
**PWLLHELI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
23-03-10**

Present: Mr Michael Parry (Llyn Fishermen Association), Chairman.

Councillor Robert J. Wright (Gwynedd Council), David Dewsbury and Brian Edmunds (Hafan Pwllheli Berth Holders Association), Stephen Tudor (Pwllheli Sailing Club), David Hughes (Pwllheli Chamber of Trade), Dr J. L. Jones Morris (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee).

Also present: Barry Davies (Maritime and Country Parks Officer), Wil Williams (Manager – Hafan Pwllheli), Huw Davies (Principal Engineer), Llyr B. Jones (Senior Economy and Community Manager) and Ioan Hughes (Committee Officer).

Others invited to the meeting: S. P. Lewis and Duncan Hassall (Mouchel Consulting).

1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillors Peter Read and Sion Selwyn Roberts (Gwynedd Council), Councillor Michael Sol Owen (Pwllheli Town Council) and Mr John Morris (Pwllheli Maritime Traders Association).

2. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received from any member present.

3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 October 2009 as a true record.

4. **REPORT OF THE MARITIME UNIT**

Submitted – the report of the Maritime and Country Parks Officer with attention being given to various matters individually:

Fees and Payments

The officer reported that the draft harbour and general services fees and payments for 2010/11 had been sent for approval to the Statutory Officers and Portfolio Leader. The Hafan fees had already been confirmed and confirmation was awaited of the fees relating to Pwllheli Harbour by the end of March.

The officer did not anticipate any changes in the draft fees and payments and he was pleased to declare that the permanent residents of Gwynedd would not face an increase. The fees and payments to those residing outside Gwynedd would increase by 1%.

The officer noted that reintroducing VAT at 17.5% would result in a small increase in costs for all users.

Thus far, 95 berth confirmation forms for the outer harbour had been returned appropriately and the officer noted that the comparatively low number confirmed to date was disappointing. He added that there had been 151 mooring clients in the outer harbour during this financial year, with 181 moorings available.

An update was received on the situation in Hafan Pwllheli and it was noted that 410 renewal contracts had been submitted. 365 clients had returned their confirmation forms. Thirty clients did not wish to renew their mooring contract in 2010/11. A total of 44 had withdrawn. The officer noted that the number on the waiting list had reduced to 202.

It was anticipated that the increase in inflation for every harbour in Gwynedd for 2010/11 would be negative at -1.05%. It was noted that this was tantamount to a small reduction of £2,600 in the total general income target for harbours. It was noted that there would be a 0.64% inflation increase in Hafan Pwllheli, which meant an increase of £9,890 in the income target for 2010/11.

Reference was made to the success of Hafan Pwllheli and the outer harbour in the past with both reaching, or even exceeding their income target. Nevertheless, in 2009/10, it was anticipated that there would be a small deficit in the income. Considering the global economic circumstances, the officer noted that the Maritime Unit would need to act in order to ensure that the general expenditure and income targets would be achieved. Nevertheless, he did not wish to see falling standards.

There would be no increase in the fees and payments relating to launching Powerboats and Personal Water Crafts and the officer noted that there had been no change in the fees for ten years as the launching fees had reached their maximum peak.

It was noted that the general income target of the Maritime Unit would increase to £2,130,970 for 2010/11.

Dredging

For this item, the Chairman welcomed Mr S. P. Lewis and Mr Duncan Hassall, Mouchel Consulting, to the meeting, who were overseeing the contract of dredging the marina basin and harbour approach channel.

As part of the dredging work, work had been commenced on emptying the distilling lagoon in December 2009. This part of the scheme had been undertaken at a cost of approximately £175,000 with the material removed being transported to Fridd Rasmus near Harlech.

By now, dredging work was progressing well and it was anticipated that the work would be completed by the end of April 2010. Some delay had been experienced in commencing the work and as a result it had been impossible to complete the work before Easter. As a result, there would be a break in the work between 1 April and 12 April 2010.

