

Complete Agenda

Democratic Service Swyddfa'r Cyngor CAERNARFON Gwynedd LL55 1SH

Meeting

BARMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, TUESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2020

Location

Parlwr Mawr, Theatr y Ddraig, Barmouth Community Centre, Jubilee Road, Barmouth, Gwynedd. LL42 1EF

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 16/03/20)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Louise Hughes Eryl Jones-Williams Gethin Glyn Williams

Co-Opted Members:

Councillor Rob Triggs Councillor R A Williams Dr John Smith Wendy Ponsford John Johnson

Mark James Martin Parouty Councillor Brian Woolley Vacant Seat Barmouth Town Council
Barmouth Resort Improvement Group
Barmouth Viaduct Access Group
Merioneth Yacht Club
Barmouth and Cardigan Bay Sea Fisheries
Association
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Barmouth Harbour & Estuary Users Group
Arthog Community Council
Three Peaks Yacht Race Committee

Observers:

Gareth Thomas Peter Read Dr John Jones-Morris Cabinet Member of Economic Development Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee Porthmadog Consultative Harbour Committee

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. MINUTES 4 - 9

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Barmouth Consultative Committee held on 22^{nd} of October 2019

4. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

10 - 16

To submit

- a) report by the Senior Harbours Officer
- b) report by the Harbourmaster

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 20th of October 2020

Agenda Item 3

BARMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 22/10/19

PRESENT:

Members: Cllr. Gethin Glyn Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Cllr. Eryl Jones-Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Cllr. Louise Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Cllr. Triggs (Barmouth Town Council), Cllr. Mark James (RNLI), Mrs Wendy Ponsford (Member of the Meirionnydd Yacht Club), Cllr. Brian Wooley (Arthog Community Council) and S Leese (Barmouth Harbour Users Group)

Officers: Llŷr B. Jones (Assistant Head Economy and Community Department), Arthur Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Glyn Jones (Barmouth Harbour Master), Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support Officer) and Mererid Watt (Translator)

Others invited: Peter Appleton (Barmouth FLAG), Alison Kinsey (Cardigan Bay FLAG), Ian Sadler (Barmouth FLAG)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Gareth Thomas (Cabinet Member- Economy), Barry Davies (Maritime and Country Parks Manager), Dr John Smith (Barmouth Viaduct Access Group), Mr Martin Parouty (Barmouth Harbour Users Group) and Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn (Cyngor Gwynedd)

1. CHAIR

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Gethin Williams as Chair of this Committee for the year 2019/20.

2. VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams as Vice-chair of this Committee for 2019/20.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee, held on 26th March 2019, as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) Events

It was reported that the activities and key events that had taken place on the beach by FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) had been successful and had raised awareness. All who had been part of the arrangements were thanked and any ideas for future events should be sent to Alison Kinsey

(b) Compound Road

In response to a request by the Committee at the previous meeting to establish suitable control of the site, the Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department noted that a review of the County's parking order was being undertaken. He added that a draft list of sites had been identified and Compound Road had been

included on that list. It was highlighted that a Task Group had been established to assist the transport service with the work of analysing the range of options to manage car parks in light of future financial income challenges. It was proposed to give an update on Task Group's work at the next meeting

The maritime department was praised for their work in maintaining Compound Road, however, the way users use the site was deplorable. It was noted that there had been five incidents on the site, however, there was a lack of CCTV evidence for the Police to conduct further enquiries. The need to restrict the use to a specific group of users was proposed or to consider a future option of paying for using the space.

(c) Moorings

In response to a minute of the previous meeting that it was necessary to seek the views of users regarding why mooring owners are leaving, it was noted that it was difficult to find any statistic for the reduction in use. It was added that the situation was similar across the country.

(ch) Specific facility for jet skis

In response to a suggestion by the Committee at the previous meeting that consideration needed to be given to ways of controlling and providing a specific facility to moor jet skis, the harbour master noted that it would be difficult to designate a site and specific facility for them. The main barrier was the mud that prevents jet skis from mooring and they could only moor near the slipway or the pontoon at times when the tide allowed. Currently they pushed jet skis onto the beach and parked there. It was highlighted that jet skis were used most often as a convenient way of reaching the town from nearby caravan sites. It was added that it was possible to form a landing stage beyond the breakwater, however, in reality this would not be convenient. It was noted that efforts had been made to try and facilitate provision with no alternative options unless it was possible to dredge the harbour.

