

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)
Meeting 14 May 2026 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00
Present

Amanda Anderson (AA)	Neighbourhood Policing Team
David Brown (DB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ed Carter (EC)	Weymouth Harbour Master – Harbours Manager
Joanna Dant (JD)	Litter Free Dorset
Karen Durham Diggins (KD)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Peter Fosh (PF)	Non-Commercial Mooring Holders Sub
Sally Holman (SH)	Sailing Club Rep – HCG Chair
Rob King (RK)	Boatmen/Charters Rep
Catherine Kinnersley (CK)	Gig Club Rep
Jo Law (JL)	Sea School Trust Rep
Nick Marks (NM)	RNLI Rep
Becky McGowan (BM)	Harbour Admin Officer – Note Taker
Adam Steele (AS)	Project Engineer
Mat Styles (MS)	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Stephen Taylor (ST)	Harbour Assistant
Andy Turtle (AT)	Citizens in Policing Manager
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Lee Roper (LR)	Power Boat Club Rep
John wright (JW)	Town Council

1. Chair's Welcome & introductions				Action
SH – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room introductions were given.				
2. Apologies				
Brian Johnson – Sailing Club Sub Adrian Best – Maritime Policing Team, Marine Tactical Advisor Cllr Rob Hughes – Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair Cllr David Holland – Lyme Regis Town Council Will Reed – Harbour Traders Sub Sam Harding – Assistant Harbour Master				
3. Minutes of the previous meeting				
ID	Action	Assigned	Date of completion	
4.	(Dog fouling) Seek advice re Harbour staff enforcements within the HRO	EC AT	No further action until General Directions are consulted on.	
7.	Arrange DNA tagging event along with Harbour Watch	JR	Discussion was had to hold a harbour event and invite parties to come along. Details to be confirmed.	
5/2/2026 11.	Look into a pallet store, whelk collections.	JR	Discussed with fisherman and a meeting arranged for Tuesday.	
11.	Look at mooring eyes	JR	Actioned	
11.	Holes need filling by the crane	SHA	Ongoing	
11.	Look into limited trailer storage	JR	Actioned	

4. Representatives and Substitutes	
Gig Club Sub confirmed to be Katherine Gigg. Commercial fisherman sub to be confirmed.	
5. Phase 5 update – Adam Steele Project Engineer	
SH - On behalf of Lyme Regis and the Friends, formal thanks were extended to the MP, Dorset Council (DC), and all members of the team who have worked collaboratively to secure funding for Phase 5. The significant community support was acknowledged, and it was noted that the group is delighted with the progress made to date. Ian Fitz Presentation: The group expressed thanks for Ian Fitz's presentation, noting its importance. EC – Harbour Revision Order (HRO) Update: HRO is now in force, and that process has completed. Work is taking place on preparing a set of General Directions for the harbour, which will be brought to the HCG for consultation in due course. NM - noted that at a Town Council (TC) open meeting two weeks ago, Nick Ireland Dorset Council leader confirmed that the funding gap had been closed. AS - confirmed that the funding gap has now been secured. While the design has not yet been finalised, there is confidence that it can be delivered within budget, based on the previous proposal. Historic England (HE) / Natural England (NE) / Environment Agency (EA) Update: All parties are collaborating to help shape the project and have been engaged from the outset. Two meetings have taken place so far, with good progress made. A designer is being commissioned, and information is being shared across all stakeholders. Overall, this is viewed as a positive development. No firm timescales are available at this stage. Updates will be provided in due course. LR - asked whether any further tendering is required. AS - advised that they are currently waiting for the framework to be established, after which an appointment can be made. KDD – asked if it was based on Ian's Fitz recommendation. AS – confirmed that it was. JW - asked where (NE) and (HE) stand in relation to the project. AS - confirmed that they are working in partnership and are aligned on the same approach. Five key objectives have been agreed, with all parties signed up to them. SH – asked for an update on the emergency works. AS – confirmed they were originally scheduled for Monday or Tuesday but have been postponed due to weather conditions and are now planned for 15–16 June. The bags have been removed, and preparations are in place for concreting. SH – asked whether the barrier around the scaffolding should remain in place. AS - confirmed that it can stay until the June works take place. The group noted the excellent work in bringing all agencies together	
6. Marine Police update & Harbour Watch	
AB - provided a written update outlining recent incidents involving the theft of Suzuki outboard gearbox legs in the Portland area. These incidents have been referenced at previous meetings, and no further thefts have been reported since. Members were reminded of Operation Kraken and the importance of reporting any suspicious activity. Apologies were noted for AB's absence AT - added that recent thefts across the Wareham Channel have mainly involved outboard engines. Current trends indicate a focus on overall vessel equipment loss.	

