

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr  
Porthmadog  
Harbour Consultative Committee***

***30 Medi/September 2009***

***Adroddiad yr Uned Forwrol - Maritime Unit Report***

***1 - Navigation***

***1.1*** All Porthmadog Harbour Navigation Aids were inspected by the Trinity House Officer on 10 August 2009. The officer reported that the majority of the navigation aids which had been guiding mariners into the harbour were in an acceptable condition, except for Numbers 1; 8; 13; 15 and 17.

<b>Lleoliad - Location</b>	<b>Rhif / No</b>	<b>Cymhorthydd Mordwyo Aid To Navigation</b>	<b>Math Type</b>	<b>Nam Defect</b>
Llanbedrog	N02859	Llanbedrog Sewer Outfall	Tŵr di olau Unlighted Beacon	Angen Peintio Requires Painting
P0326	N02861	Sewer Outfall Harbour No.4	Tŵr Golau Lighted Beacon	Angen Peintio Requires Painting
Pwllheli	N13358	Starcoast Outfall	Bwi Golau Lighted Buoy	Dim Golau Light Extinguished
Pwllheli	N13468	Harbwr Pwllheli Harbour	Bwi Golau Lighted Buoy	Dim Golau Light Extinguished
Porthmadog	N02875	Rh-No.1	Bwi Golau Lighted Buoy	Angen Peintio Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02871	Rh-No.8	Bwi Golau Lighted Buoy	Angen Peintio Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02881	Rh-No.13	Bwi Heb Olau Unlighted Buoy	Angen Adnewyddu Renewal Required
Porthmadog	N02882	Rh-No.15	Bwi Heb Olau Unlighted Buoy	Angen Peintio Requires Painting
Porthmadog	N02883	Rh-No.17	Bwi Heb Olau Unlighted Buoy	Ddim ar y Safle Missing From Station
Abermaw Barmouth	N02893	Clwyd Abermaw Barmouth Perch	Tŵr Golau Lighted Beacon	Angen Adnewyddu Leaning and Requires Painting
Abermaw Barmouth	N02897	Rheilffordd Abermaw Barmouth Railway	Tŵr Golau Lighted Beacon	Dim Golau Light Extinguished

***1.2*** Because of regular changes in the navigation channel this year, a number of the navigation aids needed to be relocated. Unfortunately, the Fairway Buoy was lost at the beginning of May and because of unfavourable weather, it was not possible to reposition the new buoy until 4 June. It is likely that the buoy has sunk as it has not been washed to the shore thus far.

- 1.3** As per usual, there were eight lanterns on the most important navigation aids this year. As a result of losing the Fairway Buoy, a new lantern had to be purchased, and this cost was almost **£960.00**. In addition, there was a need to purchase a lantern for the Borth y Gest navigation aid. The cost of one lantern was **£275.00**. Unfortunately, damage was caused to the new navigation aid soon after it had been installed, and the light was lost. This meant an additional cost of **£275.00**.
- 1.4** The Harbour Master and Maritime Officer – Harbours will prepare a comprehensive programme for the maintenance of the navigation aids during the autumn/winter and it is anticipated that all maintenance work will be completed before Christmas. The Harbour Master will distribute the programme at the meeting.
- 1.5** The current location and elements of the Porthmadog Harbour lanterns as they were previously, are shown in the attached plan.

## **2 - Harbour By-laws**

- 2.1** The draft By-laws for Porthmadog Harbour have already been discussed at the Consultative Committee. In accordance with the report submitted before Members in March 2009, amendments have been incorporated in line with the observations submitted by the Transportation Department.
- 2.2** Once again, because of a lack of capacity, there is minor slippage in the programme, therefore, the second version of the draft By-laws have not been sent to the Transportation Department. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the final draft will be submitted before this Committee at the first meeting in 2010.
- 2.3** Porthmadog Town Council has submitted observations on the correspondence received from the RYA which requests that the Council removes By-law 42 (2) (a) and (b). In its correspondence, the Town Council is of the opinion that By-law 42 (1) needs to be included, however; unfortunately there is no reference to By-law 42 (2) (a) and (b). A request is made for further discussion regarding this, seeking the views of Members of the Consultative Committee.
- 2.4** Draft By-law 42 (2) (a) and (b) are as follows;
- 42 (2) A master, when using his vessel to tow a water-skier or someone on a sea plane should have on board his vessel at least one other person capable of taking charge of the vessel and of giving such assistance as may be reasonably required during the towing and in the recovery of the water-skier and should carry:-

- (a) for every person on board, a lifejacket manufactured in accordance with the appropriate British Standards Specification, or personal buoyancy aid of the Marine and Boatbuilders Specification approved type.
- (b) Two hand-held emergency flares, VHF Radio or alternative method of contacting the shore, an alternative method of getting the vessel to move, a bailing device and a fire extinguisher.