It was reported that jet skis did not bring any income to the harbour and if they were launched from a slipway the income would go towards beaches finance. It was noted that many launched from adjacent caravan parks without any firm control. It was added that a jet ski was not recognised as a boat or vessel and therefore legislation dealing with jet skis was vague.

In response to the observations, the Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department noted, in accordance with the arrangements, that every jet ski should register with the Council. A comment was received that it was necessary to work with caravan sites to control/register jet skis and that visits to the harbour were safe with suitable provision for them. A number of complaints had been received over the Summer which had led to reviewing bye-laws to control jet skis. It was added that discussions were taking place with the Legal Unit and users.

In response to the comments of the Assistant Head, it was noted

- Concern that jet ski drivers were drinking and driving
- That legislation had to be adapted and to seek regulations that were consistent to driving a car
- Better cooperation was required between caravan park owners and the Maritime Service to promote safety aspects and responsible conduct on the water.
- It was suggested that messages should be promoted via the Gwynedd PWC website (jet ski club)

 That the concerns should be forwarded to the Assembly Member, Dafydd Elis Thomas, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism (Dwyfor and Meirionnydd constituency).

6. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(a) Senior Harbours Officer's Report

A report was presented by the Senior Harbours Officer giving a brief update on Harbour matters for the period from March 2019 to October 2019.

Moorings

In response to a minute of the previous meeting that it was necessary to seek the views of users regarding why mooring owners were leaving, it was noted that it was difficult to find one statistic for the reduction in use. It was added that the situation was similar across the country.

Port Marine Safety Code

Members were reminded that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's inspectors had undertaken an inspection in March 2019 of specific safety arrangements and the systems of Gwynedd municipal harbours in order to ensure compliance with the Port Safety Marine Code. Following a further visit to see how the suggested enhancements had been implemented, it was reported that Capt. Quader (Agency inspector) was satisfied that the Service was in compliance with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code.

Staffing Matters

It was reported that it had been resolved to extend the employment period of Barmouth's Harbour Assistant until the end of December 2019 to ensure support for the Harbour master and provide a continuation of the Service across the County. It was added that the intention was to designate the post as permanent.

Financial Matters

The harbour budget was presented to highlight the current financial situation up to the end of September 2019. An overspend of £11,807 was estimated. It was highlighted that it was proposed to increase daily launching fees from £10 to £15.

In response to a question regarding expenditure on 'equipment and furniture' it was expressed that the expenditure was not wasteful, that everything regarding maintenance, equipment and hand tools were included in this budget. It was added that the equipment's life expectancy was not long due to harsh conditions. It was also asked if the budget was set correctly and suitable for the outcomes. It was suggested that the Councillors on the Committee should offer input to set the budget.

Observations arising from the discussion

- How did the increase in fees compare with other authorities?
- Despite the increase in fees, it was not always possible to launch this
 depended on the tide and the specific launch site.
- That an increase of 50% was quite a step.

The increase would affect all harbour users and these were not the people who needed to be targeted e.g. jet ski users

• Users needed to be encouraged and prompted to purchase an annual permit which gave more value for money.

In response to the observations, the Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department noted that as a result of the reduction in income it was not possible to increase the budget. He added that there was a need to promote and encourage more use and raising the income would ensure the continuation of the service.

(b) Harbour Master's Report

A report was presented by the Harbour Master detailing navigational, operational and maintenance matters. Attention was drawn to the following matters:

- A substantial investment had been made to upgrade the navigational buoys in the channel
- An operational and maintenance work plan had been identified for the Winter
- Good feedback had been received regarding the safety signage (provided jointly with the RNLI)
- A request that members report back on any problem /matter regarding the channel to the Harbour master who will be more than willing to investigate the matter.

In response to a question regarding how accurate were the navigational marks, it was reported that the channel was fine and in a further response to a comment that a 'bar' of sand had formed near the access to the channel, it was reported that because of the presence of the current buoys and the navigational information provided by the harbour master there was no requirement for an additional buoy.

In response to a question regarding noticeboards on Fairbourne beach, it was reported that these were ready to be erected.

In response to a question regarding installing a slipway on the beach in Fairbourne to ensure access to the beach, the Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department noted that it was necessary to consider a solution and suitable design for the request. He noted that the old slipway did not extend onto the beach to create access and was moved as it was in a poor condition and had deteriorated significantly. It was added that it would also be necessary to consider the cost of the scheme. It was proposed to work with the community to try and seek a solution and to establish a team in Fairbourne to discuss ideas with Gwynedd Consultancy. The Local Councillor noted that a new slipway would be a gesture of goodwill and the community would be willing to try and raise money for the venture. It was suggested that FLAG should be included in the discussions.