The representatives of Mouchel Consulting explained the methods used to dredge and it was noted that the scheme was being provided by prioritising the areas that needed to be cleared.

A member asked whether or not the work would include widening the harbour mouth. The member emphasised that this would be advantageous and would avoid difficulties of having to dredge there often. It was explained that the harbour mouth would not be widened this year, but that there would be a need to prioritise any dredging work.

It was explained that a lot depended on the capacity available in the distilling lagoon in order to dispose of material dredged in the Hafan basin and navigation channel. It was explained that the officers would be monitoring the harbour mouth regularly in an attempt to ensure that any dredging work was programmed. Members were reminded that the harbour mouth would be dredged by using machinery on the land and that any dredged

material would be stored on nearby land. It was added that the capacity available for storing material on the land had reduced in the past twelve months.

A member called for the material dredged from the harbour mouth to be used locally.

It was noted that the quality of the material moved from the distilling lagoon was much better than expected and it was really hoped that what was being dredged at present was of a high quality. A member thanked the Maritime and Country Parks Officer for his co-operation and for the way he had dealt with the scheme.

Budgets

The financial analysis of Hafan Pwllheli and the outer harbour as on 31 December 2009 was submitted. Attention was drawn to the fact that the income target relating to Pwllheli Harbour was £119,760 for 2009/10 and that the total income generated up to the end of December 2009 was £108,062. This left a deficit of £11,698, compared to a deficit of £13,737 for the same period last year.

It was not anticipated that substantial income could be generated in March, therefore, it was not likely that the income target would be met this financial year.

In relation to Hafan Pwllheli, £1,552,740 was the income target for 2009/10. Up to the end of December 2009, the total income was £1,503,451. This meant a deficit of £49,298, however, it was anticipated that the necessary income target could be met by the end of March 2010.

Considering the economic climate, the officer emphasised that 2010/11 would be a challenging year for the Maritime Unit, in particular for Gwynedd's harbours.

He added that difficult decisions would need to be made in order to ensure savings. As part of the efforts, staff would be required to face a flexible working procedure and the officer thanked them for their co-operation.

Navigation/Moorings

It was reported that all navigation aids leading to Pwllheli harbour had remained on station over the winter. In addition, the Maritime Unit had managed to achieve additional tasks because of the settled weather.

The officer elaborated upon this and he referred to the need to undertake maintenance work on the fixed perch beacons soon. He expressed discontent as key work to maintain some navigation aids had not been completed. It was noted further that it was required for all seasonal Beach Zone Marker Buoys and the Speed Limit Marker Buoys to be in position close to the entrance of the inner harbour before 1 May 2010.

It was confirmed that all harbour moorings had been inspected and maintained and a comprehensive report was submitted to members, noting the work done on each mooring. The total cost of undertaking the work in Pwllheli was £1,850.

Further reports were given regarding the survey being undertaken of the condition of the stakes supporting the pontoon. The Lifeboat representative referred to the river mouth buoy and suggested that permanent stakes could be obtained there.

Events

The Wakestock festival would return to the northern basin of Pwllheli Harbour between 1 and 4 July this year. As in the past, the organisers had asked for permission to hold the festival on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the Maritime Unit had not received any objection to this.

The officer referred further to the Llŷn Food Festival held on Penrhyn Glandon on 29 and 30 May 2010. Amongst other events arranged for the coming months were the Honda Rib Youth Challenge held on 31 July and the National Powerboat Event.

The officer noted that Hafan Pwllheli had been awarded with the Five Anchors Award and the Blue Flag Award once again. He added that South Beach had been awarded with an International Blue Flag Award in 2010 and Glandon Beach had been awarded with a Blue Coast Award.

The Pwllheli Sailing Club representative reported that 22 events were to be held in Pwllheli during 2010 with three of these being national events.