### **3 – Sailing Club Developments**

- 3.1 As discussed at the previous Committee, the Maritime Unit has received a request from Madog Sailing Club, asking for permission to extend the existing pontoon facilities. As the existing slipway has been extended, and this at a substantial cost in order to facilitate a period where boats can be launched, we did not anticipate that it would be possible to extend the pontoon.
- 3.2 During the summer season, we have been studying the impact that locating a pontoon adjacent to the slipway would have on launching boats. As it is not possible to launch boats in low water, the outcome is that extending the pontoon would not have a detrimental impact on the use of the slipway, therefore, the request will be forwarded for the attention of the Property Section.
- 3.3 Should approval be granted for the erection of a pontoon, and this by means of the planning process etc., it would be critical to ensure that locating the pontoon would not have any impact on the flow of water, and that the pontoon would not have any impact on the way that boats in nearby moorings rest on their mooring.

### **4 – Harbour Statistics**

- 4.1 It is noted from the table in the appendix that **892** personal watercrafts registered with Gwynedd Council in 2009. This compares with **871** in 2008, i.e. an increase of **21** this year. 1169 powerboats were registered with the majority, i.e. 714, registering via the Maritime Office. It is noted that the number of personal watercrafts and powerboats registered in the Porthmadog Harbour Office and on Black Rock Sands were slightly higher this year compared with the number for **2008**. A great number of customers register via post and doubtless the economic situation and the price of fuel has a significant impact on the use of powerboats and personal watercrafts on the coast.
- 4.2 As noted in the table, only **26** powerboats registered in Porthmadog harbour, with **28** powerboats registering on Black Rock Sands. The registration fee for powerboats and personal watercrafts is the same as last year i.e. **£15.00** through the post, or **£20.00** on the beach or in the harbour's office. The launching fee is **£12.00** a day or **£130.00** for the season.

4.3 It is noted from the table in the appendix that **180** pleasure boats moored in the harbour this year. This means that 75% of the moorings were hired. Of these, 26% were hired by residents who live in Gwynedd on a permanent basis, and 74% were hired by persons who live out-of-county.

4.4 There is a need to note that the total moorings in Porthmadog harbour have reduced over the past twelve months. Because of a restriction in the Borth y Gest area, there will be a need to uplift and relocate a number of moorings as some moorings disrupt navigation, particularly at night.

## 5.0 Budgets

5.1 Attached, for Members' information, is the harbour's final budget report for the **2008/09** financial year, along with the harbours' revenue budget and income targets for the **2009/10** financial year.

5.2 Because of very unfavourable weather during the summer this year, it is likely that some of the Maritime Unit's income headings will not reach their income target during the current financial year. There will be a need to exercise caution during the coming months in order to ensure that the service does not commit money beyond the budget. The Maritime Officer – Harbours, with the assistance of the Harbour Master, is providing a maintenance programme for the autumn, in order to identify expenditure priorities in Porthmadog harbour.

5.3 There are concerns regarding the income target of Porthmadog harbour this year. Members will note in the appendices that the income target for the current financial year is **£80,350**. The Porthmadog harbour income thus far has reached **£72,289** namely **£8,061** lower than the target. It is not anticipated that there will be a substantial addition to the income between October and March 2010.

## 6 Maritime Staffing Structure

6.1 As members will be aware, during the past two years, there have been (temporary) staff changes in Porthmadog, Pwllheli and Aberdyfi Harbours. Despite the fact that the secondments were extended, the current secondment period comes to an end on 30 September 2009, and there will be a need to consider how the Maritime Unit will cope with these changes as a result of a cut in the Pwllheli harbour staffing budget.

6.2 Because of the Council's critical financial situation, the Maritime Unit has had to identify savings, and as a result of changing the management procedure of Hafan Pwllheli, there was a need to cut the Pwllheli harbour staffing budget

which means that the budget for the salary of the Pwllheli Harbour Master has been reduced by 50%. As no decision has been confirmed thus far regarding any continuation to the secondment, the Maritime Officer will update Members at the meeting.

## **7.0 Mooring Maintenance**

- 7.1 During the winter months, the Maritime Officer – Harbours, with the assistance of the Harbour Master, will undertake an inspection of the number of moorings in the Borth y Gest area. If the mooring was not used in 2008, then the owner of the mooring will receive instructions to clear the site. If the mooring owner has not been identified before Christmas, the harbour officers will clear the mooring.
- 7.2 As per usual, all Porthmadog harbour moorings will be inspected and maintained by the appointed contractor in January 2010. Gwynedd Council has made a substantial investment in chain maintenance and replacement in the past five years, and it is not anticipated that a substantial investment will be required in 2009/10.