

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr
Pwllheli
Harbour Consultative Committee***

25 Mawrth / March 2008

Adroddiad yr Uned Morwrol – Maritime Unit Report

1 – Ffioedd a Thaliadau / Fees and Charges

- 1.1 The fees and charges in respect of the Maritime Unit and which relate to the next financial year (2008/09), have been approved by the Council Board.
- 1.2 A copy of the fees and charges relating to Hafan Pwllheli and the Outer Harbour moorings is appended. Members will note that it is recommended that the charges for pontoon berths in Hafan Pwllheli be increased by 6% with other fees at the hafan are being increased by 3%. For the Outer Harbour moorings, Members will note that the Council Board has approved a 2% increase in mooring charges for those residing permanently within Gwynedd whilst the fees for those residing outside of Gwynedd be increased by 4%.
- 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 the accumulative income target for harbours in 2008/09. The inflation index for Hafan Pwllheli for 2008/09 is 2.98%, and this equates to a required increase of £42,260 in the accumulative income target for 2008/09.
- 1.4 Members will be aware that the income target at Hafan Pwllheli and the Outer Harbour reaches and surpasses its target. Appropriate measures will continue to be taken in order to ensure that the overall expenditure, and income requirements achieve their targets in 2008/09.
- 1.5 The fees and charges relating to the launching and registration of Powerboats and Personal Watercraft have been increased and Members will note the slight increase as reported in the appendix. Whilst some fees relating to Powercraft remain unchanged, there is a small increase in postal registration charges and the annual launching permit fee is also increased.
- 1.6 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 - Cyllidebau / Budgets

- 2.1 The financial position of Hafan Pwllheli and the Outer Harbour as of the 31st January 2008 is appended. Members will note that the income target relating to the harbour of Pwllheli for 2007/08 is £113,000, and that the total income generated to the end of January 2008 has reached £123,000. 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 remain significantly higher than the target.

- 2.2** Members will note that the income target relating to Hafan Pwllheli for 2007/08 is £1,418,000, and that the total income generated to the end of January 2008 has reached £1,391,000. It is anticipated that the income target will have reached the required target by the end of March.
- 2.3** As members will note, the expenditure to date has exceeded the budget on a number of headings in the Outer Harbour and this is causing slight concern as additional expenditure is anticipated during March. The additional income generated will be required in order to ensure that the overall budget meets the required target.
- 2.4** 2008/09 will be a challenging year for the Maritime Unit and especially for the harbour of Pwllheli, Porthmadog, Aberdyfi and Abermaw. It is emphasised that the over expenditure and the deficit in income at some harbours will need to be overcome, especially given the current financial climate and significant reduction in financial assistance facing the Authority.

3 Mordwyo / Navigation Angorfeydd / Moorings

- 3.3** All Aids to Navigation leading to the harbour of Pwllheli have remained on station during the initial part of the winter months. Whilst most of the Aids to navigation are fixed points, two remain afloat, the Fairway Buoy and the Port mark in the approach channel. A temporary Starboard buoy is in position in the area adjacent to the Harbourmaster's office in order to direct traffic to the south of the obstruction that is extending out into the channel.
- 3.4** Three temporary Port marker buoys are in position at the harbour entrance in order to direct traffic away from the shallow water. It is anticipated that the marker buoys will remain on station possibly until 2012 when the dredging programme for the entrance recommences.
- 3.5** All harbour moorings have been inspected and maintained in order to ensure that vessels can be secure in the harbour during the forthcoming sailing season. A detailed report on the condition of the moorings and on the work that was undertaken on each mooring will be available from the Harbourmaster during the meeting.

The total cost of mooring chain and shackles that is to be used for maintaining moorings and Aids to navigation within the harbour of Pwllheli during the spring of 2008 is £2,853. The cost of the Mooring Service Provider is £1,870 bringing the total cost of maintaining moorings in the Outer Harbour to £4,723.

- 3.6** All the mooring securing rings on the mooring piles in the Outer Harbour have been replaced. The total cost of manufacturing new mooring rings was £430, with the cost of utilising a contractor for undertaking the work being £2,740. The total cost of replacing the mooring securing rings was £3,170. This work will ensure that the mooring securing rings should not require replacing until approximately 2028.

- 3.7 The pontoons that services the needs of local fishermen were removed from the harbour Outer Harbour the winter months and were maintained in order to ensure that the pontoons did not constitute a risk, and that the pontoons were in a serviceable condition. Unfortunately, the pontoons were in a serious state of disrepair, and significant work was required in order to bring the pontoons to the required standard. It was found that vermin had been breeding in the floatation units and significant damage had been caused.

The fishermen using the pontoons will be required to ensure that no heavy fishing equipment is stored on the pontoon and that all bait is disposed in a manner that does not attract vermin to breed on the pontoons. Should the fishermen continue to discard bait and store equipment on the pontoon, then the Unit will consider recommending that the discount offered to bona fida fishermen on the fees and charges be reviewed.

4 - **Staff – Staffing**

- 4.1 A number of officers from within the Maritime Unit remained on secondment in other areas of the service throughout the winter months. Whilst the officer currently on secondment at Porthmadog harbour has indicated that he intends to return to his position at Abersoch/Pwllheli, it is anticipated that the present Harbourmaster at Pwllheli, who is on secondment from Porthmadog, will remain on secondment at Pwllheli until the end of September.

5 - **Prosiect Academi Hwyllo – Sailing Academy Project**

As members will be aware, the Council Board approved for officers to investigate the possibility of developing a Sailing Academy at Pwllheli in order to meet with the significant demand and popularity of Pwllheli as a National, and International sailing competition venue.

