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Dan Williams	(DW)	Dorset Coast Forum

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room introductions were given	
2. Apologies	
No attendance from Town Council	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
The ongoing concern regarding dogs on the Cobb where fishermen unload. JR – Environmental Health did visit, they are now seeking further information, will follow up.	JR
EC – New role introduction was given.	
Phase 5 – DW on behalf of Dorset Coast Forum gave the engineer's update in AOB	
Signage for non-boating water users. KDD – Has provided a logo for Plastic Free Lyme Regis partnered with Town Council, so this is being pushed forward. Will request an update.	KDD
Car parking for non-commercial moorings. Mooring Holders providing evidence can now apply for Flexi Permits from Dorset Council.	
The Harbour office will send out an email outlining whose tenure is coming to an end. Actioned.	
SH – Asked for the minutes to be amended to 'Reported that Professor Dennis Brunsdon had passed away recently. On behalf of the Consultative Group, we express our condolences. Prof Brunsdon worked from Lyme Regis Phase 1 of the Coastal Defence works, all the way through. He was also the driving force behind the application which achieved World Heritage Site designation for the Jurassic Coast.'	
4. Harbours Advisory Committee Chair Updates	
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR) had lost his seat during the recent local elections. The results mean we have a new administration with the Liberal Democrats holding the majority of seats (42). We are waiting to hear who the new Cabinet Member and Councillors are, and who will be the new Chair of the HAC.	

<p>There are now a series of councillor induction sessions which will take place over the next couple of weeks. The first meeting of the new Full Council will place on Thursday 16 May. Cllr Ray Brians seat remained however we believe there may be a change in Cabinet Member.</p> <p>NM – Requested information be circulated once confirmed.</p> <p>EC – I have no update on behalf of the Advisory Committee but on behalf of Cllr MR from his previous report at Bridport HCG meeting, the harbour Watch launch went well, it was well attended, and we had great weather. It was good to see the likes of David Sidwick PCC, Marine Police and Border Force. Border Force covers over 11,000 miles of mainland coastline, operating in and around small ports and marinas. It raises vigilance and awareness of suspicious behaviour which may be linked to terrorism or other serious crime. Project Kraken is a joint law enforcement operation tackling maritime border crime. The fishing community are more likely to spot any warning signs, so reporting is important.</p> <p>NM – It was felt more presence from members of the HCG would have been positive. KDD - Sent her apologies. DB – Had attended and did a DNA on his vessel, it was agreed by Amanda Anderson (Dorset Police) this is available to all boat owners and will attend later in the season if there is interest. LR – Attended, but for passers by it was felt not enough information on what the event was about was available. NM – Added that the event was posted on social media, there was a press release, and stickers were handed out. SH – Complimented the new Harbour flag.</p> <p>JR – Added that Cllr MR did attend the BHCG meeting and passed his thanks on to all and he thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team. I'm sure he would have liked to thank the LRHCG members also. SH – Replied, on behalf of the group, we would like to thank Cllr MR for his time. NM was asked to write to MR to this effect.</p>	<p>BM</p> <p>NM</p>
<p>5. Harbour Masters Update</p>	
<p>Dredging works were on time however the storms bought material back. We have been working on the Medina area this week and completed today.</p> <p>Pontoons are mostly out, tomorrow we will work to get out the rest so we can start maximising use. We do have additional pontoons now; the Fisherman's Association has handed back their 40m section and it is now operated by Harbours.</p> <p>Harbour Store is progressing, the floor and foundations went down this week and the steel frame will be in place by next week. We can look to remove the containers soon.</p> <p>NM – Asked what the mooring occupancy is? JR – We have lost few through winter, however we are still offering to newcomers on the waiting list, and we have seen an increase in take up recently.</p> <p>LR – Asked what the normal level of sand is by the north wall? JR – Responded its similar to what it is now.</p> <p>EC – Added that coastal risk engineers have completed some studies and have data to look at different options.</p> <p>MS – Asked if another company will be used for the dredging works? JR – Yes, we have had some issues however it will still under a tender process. EC – Added, we have been liaising with Smals to understand what the issues were. They had agreed to come back and rectify issues at WB but this will be considered going forward.</p>	

<p>LR – Asked if dredging was done by the pontoons? JR – Replied, no due to issues with the chains. SP – Mentioned depths of 1.3m by the steps 100mtrs out by the marker buoy marking one of the anchor points was of 0.6m SH – Asked if there was any impact from this? JR – Responded no, the buoy is a marker point. EC – Added, there have been many Cliff falls recently, and this may impact the sediment movement. We are working alongside Coastal Risk Engineers closely and continually.</p> <p>SP – Asked if the pontoon steps can be put back in. JR – Agreed.</p> <p>The timber on the north wall and Victoria piers are due to be replaced this year.</p>	<p>JR-SHA</p>
<p>6. User Representative Reports</p>	
<p>Reports received and circulated with notes prior to meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harbour Masters report - Lyme Regis Gig Club report - Lyme Regis Sailing Club report - Lyme Regis Sea School report - Non-Boating Water Activities report - Non-Commercial Moorings report - RNLI report <p>Sea school Please let us know if there are problems when we are operating, we have lots of youngsters still learning and we would not like to cause any issues with other users.</p> <p>Non-Boating water Activities Plastic free Lyme Regis litter pickers have mentioned they collect lots of tape and rope from the dinghy park. They asked if everyone can be mindful of checking the area before they leave. It was reported 2 dogs had picked up mackerel hooks which resulted in surgery and unfortunately one had to be put down. JR – Added that there is a bin at the entrance. SH – Added, the November storm brought in a lot of debris which covered the dinghy park and up to the chalets, it still washed up and needs regular cleaning.</p> <p>We have had the 3m aluminium bottom for our water polo goal posts stolen on two occasions. We have ordered 2 more from the Lyme Splash funds but the impact of floating ability is reduced when fixing these. The Lyme Splash funds give to charity and therefore impacts donations also. We are looking at storing them elsewhere.</p> <p>Susan Calman by the Seaside film crew arrive May bank holiday, Sunday and Monday and looking to film around high tide 8:30 and 9:00 They are showing other activities that go on around the area other than fishing. Our goal posts will be up, apologies if they get in the way. If you are interested in supporting us, please come along in your swim gear Saturday 18th May 11:45 to be filmed. More information will be shared once filming times are finalised. NM – Added that Saving Lives at Sea producers are also likely to be filming soon.</p> <p>Non-Commercial Moorings DB – Asked if we could formally let the Harbour users know and include out of town Harbour users about parking permits.</p> <p>DB – Raised the subject of opening times of harbour toilets. JR – We have been in touch with the facilities team regarding the toilets. Harbour staff will now be opening these in the mornings throughout the summer. During the week they will be open from 8am and on the weekend 7am</p>	<p>BM</p>

<p>JR – Depth boards are here and will be fitted soon. NM – Asked if they are set to local chart datum? JR – Yes.</p> <p>JR – Has had a meeting with SH regarding trolleys near access to tenders, they now have a marked area to use along with the gig club.</p> <p>PF – Mentioned people have had punctures from scrap metal left behind from boat maintenance, and debris building up underneath boats, please can we ask people pick up and sweep up behind them. BM – To add to season report.</p> <p>DB – Signage, high activity of dogs paddling in the harbour, it is felt a sign needs to be placed there. JR – No dogs should be on beach this time of year and there is a sign there currently.</p> <p>Sailing Club The area allocated for the trollies is now in use.</p> <p>The youth regatta will be held on 15 July.</p> <p>Can we ensure the tide gauge references to the local chart datum and clearly is visible.</p> <p>It was reported there is a lack of weighted lines and pick up buoys and we are willing to assist with Harbour staff to locate those areas.</p> <p>The seaman sailor crossing the Channel will be stopping at Lyme Regis.</p> <p>Lifting dates, it was asked if these will be earlier again? JR – The vessels in the water are restricted by the SC not Harbours however the vessels on land are. This can be arranged at the time.</p> <p>Thanks were passed on to Cllr Mr and Officer KB for their time.</p> <p>Power Boat Club For advance information and further to the rejection of our PWC usage proposal, the LRPBC wish to continue to push for PWC usage out of Lyme. We await alternative suggestions from the council as to how this may proceed.</p> <p>Where are we with the HRO as this may hold up our proposal? JR – Advise from our legal team is to wait until the HRO has gone through before we further propose the use of PWCs. EC – We do not know when this will be signed off. There are currently 13 waiting for sign off. It is currently being looked at to change the powers of authorisation from the MMO to Secretary of State to make this quicker.</p> <p>EC – The biggest concern from our perspective is once launched, they are immediately outside the Harbour remit and what effect this would have on other areas. There is still more to investigate and consult. LR – A lot of effort has gone into the proposal for the PBC to run a trial, but the powers seem to fall with DC (Dorset Council) EC – The power of authorisation if things go wrong falls to the Harbours, so essentially this would be best. EC – Added, he is available to speak with anyone regarding this matter and would like to have full idea of things before going forward.</p> <p>RNLI Gave an overview of the report received to be circulated with notes.</p> <p>Commercial Fisherman There are requests for lines in the car park.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>BM</p>
---	---------------------

<p>JR – These will be done after the completion of the store including lighting and an entry system which we are getting quotes for currently. In the meantime, we will place discs down temporarily.</p> <p>KDD – Can you confirm with Darren from the Tackle Box if he is on the waiting list for a permit. JR – Will check this.</p> <p>The green crab steps need fixing and can we keep an eye on algae build up. JR – Engineers are aware.</p> <p>Harbour Traders No report but it has been quiet so far for traders.</p> <p>Thanks were passed to those supporting us on BBA open day. We will be launching our new Clinker boat on 4th June 3pm.</p> <p>Gig Club Masters Regatta will be held on 19th August. LR - Asked how did Lyme Regis do in the last event? Men's best came 9th place. Woman's 70th and 77th place.</p>	
7. Representatives and Substitutes	
<p>RK – Is now Boatman/Charters Rep, a Sub is to be sought.</p> <p>A Sub is to be sought for Commercial Fisherman.</p> <p>SH – Is now Sailing Club Rep. DR Brian Johnson is Sub.</p> <p>NM – Still has 1 year's tenure as Chair and will continue as RNLI Rep.</p> <p>SP – Standing down as Vice Chair</p> <p>Expressions of interest for Vice Chair will be circulated after minutes have been agreed and circulated.</p>	BM
8. Q&As	
<p>KDD – Are there any rules regarding fishing off the sandy beach when people there? EC – Only Bass regulations regarding the size of catch but no law currently in place. If someone causing harm, then police need to be notified.</p>	
9. AOB	
<p>DW – Dorset Coast Forum reported.</p> <p><u>Lyme Regis Environmental Improvements Phase 5 -update</u></p> <p>Leading Project Officer James Mitchell.</p> <p>An Outline Business Case (OBC) was previously prepared by JBA Consulting, which included five main elements of work to the Cobb. The purpose of an Outline Business Case is to develop potential options to a sufficient level of detail to allow construction cost estimates to be provided. The 5 main elements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scour protection to the inner and outer harbour walls, 2) Repair / void infilling to the inner and outer harbour walls, 3) Surfacing repairs, 	

- 4) Surfacing improvements to provide an accessible path and improved fisherman's quay.
- 5) Upgrade the services infrastructure.

The OBC was approved in 2022, and funding secured for the project, this included £2.7million construction costs which were estimated by an experienced construction contractor in 2019. As part of the pre-construction phase works which are currently being undertaken, two further contractors have provided updated budget costs for the works, the updated costs are circa £6.9million, with £4.7million for the structural repair works alone. The increase in cost estimates is largely associated with UK inflationary pressures experienced since 2020.

The project team are working on value engineering and finding further funding avenues to address this funding shortfall. At this time £2.7million is secured for the structural repair elements of the scheme, value engineering design of these elements is progressing. The external wall structural works value engineering design is seeking to remove the need to undertake construction from the Cobb or from temporary marine access such as a causeway both of which come with significant technical challenges and associated high cost. Design is seeking to minimise.

- impact on protected habitats,
- visual impact,
- construction programme
- cost

Likewise, the internal harbour wall value engineering design is seeking to remove the need to undertake construction from the Cobb and minimise disruption to commercial users and the public. It is worth noting that some easements or temporary closures of the Cobb walkway cannot be ruled out at this time. The internal wall design is seeking to minimise:

- footprint into the harbour,
- impact on moorings,
- impact on protected species,
- visual impact,
- construction programme
- cost.

The design team is seeking to include utilities diversion within the proposed inner harbour wall structures. Pre-application engagement discussions are occurring with Dorset Council, Historic England, and Natural England.

Detailed designs will be presented to commercial and recreational users in due course at consultation events expected in Autumn 2024. These events will also explore how and when commercial users in particular access the Cobb and how access can be reasonably maintained – this information can hopefully help find the least disruptive solution.

License and consent application submissions to facilitate construction are currently programmed for Spring 2025, with construction commencement anticipated in Autumn 2025.

The funding which has been secured through the outline business case is to ensure the continued coastal protection function of the Cobb. Funding for the surfacing repairs, accessible path and landing quay improvements is more uncertain, and these works may therefore need to be completed later. The project team are

looking to submit an expression of interest to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the surfacing works.

A Heritage Lottery Funded project will include:

- consultation on surfacing,
- community engagement events designed to explore the heritage of the Cobb.
- heritage interpretation panels

The first step, the Expression of Interest is a thousand-word document – which provides a basic outline of the project. If successful, the development phase of the project can be up to a year and during this time there would be significant amounts of consultation with key stakeholders like the Harbour Consultative Group and your members.

To strengthen the application, we are seeking approval in principle from key stakeholders – including the Harbour Consultative Group, the RNLI, the fishing college & the aquarium. Dorset Coast Forum are leading on the expression of interest and working closely with the project team. So far, we have spoken to the Lyme Regis Society and the Aquarium, with meetings planned with the Marine Theatre, the Town Council. We are also reaching out to the Museum.

RK – Mentioned it has been 20 plus years for these plans of resurfacing. There are concerns that Lyme Regis will get to a point where it cannot be reinstated and written off. This has happened previously with another Harbour and there are concerns with the status of the Cobb.

DW – Suggested a further conversation with JR to summarise key issues and the details provided through the public consultation will also be added for expression of interest.

NM – thanked DW for his update and asked that he take back to Dorset Coast Forum the HCG's concern for the future of the Cobb and the need to secure the necessary funding to allow the structural repair work of the Phase 5 project to start next year.

Date of the next meeting 17th October.

Meeting concluded 19:40