



ENHANCING CIVIC LIFE SINCE 1944

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Rob Hughes, Chair, Harbours Advisory Committee, Dorset Council
Ed Carter, Harbour Master, Weymouth Harbour

19 April 2026

Dear Mr Hughes and Mr Carter,

I am Chairman of Weymouth Civic Society, a local charity that operates Nothe Fort and Tudor House, popular heritage attractions on the southern side of Weymouth Harbour.

I am writing to express our support for Coastline Cruises, a local maritime heritage community interest company, being exempted from paying mooring fees in Weymouth Harbour in respect to its two historic vessels, My Girl and Enchantress.

We support the proposition on both a specific and broad basis.

Specifically, the two vessels have been associated with Weymouth Harbour for 80 years. They are as much as part of the town's heritage as our two museums. Our charitable aims registered with the Charity Commission lead us to support all of the town's historical inheritance. As a boat owner and last Chairman of Weymouth Harbour Board under Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, I understand how costly it is to maintain a recently built vessel to a commercial rating. My Girl and Enchantress are listed on the National Historic Ships Register. Maintaining historic vessels to pass all relevant certifications and present them to a good visual standard is hard and expensive. It is a labour of love, rather than a true commercial venture. Weymouth Civic Society requests that Weymouth Harbour, which is under the custodianship of Dorset Council but owned by the people of Dorset will support the viability of the community's last two remaining heritage vessels by waiving harbour fees.

More broadly, much of Weymouth's economy is tourism related. Our visitors, as well as of course residents, love to see well-maintained historic vessels moored in Weymouth Harbour. We therefore go further than requesting assistance for My Girl and Enchantress and ask that a preferential pricing policy is created to encourage any vessel listed on the National Historic Ships register to visit or permanently moor in Weymouth Harbour, as long as they continue to be well maintained and pass all relevant certifications.

Many thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

James Farquharson