Some recovered items are believed to have been used to travel across the Channel. Dates for potential DNA marking initiatives is still being considered. A Security Float event has been confirmed for 3 February (PM) in Poole. SH – NM – expressed that they had not received any notifications to date. Harbour Watch Update: There are currently 8 dedicated sign-ups in Lyme Regis. Approximately 900 members overall, although many are residential rather than harbour based. Information is linked to postcode data. Further sign-ups are encouraged to focus on the harbour area. NM - expressed surprise at the low number of local sign-ups and asked how individuals can check if they are registered. It was confirmed that registered members receive notifications.	
7. Litter Free Dorset	
A project is being planned to help reduce litter around the harbour and improve water quality, with plans to expand the initiative to Lyme Regis and Bridport. Several meetings have taken place to identify key issues that the group would like addressed. Areas of focus include dog fouling, crabbing activities, the toy library, and improvements to the shelters at the end of the Cobb to make them more welcoming. Members are encouraged to share any further issues or suggestions to help shape the project. KD – advised that Town Lyme Green and Litter Free Lyme are continuing to support litter picking and organised beach cleans in the area. Perhaps you could hold discussions with them. RK - Concerns were raised regarding the timing of bin emptying. Bins are often full early in the morning, leading to seagulls foraging through them overnight. It was suggested that end-of-day emptying may be more effective in preventing this issue. JR - The previous West Bay (WB) scheme introduced last year included a wheelie bin service. This is in mind for future consideration and will liaise with the Town Council. The aim is to prevent bins from overflowing. KD - asked whether there is awareness among fishermen regarding plastic usage. RK - responded that a new suppliers deliver products wrapped in plastic. However, a commercial waste bin is available at the end of the Cobb, which should help reduce the issue. KD - suggested engaging with whelk suppliers to encourage a reduction in plastic packaging. JW - advised that waste collections remain a key issue. The team operates a 47-hour week under annualised contracts and undertakes the final collections of the day. Collections begin at 7:00am to ensure the area is kept as tidy as possible before the public arrive from around 8:00am. A particular challenge continues to be pizza boxes and chip packaging. Additional budget has been allocated, and the beach has been reprofiled. Beach cleans are being reinstated three times a week, increasing to daily during the summer period. For any events taking place in the town with waste implications, additional resources are deployed as required. There is willingness to extend services into the harbour area if needed. JR – to follow up with the TC. JL - asked whether the fishing line tubes had previously been successful. SH - confirmed that they had been effective initially; however, they were eventually misused and became filled with general rubbish.	JR

