

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr
Abermaw
Harbour Consultative Committee***

26 Chwefror / February 2008

Adroddiad yr Uned Morwrol – Maritime Unit Report

1 – Ffioedd a Thaliadau / Fees and Charges

- 1.1*** The fees and charges relating to the next financial year, 008/09, has been forwarded to the Statutory Officers and the Portfolio Leader of the Life Long Learning Service for approval.
- 1.2*** A copy of the fees and charges relating to the harbours of Aberdyfi and Abermaw is appended, and Members will note that it is recommended that the charges for those residing permanently within Gwynedd be increased by 4%, whilst the increase for those residing outside of Gwynedd be increased by 5%.
- 1.3*** The inflation for the harbours of Gwynedd for 2008/09 is forecast to be 3.97%. This equates to a required increase of £11,270 in our income target for 2008/09. Members will be aware that the income target at Abermaw does not reach its target, and therefore further measures will need to be taken in order to ensure that the overall expenditure, and income targets achieve their targets in 2008.
- 1.4*** The fees and charges relating to the launching and registration of Powerboats and Personal Watercraft have been increased by an average of 7%. Whilst some fees remain unchanged, there is a small increase in postal registration charges and the annual launching permit fee is also increased. A copy of the recommended fees and charges is appended.
- 1.5*** The overall increase in the income target for the Maritime Unit for 2008/09 is £62,040, increasing the overall income target of the Maritime Unit to £2,070,880.

2 – Harbour Developments / Datblygiadau Harbwr

- 2.1** The Maritime Unit is continuing to enquire as to the possibility and feasibility of purchasing a pontoon that would be suitable for positioning temporarily alongside the quay wall next to the harbour slipway. The facility will improve access for mariners embarking and disembarking from small yacht tenders. The facility could also be used by visiting powerboats.
- 2.2** Whilst the Maritime Unit is optimistic with the practicality of positioning the pontoon on the quay wall, the source of funding still has to be identified. Given the present financial climate, it can not be foreseen that the pontoon can be funded from the harbour's revenue budget, and therefore other sources of funding will need to be identified.
- 2.3** On the 22nd of February, the Maritime Unit will be attending a meeting hosted by the Welsh Assembly Government whereby future possible developments and improvements of the harbour will be discussed. A seasonal pontoon, together with other potential improvements will also be on the agenda.
- 2.4** The 'foot wash' facility that was being constantly vandalised has been replaced and repositioned on the wall outside the Ferry Office. The facility will be available for use before the main summer season commences and it is hoped that the facility will not be vandalised in the future. Should the 'foot wash' be vandalised in the future then the Maritime Unit will have no option but to remove the facility.
- 2.5** Minor repairs have been completed to the main slipway during the winter months. Whilst the repairs are temporary, it is not foreseen that extensive damage will be caused to the slipway in the future as the trailer which was previously being used to launch and recover yachts is not in service. It was identified that the wheels of the trailer that was being used by the service provider was not suitable for use on the slipway.
- 2.6** All electrical points on the quayside have been serviced, and additional safety measures have been included into the supply. The facility has been in demand and was used extensively by visiting yachts and by those maintaining their vessel on the quayside. It is envisaged that a daily charge of £2.00 per day be levied on users of the facility.
- 2.7** The CCTV unit that was installed through valued contribution from harbour users has proved to be of significant benefit to the security of vessels and other property in and around the harbour. Wind blown sand and salt spray during strong winds are causing minor problems with the camera but it is envisaged that these minor problems will be resolved in 2008.

3 – Ferry Service

- 3.1** During 2007, the Maritime Unit issued three ‘Proprietors Licences’ to owners of vessels operating within the Categorised Waters of Abermaw harbour (Category C waters.) By virtue of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act, the licence can commence from seven days before Easter to the end of October. The embarkation and disembarkation points should be identified on the Licence, and the vessel will only be authorised to carry a maximum of twelve persons (defined as over one year of age.)
- 3.2** In 2008, Easter is relatively early, and technically, the license to operate a ferry within the Categorised Water can be issued to commence from the 14th of March 2008, provided that the vessel has been surveyed both ashore and afloat by a certified Yacht Surveyor.
- 3.3** Members are requested to provide comment on the requirements listed in 3.4 to 3.7. The list is not extensive or exhaustive. Additional vessel inspection forms and the equipment list for proprietors is appended.
- 3.4** It is essential that equipment recommended as minimal by the Council, is available on board the vessel at all times. The list and recommendations is derived from the Inland Small Passenger Boat Code.
- 3.5** In order to be a Master of a vessel duly authorised to carry passengers within the Categorised Waters, the Master of the vessel is required to be duly Licensed by the Council. Such Licences are issued by virtue of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act, and is issued subject to the applicant being suitably qualified or/and experienced.
- 3.6** Prior to being issued with a Licence, the applicant is required to apply to the issuing Authority for a Licence, and a short proficiency test afloat will be undertaken by the Harbourmaster or other suitably qualified and experienced officer from within the Maritime Unit. Only upon successful completion of the short test afloat will the License be issued.
- 3.7** The Proprietors Licence and the Boatman’s Licence shall specify that the vessel, if used for the carrying of passengers for reward, shall only be used during the hours of daylight and in good weather. To operate during the hours of darkness, a separate application and assessment of the Boatman undertaken afloat shall be required.

4 - Cyllidebau / Budgets

- 4.1** The financial position of Abermaw and Aberdyfi harbours as of the 31st January 2008 are appended. Members will note that the income target relating to the harbour of Abermaw for 2007/08 is £48,940, and that the total income generated to the end of January 2008 has reached £35,167, a deficit of £13,773. It is not anticipated that a significant amount of income can be generated during February and March, and it is therefore anticipated that the income target will not reach its target.
- 4.2** The expenditure to date has exceeded the budget on a number of headings and this is causing concern as additional expenditure is anticipated during February and March. The financial report to the end of December 2007 is also appended and members will note that the anticipated over expenditure for Abermaw will possibly be £19,000 by the end of March. The total overall expenditure will have taken the income target into consideration.
- 4.3** 2008/09 will be a challenging year for the Maritime Unit and especially for the harbour of Abermaw. It is emphasised that the over expenditure and the deficit in income will need to be overcome, especially given the current financial climate facing the Authority.

5 Mordwyo / Navigation

- 5.1** All Aids to Navigation leading to the harbour have remained on station during the initial part of the winter months. To date, the cost of servicing the Aids to Navigation and the harbour's moorings is £2,175. The available budget is £1,360, and therefore additional funding will need to be identified in order to meet the cost. The aforementioned cost does not include the cost of materials such as chains and anchors.
- 5.2** The 'Perch Beacon' will require significant maintenance or replacement in the near future, and therefore plans need to be finalised in order to ensure that sufficient funding is available to meet the cost.
- 5.3** The navigation marks belonging to Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water require maintenance work in order to ensure that the navigational aids meet with the requirements of Trinity House. The top mark of the beacon positioned adjacent to the Coastguard station is missing and the top mark of the outfall pipe adjacent to the main slipway is also missing. Trinity House has identified that maintenance work is required, and it is hoped that Trinity House will advise the responsible authority of the requirement to maintain the markers.