He added that there were already events in the diary for 2011 and up to 2014. He referred to the work being done in sharing information by means of the Pwllheli Partnership and it appeared that this scheme was working. The representative was also very satisfied with the co-operation that existed between the Sailing Club and Gwynedd Council.

Particular attention was given to the document published for advertising Pwllheli and the area. Some of these were circulated amongst members. In addition, it was noted that representation from the Sailing Club had attended the Boat Show recently.

Staff

The officer referred to the decision of the Harbour Master who was on secondment in Pwllheli, Mr Dafydd Phillips, to retire from his post on 31 March 2010. Mr Phillips worked in Pwllheli and Porthmadog and the officer emphasised that his retirement would be a loss to the Service as his experience and vast knowledge was of particular value.

Members referred to Mr Phillips's exceptional work and attitude and thanked him for his impeccable service.

It was confirmed that Mr David O'Neill had been appointed as Mr Phillips's successor as Porthmadog Harbour Master. The officer who had been seconded to the post of Pwllheli Harbour Master, namely Mr Trefor Jones, would commence his duties on 1 April.

Visiting Vessel Welcome Pack

It was expected that all vessels visiting Pwllheli from 1 April 2010 onwards would receive a 'Welcome Pack'. It was noted that the scheme was to be introduced in every harbour with the packs including information about the harbour's facilities, local amenities, restaurants, emergency services, etc.

The officer emphasised that he was eager for this scheme to develop and he called on members to contact the Department should they have ideas regarding anything that could be included in the pack.

The scheme was welcomed by members and the importance of advertising and attracting more people to enjoy the maritime facilities of the area was emphasised.

Hafan Pontoon Mooring Waiting List

It was noted that the number of potential clients on the Hafan waiting list had reduced substantially during the first part of 2010. It was added that the number of people who had registered their interest in a mooring with the Council had reduced to 202. This compared to 339 who had registered for the same period in 2009.

The committee members had asked the Maritime Unit to consider increasing the cost of registering on the waiting list from £50, to a higher amount of £100. The officer reported that the views of members had been considered however, he noted that there was a need to consider the matter further, prior to increasing the registration fee, in particular considering the substantial number of people who had withdrawn their names off the list and also because of the vulnerable economic climate that existed at present.

In response to a request for further details submitted by members of the Hafan Pwllheli Berth Holders Association, the officer reported as follows:

Of the number of people on the waiting list during the past twelve months, how many of them had refused an offer of a mooring:-

- 6m – 1 request – mooring had not been offered thus far
- 8m – no requests in the past year
- 10m - 19 requests – 11 had accepted and 8 had refused
- 12m – 3 requests – all accepted
- 13.5m - 2 requests – 1 had accepted and 1 had refused
- 15m – 3 requests – 2 had refused – awaiting confirmation from one potential client

Of the number of people on the waiting list during the past twelve months, how many of them had not received an offer of a permanent mooring:-

- Everyone on the waiting list had been offered a mooring.

What was the waiting time stated to local enquirers and to non-local enquirers when they asked about a mooring:-

- For every enquiry at the start of 2010, it would be likely that a mooring would be available.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

Mooring Fees

A request had been made by Hafan Pwllheli Berth Holders Association to give full consideration to the mooring fees. Their representative emphasised that there was a need to consider various methods of paying the fees so that it would be easier for customers to meet the costs. It was agreed that the matter could be discussed further. It was confirmed that the officer was looking at the possibility of enabling clients to pay by direct debit and he was of the opinion that possibly, this scheme could be introduced in 2011/12.

Marketing

In line with the request of the Hafan Pwllheli Berth Holders Association, consideration was given to methods of marketing.

It was suggested that one welcome pack could be obtained that would address all Gwynedd harbours. Members accepted that the costs could not be ignored, but it was emphasised that such things should be considered as an investment.

It was agreed that partnerships could be established so that Pwllheli and the area would be advertised in an effective way.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN