



Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

5.30 pm, TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2022

Location

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

(For public access, please contact us)

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 28/02/22)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

E. Selwyn Griffiths
Alwyn Gruffydd
Nia Wyn Jeffreys

Local Member
Local Member
Local Member

Co-Opted Members:

Cynghorydd Llywelyn Rhys
To be confirmed
To be confirmed
Dr John Jones-Morris
Ian Roberts
Robert Owen
Chris Fisher

Porthmadog Town Council Representative
Representing Landowners' Interests
Representing Harbour Interests
Representing Leisure Interests
Representing Industrial Interests
Representing Commercial Interests
Representing Criccieth Lifeboat Institution

Observers:

Gareth Thomas
David Williams
Councillor Rob Triggs
Peter Read

Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which are urgent matters in the opinion of the Chairman.

4. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chairman will propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on 5th October, 2021, be signed as a true record.

5. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

8 - 13

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 11th October, 2022, subject to confirmation by the Full Council.

Agenda Item 4

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5/10/21

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5/10/21

PRESENT:

Councillor Selwyn Griffiths (Chair)
Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Vice-chair)

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Gwynedd Council) and Robert Owen (Commercial Interests Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Barry Davies (Maritime Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Malcolm Humphreys (Porthmadog Harbourmaster) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

1. CHAIR

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Selwyn Griffiths as Chair of this Committee for the year 2021/22.

2. VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Nia Jeffreys as Vice-chair of this Committee for the year 2021/22.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Llewelyn Rhys (Porthmadog Town Council Representative), David Eastwood (Harbour Interests Representative), Chris Fisher (Cricieth RNLI Representative) and Councillor Gareth Thomas (Cabinet Member - Economic Development).

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

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

5. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were received.

6. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 10 March, 2021, as a true record.

7. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The following reports were presented, and members were invited to give feedback on safety matters and harbour operational matters.

- (1) The Senior Harbours Officer's report, giving a brief update to the committee on harbour matters for the period from March 2021 to October 2021.

Referring to part 2 of the report - Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration - the Senior Harbours Officer noted that 1,302 Personal Watercraft (Jetskis) and 1,308 Powerboats had registered online and in person, giving a total of 2,610 of registered vessels.

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5/10/21

In response to a question by the Chair regarding who is responsible for dredging the harbour, the Maritime Manager explained:-

- Under the Porthmadog Harbour legislation, the Council did not have dredging powers without going through processes, and the Marine & Coastal Access Act had tightened environmental protection considerably, and also the ability of harbours to dredge without going through statutory processes.
- Porthmadog Harbour was a harbour that was gradually silting up, with material slowly returning into the harbour.
- Natural processes had been hampered significantly when the Cob and Pont Glaslyn were constructed.
- There was a warning when the pontoons were granted that this would create an area of quiet waters, and everything transported down-river would be left in the harbour, as there would be an insufficient flow for it to be carried out to sea.
- Regarding the pontoons area, the Council would certainly not dredge an area where it had no responsibility or lease.
- It would be very difficult to dispose of mud from Porthmadog harbour. It would have to be sucked up and pumped out into the sea, however, it would have to be tested first, and probably obtain a marine licence, prior to commencing the process.
- Although at a quite different scale, plans to dredge Victoria Dock, Caernarfon and Hafan, Pwllheli were worth £280,000.
- It would take time to conduct habitats regulations assessments.
- He was willing to look into the matter, however, no promise could be given that it would be possible to dredge Porthmadog harbour in the future.

A member agreed with these observations and noted:

- He did not believe that there was any purpose to dredge the harbour, as the channel within the harbour had not altered much in 45 years.
- If there was a wish to increase the number of moorings, it would be much better to install pontoons down the centre of the harbour, in order for water to flow either side, and possibly have a system to transport people to their boats.

The Maritime Manager noted that an estimate of the harbour budget from 1/4/20 to 31/3/21 and 1/4/21 to 31/9/21 had been sent very recently to members, and he gave details on the current situation and noted:-

- That a larger number of staff had been appointed this year to cope with the anticipated number of visitors to the coast over the summer, and it was pleasing to see so many enjoying what this area has to offer. However, disappointment was expressed that some people had behaved in a threatening way towards staff.
- The need to spray water to harden soft sand near the entrance for vehicles at Morfa Bychan had an impact on the numbers who were able to gain access to the beach at certain times during the summer.
- Because of the pandemic, we were £22,500 short of our income target in 2020/21, and this had led to an overspend of £23,000 in the harbour during the year.
- An overspend was anticipated of a little less than £18,000 in our budget for this year.

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5/10/21

- The income target for this year was £65,000. Thus far, the harbour had managed to reach £64,000, and it was envisaged that the income target would be reached for the year.
- In terms of the harbour's maintenance, the budget was £10,000, and the expenditure thus far was £25,000. Therefore, it was anticipated there would be at least £5,000 in additional expenditure, this would mean an overspend of £20,000 under the equipment and tools heading in the harbour this year.
- Everything possible would have to be done in the winter to reduce costs to the ratepayers.
- The whole maritime budget could cope with the £18,000 of overspend in Porthmadog, and we were also very fortunate that 2,610 boats had been registered this year and this would be a boost to the income budget. In addition, there had been an increase in the number of boats in the Harbour and at Hafan Pwllheli (378 compared to the anticipated 280) that had assisted the income stream to contribute to the budget.
- Investments would continue in Porthmadog, however, the budget for them was quite small.

In response to a question, the Maritime Manager explained that only a very small amount of income came from the registration of Personal Watercraft to the Porthmadog harbour budget, and that the income went into the beaches budget, unless the craft was launched directly into the waters of Porthmadog Harbour. It was noted that the situation could be looked at, however, it appeared that the small car park at the back of the harbour brought in much more income than boat launching. It was also noted that the £18,000 overspend in Porthmadog would be subsidised via other maritime budget headings. It was asked if it would be possible to extend the car park to generate more income. In response, the Maritime Manager agreed to make investigations regarding the car park during the winter in order to evaluate the options.

In response to a question regarding the overspend on the 'equipment and tools' heading, the Maritime Manager explained that it had been necessary to purchase a number of chains for moorings and navigation aids. Also, approximately £13,000 - £14,000 had been spent on maintenance to bring the 'Dwyfor' boat up to the Navigation Code standard.

- (b) The Harbourmaster's Report, summarising Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2021-October 2021, including maintenance matters, the situation of the navigational channel and aids to navigation, winter work programme and the Borth y Gest area.

Referring to section 4 of the report, the Maritime Manager reminded members of the public consultation regarding ensuring that personal watercraft (including jetskis) is covered by legislation. It was noted that the consultation would close on 1 November, 2021.

It was explained that the consultation offered four options, namely:-

- Option 1 - do nothing
- Option 2 - introduce new primary legislation (this would take years)
- Option 3 - legislation under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (preferred option)
- Option 4 - amend the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 definition of a 'ship'

The Committee was requested to support option 3. This option was supported by the members, and it was also asked if a clause could be added to the response to

PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5/10/21

emphasise the importance of ensuring training in addition to an age limit for driving recreational and personal watercraft.

The Maritime Manager thanked Robert Owen, Commercial Interests Representative, for the opportunities he offered, as a seller of Personal Watercraft and pleasure boats for people to receive training. It was noted that the numbers that participate in the training courses were increasing, and he was also asked to convey the harbour committee's gratitude to the trainers.

The Maritime Manager noted further that only a few complaints had been received regarding Personal Watercraft in the Porthmadog / Morfa Bychan area, and on the whole people conformed to the regulations. The Harbourmaster noted that the movement towards the online registration of powerboats and Personal Watercraft had taken a great deal of work from the Department and beach staff.

Robert Owen (Commercial Interests Representative) suggested that their main trainer, who runs a business from the boatyard, could make a valuable contribution to the harbour committee's work. In response, the Maritime Manager noted that there was one vacant seat on the committee, however, in accordance with the constitution the representatives had to fit in to the membership categories that already exist. He agreed to discuss this further with the Chair and the member to map the way forward.

RESOLVED

- (a) To note and accept the report.**
- (b) To respond as follows to the Department of Transport Consultation Paper "Strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft":-**
 - That this committee preferred option 3, namely creating legislation under section 112 of the Railways and Transportation Safety Act 2003 to extend the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and relevant regulations, to include recreational and personal watercraft.**
 - To emphasise the importance of ensuring training for users and a call to increase the age limit for driving recreational and personal watercraft.**

8. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 8 March, 2022.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and concluded at 6.30 pm

CHAIR

Agenda Item 5

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	8th March 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's 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 Porthmadog 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 yearly period ending March 2022, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, it is anticipated that an underwater inspection of the moorings within the harbour will take place before the Easter period, subject to the commitments of the mooring contractor and the existing weather conditions at the time.
- 2.2 Last year, the Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system was introduced through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of the arrangement, customers will be required to register via the Gwynedd Council website, with the online registration and payment system open on the 31 March 2022.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a 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.
- 3.1.2 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. It is necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Porthmadog Harbour.
- 3.1.3 The Service itself continually reviews the Port Marine Safety Code to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained and an annual external audit of the code is also undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the latest Omicron Coronavirus epidemic to ensure the safety of the harbour and compliance with the prevailing Welsh Government Coronavirus Regulations. Adaptations within the harbour office remain in place,

including a Perspex screen at the public counter to ensure staff safety during enquiries conducted by members of the public.

4.2 The Harbourmaster and his assistant have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme at the harbour, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Aberdyfi and Barmouth. Further work is to be carried out particularly in relation to the harbour moorings and navigation marks before the busy summer period commences.

5. **Financial Matters.**

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation will be discussed at the meeting by the Principal Maritime Officer.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessels
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Tools and equipment including safety equipment

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2022/23.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2022/23 season. It has presently been indicated that fees and charges are to rise in line with the rate of inflation. We attach a copy of the proposed fees for information. These have not been confirmed.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2021 - March 2022 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	08 March 2022
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	M.Humphreys Porthmadog Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The navigable channel to the harbour of Porthmadog has been monitored by harbour staff over the winter period. The course of the channel remains very dynamic with the channel entrance currently moving in the direction of Criccieth.
- 1.2 A large sand bank has formed near the 'Powder House' and a further sand bank has formed between 'Ballast Island' and the No 17 Starboard Hand mark on the outer reaches of the inner harbour. This latter movement of sand has caused four mooring buoys owned by the Madog boatyard to dry out completely and will further shortly require a movement of the No 17 buoy to a more suitable location.
- 1.3 In consequence there are currently three Local Notice to Mariners in force;
- 1.3.1 Notice to Mariners number 24/21 – The Starboard aid to navigation No 1 Buoy is not on station. The buoy is currently located on Harlech sands awaiting recovery. Despite efforts made, vehicle access to retrieve the buoy from the sands has not been possible to date, due to the soft nature of the surface in association with the steep climb away from the beach to reach the tarmac surface above. Further efforts will be made following a period of rain when the surface of the sand will be more amenable to recovery.
- 1.3.2 Notice to Mariners number 01/22 the Port aid to navigation buoy No 6 is not on station. The buoy is currently undergoing refurbishment at the harbour premises having washed ashore. Once the refurbishment has been completed, the buoy will be returned to a suitable location in the channel.
- 1.3.3 The Service advises that all navigational marks will be on station and fully operational as soon as practically possible, dependent upon staffing commitments in association with existing, weather and tidal conditions
- 1.4 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the course of the channel and move the navigational aids as and when necessary in order to ensure the aids to navigation provide the safest route in and out of harbour. As the Spring season approaches, it is hoped the course of the navigable channel will settle down.
- 1.5 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft in excess of 1.5 metres. Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach, to obtain the latest navigational information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 Throughout the winter period vessel movements in the harbour and channel approaches have been extremely limited. Forty one (41) vessels remained within the waters of the harbour over the winter period, the majority of which were moored to the pontoon structures owned by the Madog yacht Club.
- 2.2 The harbour has not been adversely affected by the winter storms to date with no reported damage to any vessel or structure. The roof of the nearby 'Canolfan' however was destroyed, with pieces of material landing onto the display of harbour lighting.
- 2.2 It is anticipated that those vessels currently ashore in the boatyards will gradually be returned to the water as the Easter period arrives. From the number of enquiries made at the harbour office over the winter period for the availability of moorings, the service is hopeful of a busy forthcoming season, despite the continuing effects of the coronavirus.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Maintenance of the harbour moorings is expected to be conducted before the busy season commences, following an underwater inspection of the condition of the moorings present in the harbour. An estimated net cost of £1650 has been provided to the Service for the cost of the underwater inspection to be undertaken.
- 3.2 Two new quayside ladders are to be installed to replace those that are now beyond maintenance near to the Britannia bridge. Construction of the ladders is being undertaken by a local metalworker with delivery currently awaited.
- 3.2.1 A new guarded access is to be created in the harbourside railings east of the harbour office to assist with passenger boarding and disembarkation for vessels moored alongside the quay in that location. Concrete steps onto the lower slate surface of the quayside are to be provided in association. The new access will coincide with the provision of one of the new ladders.
- 3.3 The vessel Mv Dwyfor which underwent extensive structural repairs during last year has recently received maintenance to its engine following fuel issues which had been causing an intermittent loss of vessel power.
- 3.3.1 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel which is coded for operations at sea is due to receive an annual service of its twin engines by a local company shortly, in preparation for the forthcoming busy season.
- 3.3.2 The small tender vessel utilised by harbour staff has been removed from the water for annual maintenance. The vessel is currently being painted by harbour staff with further work conducted on the fender securing points and oars.
- 3.4 The Service are looking to replace the lockable metal storage container located at the rear of the harbour office, due to deterioration in the condition of the metal surface on the existing container, particularly in the roof section which is leaking in