In the context of the safety signage a method of protecting the signs was suggested by covering them as they suffered damage when they were moved.

RESOLVED to accept the reports.

8. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(a) Barmouth Harbour Development Plan

A wish to draft a development plan was highlighted. It was accepted that there was no budget to realise and implement the plan, however, it was felt that a plan needed

to be put in place to set a direction and plan ahead for the future. Ideally, advice was required on the work that could be achieved and the relevant legislation that need to be considered to dredge the harbour.

It was resolved to ask the Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department to establish a Task Group to form a 'Mind Map' on what they would wish with an invitation to an officer from Gwynedd Consultancy to attend.

- The need to engage with the public was emphasised and give them an understanding of what can and what cannot be done.
- The following were elected as members of the Task Group John Smith, Rob Triggs, Alison Kinsey, Peter Appleton, Wendy Ponsford together with key officers
- The first step for the group would be to establish a foundation for a development plan giving appropriate consideration to the Port Marine Safety Code Framework.
- The second step will be to present the development plan to Natural Resources Wales in order that they can contribute and respond to the Plan.

(b) Public Steps

It was highlighted that an Officer from the Coastal Protection Unit had been called to look at the foundation of the stairs and the Unit had accepted that the foundation was their responsibility.

(c) Railtrack and Barmouth Viaduct

There was a request for assurance that the gabion boxes near the railway would not be raised any higher before commencing the next stage of work. It was noted that mixed messages had been reported. It was confirmed that Natural Resources Wales were now responsible for the assessment work.

(ch) Movement of Sand

Following the clearance work undertaken in March 2019 to clear sand, feed-back was requested regarding cost and impact. It was explained that it was possible to include an item on the March 2020 agenda - this will be an opportunity to get a full year's feedback and the real impact of the work.

(d) Breakwater

A comment was made that it was necessary to keep the breakwater clear of sand to ensure access to users. It was highlighted that machinery was available in the Highways and Municipal Services yard that would be suitable to use with the clearance work.

Observations arising from the ensuing discussion:

- Suggestion to reconvene the Sand Group.
- Need to highlight the concerns to the Head of Highways and Municipal Services
- That the local community was willing to assist with the clearance work
- The breakwater was a valuable asset for the town it enabled access to wheelchair users, families with prams etc.
- The breakwater needed to be clear throughout the year

- Invite the Tourism and Marketing Manager to the meeting together with members of the Town Council
- To conduct a discussion with the Highways and Municipal Department regarding using their machinery.

(dd) Sand near the Bath-house

It was highlighted that the sand near the bath-house was now forming dunes. The Harbour Master confirmed that he would deal with the situation.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on 24th March, 2020.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 12.30pm.

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Αg	MEETING	ιеп	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
	DATE		24 th March 2020
	TITLE		Update on Harbour Management Matters
	AUTHOR		Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committees main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Abermaw Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period October 2019 to March 2020, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Abermaw Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 As the season approaches mooring application forms have been distributed to existing customers. Unfortunately only a limited number have been returned thus far. A number of new enquiries have already been received at the harbour office to date concerning harbour moorings and boat registrations for the forthcoming year.
- 2.2 The Service wish to remind members that all administrative requirements associated with a mooring application should be completed and returned to the Harbour Office at Abermaw as soon as possible. This will facilitate effective administration process.
- 2.3 In accordance with previous years, an underwater inspection of the Council moorings within the harbour will take place under the guidance of the Harbourmaster.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a government led national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties.

- 3.1.2 The Service has in place a fully revised and updated Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours of Gwynedd including the harbour of Abermaw, approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency following inspections conducted last year.
- 3.1.3 As a matter of standard practice, the Service will continue to review its Port Marine Safety Code. Members of the Consultative Committee should submit any observations they may have on the suitability of the Safety Code together with any observations on the work arrangements of the harbour, to ensure the code remains relevant to local harbour operations.