JW - noted that there are many bins in the area, and a meeting is planned with DC officers to explore options for improved bin containers. Concerns were raised that the current bins are in poor condition and negatively impact the appearance of the town. It is hoped that a joint initiative with the DC can be developed to improve this. Views were sought regarding the shelters at the end of the Cobb. Members were invited to provide any opinions or feedback.	TC – DC
8. Harbour's Advisory Committee Chair's updates	
Cllr Rob Hughes will be attending the Full Council meeting in Dorchester this evening. No updates currently.	
9. Harbour Masters update	
<u>Winter Works – Moorings</u> I'd like to begin by recognising the significant amount of mooring chain replacement and realignment work that has taken place over the winter period. This has been a substantial programme of work, involving the inspection, replacement, and repositioning of moorings throughout the harbour to ensure they remain safe and fit for purpose. The team have worked extremely hard, often in challenging conditions, to get this completed ahead of the season, and it's important that their efforts are acknowledged. This work underpins the safe operation of the harbour and provides confidence to mooring holders going into the busy months. <u>Staffing</u> There has been a point raised regarding the need for a dedicated Harbour Master at Lyme Regis (LR) rather than a shared arrangement with WB. I fully recognise the level of activity at LR and the pressures that come with that, particularly during peak periods. However, it is important to note that LR currently operates with more staffing resource than it has historically. While harbour finances are ringfenced, they are also finite. The harbour must cover all operational, maintenance, compliance, and staffing costs from that budget. Introducing a dedicated Harbour Master role would require a reallocation of those resources, which in practical terms would mean reducing capacity elsewhere—potentially impacting harbour assistant roles and daily operational cover. We are, however, actively looking at how we can better support the operational team. This includes proposed changes to administrative roles, with BM moving to WB full time and, subject to approval, the creation of a full-time admin post based at LR. The aim is to reduce administrative burden and allow operational staff to focus on frontline duties. <u>Dredging</u> We have recently undertaken water injection dredging trials, which proved very successful at WB. However, having reviewed the conditions at LR, we are not convinced that this is the most suitable approach here. As a result, we are exploring alternative options. Once our engineer, Ian Fitz (IF), returns from leave, I will be meeting with him to discuss this further. One option under consideration is a targeted operation within the pontoon area using mini excavators and dumpers, recovering sand and placing it back onto the beach where appropriate. This is still under review, and no decisions have been made at this stage. EC - added that it would be beneficial to consider at least two options and potentially trial another contractor. This will be discussed further with IF. Efforts continue to identify a cost-effective approach. Members are in hopes that dredging arrangements will be licenced in time for next season. <u>Visitor Buoys</u> We have taken the decision not to deploy visitor buoys this season. The cost of installation and maintenance is significant, and the return to the harbour is relatively low. In addition, we cannot currently guarantee that the weights and	

chain systems would safely hold vessels under all conditions. This presents a risk and potential liability to the harbour authority.

To install a system to the required standard would involve significantly heavier equipment and specialist plant, which would be financially prohibitive.

Taking all these factors into account, we do not believe it is appropriate to deploy visitor buoys this year.

SH - asked whether a Notice to Mariners (NTM) would be issued.

JR - confirmed that the Reeds entry and website would be updated, but an NTM would not be issued.

JR - confirmed that anchorage will still be permitted.

LR - queried whether a charge could be applied.

EC - confirmed that this is possible.

LR - asked what the previous charge was, and it was noted to be at a reduced rate (approximately half price).

JR - confirmed that charging can now be introduced, subject to agreement via the Harbour Advisory Committee (HAC).

SH - added that, given the reduced depth at the pontoons, anchorage could be beneficial.

LR - raised concerns about potential congestion on the pontoons.

JR - confirmed that they are currently underutilised.

DB - noted that in south-westerly conditions, vessels are more likely to drag anchor.

Advance Warning of Pontoon Closures

In relation to pontoon closures, we will continue to give as much notice as practicable once a decision has been made.

This will be communicated via social media for rapid distribution, and signage will also be placed at pontoon access points and on the harbour notice board to ensure clear visibility for harbour users on site.

LR - asked whether this would also be published on the website.

JR - confirmed that it will not be due to no admin staff availability over the weekends.

EC - advised that options are being explored to move the website into the DC ICT framework, which would be beneficial as we should be able to have a live Social Media feed within the site.

Red Arrows

There has been no formal approach made to the harbour regarding the Red Arrows at this time.

We will make contact to confirm any planned activity, and any relevant information will be shared with harbour users via newsletters and, where appropriate, NTM.

Beach Profiling

Beach profiling has now been completed following a very successful campaign.

Retaining Wall (Slipway to North Wall)

The proposed retaining wall between the slipway and the north wall was raised at the previous meeting. However, no officer time or resources have been allocated to this project.

Progressing this would require full public consultation, alongside detailed modelling and design work. At present, there is no budget allocated, and realistically it remains an aspirational proposal rather than an active project.

I am due to meet with the Lifeboat Area Operations Manager next week to discuss matters in this area more broadly, which may help inform any future considerations.