several places onto the equipment inside. The Service have received an estimated net cost £3600 for a replacement 20 ft container.

- 3.5 Benches around the harbour environment continue to be refurbished with further work still to be completed. The service continues to receive requests for the placement of benches around the harbour with only limited space available.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Borth-Y-Gest.** The sea defence gates located at the top of the slipway are to be maintained with the assistance of a local metalworker. The Service would like to remind harbour users of the need for the gates to remain in the closed position during the winter period.

- 4.1.1 The installation of a dinghy rack overlooking the car park in Borth-Y-Gest remains work to be conducted in an effort to tidy the grassed area where numerous vessels are currently stored.

- 4.2 **Traeth Morfa Bychan.** It has been necessary for harbour staff to attend the main entrance to the beach on numerous occasions over the winter period to gather and clear away rubbish and general household waste that has been indiscriminately dumped and deposited in and around the base of the waste collection receptacles located by the toilet facilities. In consequence the Service advise, that it has been necessary to temporarily remove the waste receptacles at that location to prevent a public health hazard.

H5 Events

- 5.1 Although anticipated, the Service are yet to be notified of any forthcoming events proposed to take place at Porthmadog Harbour this year. The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.

- 5.2 In considering the approval of any event, the Service will give due regard to the prevailing Coronavirus situation and any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.