4. Staffing Matters.

The Harbour Authority is pleased to confirm that it now has three assistant harbourmasters in full time employment with Gwynedd Council, working across the harbours of Porthmadog, Abermaw and Aberdyfi. The Harbour Assistant at Abermaw has been formally appointed to the role at Abermaw Harbour. In contrast to seasonally appointed staff, in following a structured training

programme, the newly appointed Harbour Assistants will provide enhanced professionalism, better working arrangements and facilitate succession planning within the Service.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the financial year will be distributed to the Committee at the meeting.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
 - The employment of a full time Harbour Assistant
 - Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour vessels including the purchase of additional equipment for the Powercat patrol vessel, in order to meet the Code of Practice requirements to enable the vessel to proceed to sea
 - Maintenance of grounds and street furniture

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2020/21.**

The Service will provide the Committee with the details of fees and charges for Abermaw Harbour during the period April 2020 – April 2021 together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for the same period on the day of the meeting

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Abermaw will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2019 March 2020 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is the main document.

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	24th March 2020
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	Abermaw Harbourmaster

1. Navigational Issues

- 1.1. Throughout the winter period the navigational aids marking the channel approach to Abermaw harbour have, for the most part remained on station. The exception to this was the Port hand mark No 2 Buoy, which washed ashore at Fairbourne Point, at the same time and in the same location as the new Fairbourne outfall starboard hand buoy, owned by Welsh Water. Local Notice to Mariners were issued regarding these navigational aids and it is hoped to have the buoys back on station as soon as possible in conjunction with Welsh water and the mooring contractor.
- 1.2 In accordance with routine maintenance, it is anticipated that the navigation marks in the channel will be subject to inspection during the forthcoming months. This includes the Perch Rock South Cardinal Mark and the Breakwater Perch Navigational aid. Subject to the working commitments of an appointed mooring contractor, any worn or damaged equipment will be repaired or replaced. It is also the intention of the Service to renew the ski markers present in the estuary situated near to the rail bridge.
- 1.3 The current illustration of the navigable channel is similar to that as issued last September. Further surveys of the navigable channel are expected to be undertaken before the Easter period and any necessary movement of the channel marks will be undertaken thereafter. The Service regularly inspects the channel at low tide in addition to utilising the harbour patrol craft whenever practicable to conduct surveys, in order to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location.

2. Operational Issues

- 2.1 Staff working on behalf of Network Rail are currently in the process of conducting detailed surveys of the required work to be undertaken on the Abermaw rail bridge. Two safety boats are in attendance whilst this process is being undertaken. Once completed, a better understanding of the extent and scope of the works is expected together with the machinery and access routes required to perform the refurbishment of the structure.
- 2.1.1 It is understood that a number of gabion boxes will be removed as part of the programme of works to be conducted on the bridge, which, is to extend over a three year period. Although the existing gabion boxes are to be returned in due course, the Service understands that no additional gabion boxes will be put in place during the works programme.
- 2.2 Harbour staff will continue to liaise and seek assistance from the relevant managers and staff based at the local caravan parks in an effort to combat the anti-social use of personal watercraft on the near coastline and within harbour limits during the summer season. To assist in the process, the harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel has recently been upgraded for operations 'at sea' and subject to operational guidelines and certificated

restrictions, will now be able to patrol beyond the Martime and Coastguard Agency defined 'Categorised Waters' for the estuary.

3. Moorings

- 3.1. Harbour Staff will continue to number the moorings located in the harbour and identify the position of each mooring. The local mooring contractor is aware of the need to undertake such a task and of the requirement to report to the harbourmaster should there be a direct approach from a customer to install. Harbour users are reminded of byelaw 4 of the Aberdyfi and Barmouth Harbour Byelaws 1985 which states that; "No person shall lay or cause to be laid within the harbour moorings for any vessel without the written permission of the harbour master and in accordance with the terms of that permission".
- 3.2 It is unfortunate that the service has received a number of incomplete mooring confirmation forms which have had to be returned to individual customers. In consequence the service wish to remind harbour users of the need to comply with Byelaw No 5 of the Aberdyfi and Abermaw Harbour Byelaws 1985 which states that; "The owner of mooring equipment shall inspect his mooring equipment annually in order to ensure that it is in good working order, and he shall produce to the Council a Certificate to this effect when applying for reallocation of mooring".
- 3.3 The Service is aware of a derelict mooring located near to the 'Clockhouse' upstream of Barmouth rail bridge. Ownership of the mooring is known to the harbourmaster and arrangements are to be made in conjunction with the owner and mooring contractor to have the mooring replaced or removed.