Swim Line

We expect the swim line to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

Work is already being progressed, and unless there are any unforeseen operational or weather-related issues, it should be in place within that timeframe.

Davis Weather Station

the Davis weather station remains in place; however, the temperature sensor has failed and is currently providing inaccurate readings. We will arrange for the sensor to be replaced so the system can return to providing reliable data. <u>Boat Lifting Costs</u> In relation to boat lifting costs, the current pricing was reviewed last year and deliberately held, with no increase applied. It's important to understand that the income generated from boat lifting does not cover the full cost of providing the service. This includes equipment purchase, maintenance, and replacement. For example, the JCB used for lifting operations was replaced last year at a cost of approximately £90,000. That equates to nearly nine years of boat lifting income, and that does not include ongoing maintenance costs for either the JCB or the lifting equipment itself. To ensure LR retains its own lifting capability and continues to provide a reliable, high-quality service, charges must remain at their current level. This is essential for long-term sustainability. Without maintaining current charges, the harbour would not be able to justify retaining its own lifting equipment in the long term.	JR
10. User representative reports	
<u>Non-Commercial Mooring Holders</u> The season has kicked off with weather extreme's either gusty NE 30 mph or total calm. With launching delays, the sailing season is getting shorter. For next year could Harbour staff be mindful how short the season is especially for Keel Boats. The lift in/out cost is now £400. Dorset is now the most expensive on the Southwest Coast. Can this be addressed for Lyme Regis. David Brown LCGI. Non-Commercial Mooring Holder Rep. Lyme Harbour requires a dedicated Harbour Master and not a shared basis split with West Bay. There is enough activity and boat business to justify a Harbour Master or Assistant on duty every day. Logic says that this cannot be done by split role and assistant especially through the peak months of the year. The workload/ responsibilities placed on a few individuals is unreasonable. DCC response will no doubt be that there is insufficient funding, that is not the case as a quick look at car parking revenue etc. will show that to be the case. A perennial problem is the issue of thin rope holding mooring chains which is almost invisible when dirty and is set at the perfect height for fouling props. Can this be addressed promptly please. Issues with low-grade mooring lines were highlighted, noting the use of quarter-inch blue rope. While the buoys remain afloat, tails of approximately 2–3 metres are left floating in the water. Positive feedback is given regarding staff performance, and that these comments are not intended as criticism of staff. Peter Fosh, Non-commercial Mooring Holder Sub. <u>RNLI</u> The 2026 total for lifeboat call outs is currently 12. This is about average for Lyme Regis at this stage of the year. A breakdown is as follows: Person(s) in the water 5 Shoreline search for possible missing surfers 1 Cut off by the tide 1 Vessel aground 1 Assist kayakers 1 Assist CG with cliff fall casualty 1 Assist CG with person stuck on cliff 1 Investigate report of floating lifejackets 1 It was with great sadness that of the five call outs to persons in the water our crew	

have responded to, two were fatalities – one person who fell from the Cobb high wall, and one person found in the sea near Burton Bradstock. Our sincere condolences are offered to the families and friends of both those casualties. EC – asked if the number of persons in the water is average for Lyme Regis. NM - advised that figures of around five is more for Lyme Regis. These include both swimmers and vulnerable individuals. EC - the situation is like that in Weymouth.

For 2026 RNLI Lifeguards will be in Lyme Regis between 11 July and 6 September. This year the RNLI celebrates 25 years of its Lifeguard service. 2026 also marks the 200th anniversary of the start of the RNLI's connection with Lyme Regis. A number of commemoration events have already taken place, notably a Thanksgiving Service in St Michael's Church in February, and a parade of the lifeboat through the town last Saturday (2 May) followed by a civic reception hosted at the Guildhall by Lyme Regis Town Council.

The Blessing of the Boats service is on Sunday 10 May at 3pm.

Lifeboat Week this year is scheduled for 15 – 23 August, a new management team under Mark Ellis is organising it. Other fundraising activities are now being led by Oliver Mullens. We are very pleased that the Red Arrows will be returning to Lifeboat Week on 16 August at 11:30am and are very grateful to Lyme Regis Town Council for organising this display.