Harbwr Porthmadog Harbour

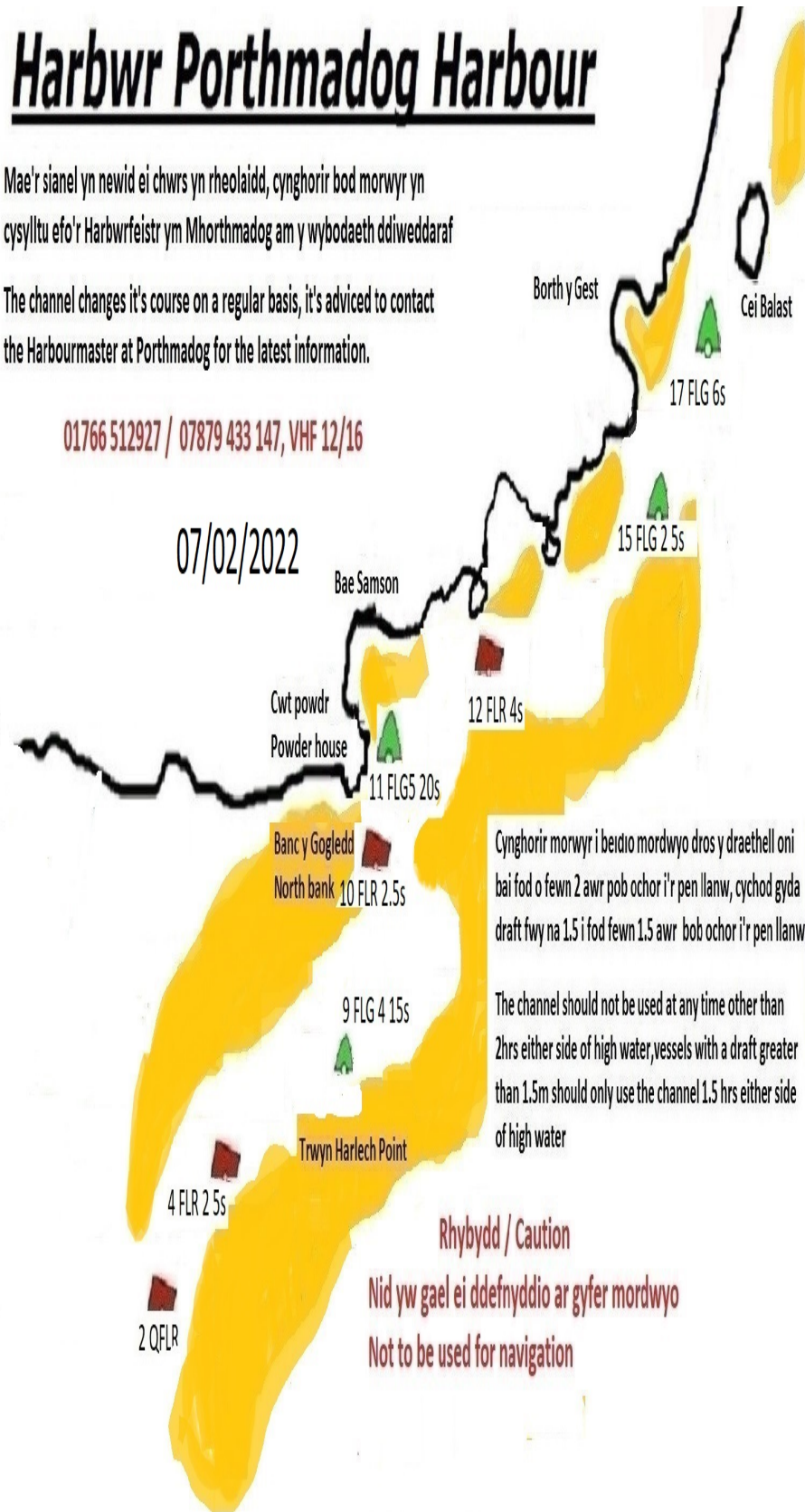
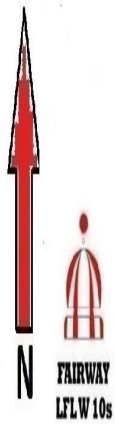
Mae'r sianel yn newid ei chwrs yn rheolaidd, cynghorir bod morwyr yn cysylltu efo'r Harbwrfeistr ym Mhorthmadog am y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf

The channel changes it's course on a regular basis, it's adviced to contact the Harbourmaster at Porthmadog for the latest information.

01766 512927 / 07879 433 147, VHF 12/16

07/02/2022

Traeth y Graig Ddu
Black Rock Sands



Cynghorir morwyr i beidio mordwyo dros y draethell oni bai fod o fewn 2 awr pob ochor i'r pen llanw, cychod gyda drafft fwy na 1.5 i fod fewn 1.5 awr bob ochor i'r pen llanw.

The channel should not be used at any time other than 2hrs either side of high water, vessels with a draft greater than 1.5m should only use the channel 1.5 hrs either side of high water

Rhybydd / Caution
Nid yw gael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer mordwyo
Not to be used for navigation