4. Maintenance

- 4.1 The harbour railings protecting the quayside and the associated harbour ladders on the quay wall have received damage from vessels moored on the quayside during the recent winter storms. The Harbourmaster has been in contact with the owners of the vessels concerned with a view to recovering costs incurred as part of the repair process which is yet to be completed.
- 4.2 The harbour barrier which provides access to the harbour front and diesel pump area has also been damaged requiring maintenance work to be carried out by harbour staff. This occurred when an unknown vehicle reversed into the barrier. The matter was reported to North Wales Police at the time, but so far inquiries undertaken have failed to identify the vehicle responsible.
- 4.3 The Service has been in contact with Gwynedd Consultancy (Coastal Protection) regarding required repairs to the ferry steps on the harbour front. Members of that department have examined the steps and the Service awaits further information with regard to when the repairs will be carried out at this time. The situation will be monitored until the repairs have been effected.
- 4.4 The winter storms, in particular the named storms 'Ciara' and 'Dennis' were responsible for damage to the safety railings and the Highway situated towards the North end of the promenade. Harbour staff did commenced repairs to the railings in that area however

following sever additional damage caused on the 12th March this work will be suspended pending a full inspection by engineers. The harbour staff continue to monitor the slipway and surrounding area at the North end of the promenade which is particularly prone to the growth of algae as repair works are undertaken.

4.5 The Harbourmaster will summarise the maintenance work programme carried out at Abermaw harbour during the period October 2019 – March 2020.

5. Other Matters

- 5.1 **Harbour Dredging.** At the previous Harbour Consultative Committee meeting, it was agreed to discuss the possibility of harbour dredging operations and an opportunity was identified to apply for funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (Cardigan Bay Fisheries Local Action Group) to carry out an option appraisal in respect of siltation levels within the main navigational channel.
- 5.1.1 In a subsequent meeting of interested parties, it was agreed that a draft 'expression of interest' would be prepared and circulated for comment in an effort to secure such funding. This has since been undertaken. At the time of writing this report, it is proposed to submit the relevant paperwork before 11th March, in advance of the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) meeting on 18th March.
- 5.2 **Fisherman's Compound.** The Service are currently assisting users of the compound in the clearance of unwanted waste materials from the site. Once completed, it is the intention of the Service to review and re-enforce the extent of individual harbour plots. In this respect, the Service wish to remind compound users of the requirement to keep individual plots clean and tidy, in compliance with relevant Health and Safety Legislation and in accordance with the terms and agreement undertaken with the Service.
- 5.3 **Harbour Parking.** The Service continues to appoint designated parking bays on Compound Road to assist water based Commercial Operators to continue their activities within the harbour environment, whilst keeping the harbour frontage clear of commercial vehicles. As reported previously, the Service advises that for the purposes of cost recovery and maintenance, a charge at a rate yet to be determind is to be requested from commercial operators utilising the parking facility.
- 5.3.1 The Harbour Authority would like to remind service users of the need to maintain an effective use of the barrier sited at the entrance to the facility, in order to prevent indiscriminate parking by unauthorised users.
- 5.3.2 Assistance has been and will continue to be sought from enforcement officers as and when required, to facilitate free and unobstructed access to the slipway for harbour users, in respect of the road markings by the 'SS Dora' building and harbour slipway approach.
- 5.4 **Sand. Maritime** Service personnel installed chesnut pailing fencing at strategor points on the beach over the winter period in order to reduce sand and in order to encourage dune development in this area. The aim of the fencing is to prevent excessive wind blown sand from encroaching onto the promenade, road, car park and harbour frontage. Similar fencing has also been erected to prevent sand from covering the access to Ynys

Y Brawd. Early indications show that the project has been a worthwile venture, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

5.5 **Car Park Winter Storage of Vessels**. The option provided by the Service for the winter storage of vessels on the car park near to the Leisure Centre has not been taken up by any owners of vessels this winter. Following on from the previous year when only two vessels occupied the facility, the service is now reviewing the viability of the option.

6. Events

- 6.1 To date, applications have been received to hold the following events at Barmouth Harbour in 2020:-
 - Three Peaks Yacht Race
 - Charity Jet-Ski Event Porthmadog Abermaw Aberdyfi (Black Rock Blast)
 - Kite Festival
 - Abermaw Food Festival
 - Motorcross Event
 - Paddle Sports Festival
 - Swim Society 'Hurly Burly Event'
- 6.2 The Service would like to remind members that it is essential the Harbour Authority is advised and permission sought for any proposed event in the Harbour at the earliest opportunity.