There are two other aviation events planned for Lifeboat Week - a display by a pair of Spitfire fighters at 6pm on Wednesday 19 August, and a flypast (not a display) by an aircraft of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight on Saturday 22 August (time tbc).

As previously reported the RNLI has taken on the Lyme Splash swimming event scheduled for Sunday 6 September. Entry forms are available via the following link [RNLI Lyme Splash Swim 2026 Tickets, Sun, 6 Sept 2026 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

We are very pleased to hear of the successful allocation by Dorset Council of Community Infrastructure Levy funding towards Phase 5. This is a major step forward. Is it confirmed that with this grant there is no longer a 'funding gap'? We look forward to seeing the plans for the final Phase 5 scheme.

At the last meeting it was reported that consideration was being given to the erection of a retaining wall between the dinghy racks and north wall. As reported at the time, this gives the RNLI some cause for concern about our ability to launch or recover over the beach when tidal conditions dictate that the lifeboat takes this route between slipway and sea (on average 6 times per year). Our concern is around whether there will be a viable alternative route when the slipway is full of cars or boats, or when the beach is heavily populated with beachgoers.

N MARKS

Lifeboat Press Officer

RNLI Lyme Regis

LRSC

Cobb Stabilisation Scheme - Phase 5

We are delighted with the progress made by DC engineers and DCF with LRSC and community support in achieving partnership working with HE, NE, EA.

Nick Marks attended LR Annual Town Meeting at which DC Leader Nick Ireland reported the Phase 5 funding gap is closed.

Many thanks to all involved. We look forward to the emergency works being completed this month, and the main project starting next Summer.

Lift In

A very smooth operation, praise due to Sam and his team, thanks from bilge keel owners, Cruiser Captain Dan Alsop and the club.

Pontoons

I was shown this morning, 5 May, that they are in place and can be used. As intended first week of May. Thanks, from sailors.

Queries

1. Dredging: We know some trialling of water injection methods have taken place.
What are Lyme Harbour's future plans?
The lump and depressions around the harbour mouth have made problems.
What will be the depth at pontoons?
 2. Beach re-profiling. Has this been completed for this year?
What are the future plans to barrier the harbour at the N beach corner to the North Wall?
 3. Visitor buoys. How many are intended to be available?
 4. Advance warning and indication of when Pontoons will be/are closed.
What steps will harbour staff take to warn those at sea and those on shore?
Discussed at the last meeting, please confirm decision and actions.
 5. Red Arrows. Date confirmed 16 August. Harbour closure, times planned?
 6. How will the HRO be likely to affect LRSC Ltd in the near future?
- We expect some of these to be covered in previous agenda reports to this meeting.*

LRSC Ltd events for 2026 as agreed with the Harbour:

Club Regatta 1 and 2 August

Fireball Open Meeting 20/21 June. Visiting boats expected before their Nationals in Torbay.

Other dates:

Club Open Day 27 May 12.30 – 16.30 and offers to try Dinghy Sailing 28 May from 17.00 as part of Sporting Lyme.

Youth Regatta 11 July.

Club seasonal racing Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Youth training Tuesday evenings and Saturdays

Additional sailing activities on Saturday afternoons.

Sally Holman

Non-Boating Water Activities

The Blue Tits swimming group continues to share information on cold water shock and support beginner swimming groups by supervising and assisting individuals entering the water. Swimmers are making use of tow floats and are respectful of designated boundaries. Interest from individuals outside the area has also been noted, reflecting positively on the group's work.

NM - the RNLI safety group is actively engaging with swimming groups to raise awareness of cold-water shock.

It was also noted that John Hodgins runs a cancer charity cold water swimming course, offering free sessions for individuals who have or have had cancer, highlighting the health benefits of cold-water swimming.

Lyme Splash Water polo Sea Championship 1st/2nd August

Sold out in a week (18 teams limited due to tides) 5 teams on waiting list!

Lyme Splash Swim - The Swim will take place on Sunday 6th September 2026, starting as usual from Lyme Regis Sandy beach. Update at meeting.

To register, and for more information, please visit

RNLI Lyme Splash Swim 2026

rnlilymesplash2026.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact with Dave Nicoll, RNLI Fundraising & Partnership Lead
via dave_nicoll@rnli.org.uk

Couple of questions:

What date is the swim line going in?