To date, a study has been completed in order to ascertain that developing a basin to the north of the existing marina facility is a possibility. The consultant's report confirmed that it would be possible to dredge a basin, and position pontoons that could accommodate visiting vessels and vessels engaged in competitions in the study area.

In 2007, Marina Projects were appointed by Cyngor Gwynedd in order to investigate and recommend the most favourable option which would meet with the brief in order to develop a Sailing Academy at Pwllheli. A Technical Group was established in order to provide input to the project.

From the 6th to the 8th of March, a public exhibition was held in Pwllheli whereby members of the public could view and comment on the option recommended by the consultants. The favoured option as recommended by the consultant is appended.

6 - Gwyl 'Wakestock' Festival 'Gwyl Fwyd Pwllheli Food Festival'

- 6.1** The annual 'Wakestock' festival is scheduled to take place in the North Basin of Pwllheli on the 5th and 6th of July 2008. In previous years, the festival has been held on the Friday and Saturday, but for 2008, organisers requested authorisation that would permit for the festival to be held on the Saturday and Sunday.

The date which was advertised by the organisers of 'Wakestock' coincided with the date of the Llyn Food Festival (previously approved) and the scheduling of both events for the same dates caused concern to the organisers of the Llyn Food Festival.

As a result of both festivals having been scheduled for the same dates, organisers of the Llyn Food Festival re scheduled the event and the Llyn Food festival will now be held on the 7th and 8th of June 2008.

It was emphasised to the organisers of the 'Wakestock' festival that it was essential that approval to host the event in the North Basin of Pwllheli harbour required authorisation prior to the dates of the event being announced.

7 - Rheolaeth Hafan Pwllheli – Management of Hafan Pwllheli

As members will be aware, the Council Board has approved that the overall management of Hafan Pwllheli will be internalised from the 1st April 2008. The contract which has been ongoing with Yacht Haven management Ltd will be terminated, and the company has received notification of the Council's intention.

It must be emphasised that whilst the Council will not be under contract to Yacht Haven Management Ltd from the 1st April onwards, the day to day management of the marina will remain with the existing staff who are exceptionally experienced and professional in their duties.

By maintaining the current staffing structure and each members of staff that is currently employed by Cyngor Gwynedd at Hafan Pwllheli, it is not expected that clients will experience any changes to the high level of service that is provided by Cyngor Gwynedd at Hafan Pwllheli.

Cyngor Gwynedd have met with all members of staff currently employed at Hafan Pwllheli and with representatives of Yacht Haven Management Ltd in order to ensure that the transition does not pose any administrative difficulties. Cyngor Gwynedd has expressed their utmost appreciation to Yacht Haven Management Ltd for the excellent service that has been provided since the opening of Hafan Pwllheli.

8 - Materion Cyffredinol – General Issues

- 8.2** During the winter months, a number of incidents were reported whereby motorised vehicles, namely 'Quad bikes' and 'Motorbikes' were observed operating within the sand dune and beach area of Glan Don and Abererch beach area. The dune area is adjacent to the Special Area of Conservation and causing damage to such a site in an offence.

Staff from the Maritime Unit have been on additional patrols on the beach on a number of weekends in order to improve on management of the situation. The Maritime Unit will be contacting the Countryside Council for Wales in order to request additional assistance with the management of the dune area during weekends especially during the winter months.

- 8.3** During January and February, several turtles had been washed ashore on the beaches of Gwynedd. The reports were investigated by Maritime Staff and it was identified that a number of turtles were 'Loggerhead' turtles with one ' Kemp Ridley' turtle coming ashore at Porth Ceuriad.

Most of the Turtles were collected by the Marine Stranding Officer and have been taken to London Zoo for post mortem and a report on the possible cause of death is expected in the near future. At Tywyn, one 'Leatherback' turtle was washed ashore and members of the public have been requested to be vigilant when walking on the beaches of Gwynedd and report any stranding to any of the Authorities.

- 8.4** Pwllheli Sailing Club have been very successful in ensuring that a significant number of prestigious events were attracted to Pwllheli during 2007. A full list of events, including the number of participants and the approximate number of support crew that have confirmed their intention to compete at Pwllheli in 2008 is included within the appendix.

The work undertaken by the Sailing Club is applauded and appreciated especially for their success in attracting such prestigious events to Pwllheli. It will be noted from the appendices that the 'Mirror World Championship' is scheduled to be held at Pwllheli in 2009.

Where possible, staff from the Maritime Unit will continue to assist with accommodating the needs of the competitors and the organisers, but it must be emphasised that the marina is presently working to capacity, and it is possible that there could be a shortage of available pontoon berths in the harbour.

We are delighted to be informed that Pwllheli has been officially chosen as a 'Training Venue' for competitors who could be involved in the 2012 Olympic and Para Olympic Games. It is very much hoped that several countries will take advantage of the excellent training facilities provided at Pwllheli.

- 8.4** *Arwyddion Gwahardd Parcio – Parking Restriction Signs*

At the meeting of the Harbour Consultative Committee held in October 2007, the representative of the RNLI expressed concern that vehicles were parking in a manner that restricted the movement of the Lifeboat.

In order to ensure that the public park vehicles in a considerate manner and in areas designated for parking, the Maritime Unit will be positioning signs in the vicinity of the Lifeboat Station indicating to the public that vehicles parked in the area could be clamped. It is expected that the signs will have been positioned on site before Easter 2008.