What has happened to the Davis Instruments Weather Station which was recording from the Harbour Master's building. It is now not listed on the App. It was intermittently on and offline during the winter months. Bridport Harbour is still showing though.

Paddle Our Protest 16th May at 11.30 - Sandy Beach, Lyme Regis

A new Channel 4 investigation has revealed that **thousands** of sewage pollution investigations carried out by the Environment Agency over the last five years have resulted in a grand total of **zero** water company prosecutions.



Karen D Diggins

LRSS

Sea School's next activities will be in May Half term week, when we have our Assistant Instructor training days, PB2 courses and our Open Days.

Events

We are quiet again until the end of June, when we are operational, either with training new instructors or teaching people to sail for 8 weeks.

We had one incident in the Easter Holidays, when an individual taking a Safety boat course had an episode at sea resulting in them passing out. The RIB was close to the Harbour Mouth, and they entered the harbour quickly, the person regained consciousness, 999 were called, the Harbour team were notified with the necessary reports being sent to them and the RYA. The individual is still undergoing tests to ascertain what happened, due to repeat episodes since then, but in essence they are hale and hearty.

LRGC

The Gig Club reported strong performance, with the champions achieving third place. Masters and Open Regattas are scheduled to go ahead on Saturday, with a decision regarding Sunday to be made tomorrow.

A Junior event is planned for 27 May. No issues were raised.

Commercial Fisherman

JR advised that progress on buildings has been followed up, with further action planned for next week as the responsible officer is currently on leave.

Concerns were raised regarding dredging at the harbour mouth, noting that current methods have not been effective. JR - referenced the use of a different contractor at West Bay, which demonstrated a significant improvement. It is hoped that an alternative approach can be implemented in advance of next spring. MS - raised a safety concern regarding a power cable running to the sauna, following an incident a few weeks ago where the cable was being interfered with. JR – to investigate. <u>Town Council</u> Proposals in place to work collaboratively and in conjunction with the police to strengthen enforcement. This includes extending roles to create Community Safety Officers, with evening patrols covering key areas such as the seafront, car park, cemetery, and skate park. Under agreement, harbour assets would also be included to increase visibility across the area. EC - confirmed agreement with this approach. It was also noted that CCTV is connected to the control centre in Dorchester. JR was asked to be involved in reviewing current coverage to identify any gaps, with potential to extend coverage along the seafront where required. <u>Boatman/Charters</u> Reference was made to previous minutes regarding the installation of a second crane, potentially near the bait rack, and whether there is any scope to progress this. JR - advised that the original idea was to include this as part of the Phase 5 works alongside resurfacing. However, this did not extend to that specific area. JR - will investigate this further. Concerns were raised regarding ongoing incidents of children jumping off the North Wall during the summer, which presents a significant safety risk. JW - suggested that an increased presence from the Town Council patrol officers could help with enforcement. SH - asked what enforcement powers are currently in place. EC – advised that a General Direction will cover this and create an offence for people to jump from harbour infrastructure. Typically, the fine for a breach of a General Directions can be up to £2,500. SH - asked when this could come into effect. EC - confirmed that enforcement can begin once the General Directions are formally introduced. JK - noted that, given it is widely known that jumping from the North Wall is likely to continue, consideration could be given to installing depth boards to help improve safety for those entering the water.	JR JR JR
11. Q&As	
LR – asked if personal watercraft (PWCs) are considered in the General directions. EC - confirmed that it is and further discussions will take place going forward. NM - asked if public now have access to the Cobb high wall. JR - scaffolding is currently in place; however, access on the opposite side of the scaffolding is expected to be reopened from tomorrow.	
10. Any other business	
PF - a memorial plaque has been placed at the office and the Gin Shop in remembrance of Barry Cloud. Anyone wishing to view it is welcome. JR - advised that, following an incident where a vehicle was struck and damaged, DC insurers require that the gate be kept locked by Sailing club and Seas school trust. SH - requested that this requirement be confirmed in writing.	JR

Meeting concluded 19:45	
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