



Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

BARMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

3.00 p.m., TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2023
****PLEASE NOTE AMENDED START TIME****

Location

Virtual Meeting

For Public Access, Please Contact Einir Rh Davies

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 16/03/23)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Louise Hughes
Rob Triggs
Eryl Jones-Williams

Co-Opted Members:

Coun Robert Williams
Councillor Matthew Harris
Councillor Brian Woolley
Dr John Smith
Wendy Ponsford
John Johnson

Mark James
Martin Parouty
Peter Appleton

Ian Sadler

Barmouth Town Council

Arthog Community Council
Barmouth Viaduct Access Group
Merioneth Yacht Club
Barmouth and Cardigan Bay Sea Fisheries
Association
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Barmouth Harbour & Estuary Users Group
Cardigan Bay FLAG committee
representative
Three Peaks Yacht Race

Observers:

Stephen Tudor
Desmond George
June Jones

Representing Pwllheli Sailing Club

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. MINUTES

4 - 8

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee held on 8th November, 2022

4. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

9 - 15

To submit

a) a report by the Senior Harbours Officer

b) a report by the Harbourmaster

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

To consider matters at the request of the Members.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 24th October, 2023

Agenda Item 3

BARMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 08 NOVEMBER 2022

Present:

Members:

Councillor Rob Triggs (Cyngor Gwynedd) (Chair), Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Councillor Robert Williams (Barmouth Town Council), Peter Appleton (Representative for Cardigan Bay Fisheries Local Action Group Committee) and Dr John Smith (Barmouth Viaduct Access Group).

Officers:

Barry Davies (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Daniel Arthur Cartwright (Barmouth Harbourmaster), Llyr B Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Rob Triggs as Chair of the Committee for the year 2022/23.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams as Vice-chair of the Committee for the year 2022/23.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Louise Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cabinet Member for Economic Development) as well as Wendy Ponsford (Meirionnydd Yacht Club), Mark James (RNLI) and Ian Sadler (Three Peaks Race Committee).

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

5. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 22 March, 2022, as a true record.

6. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The following reports were presented, and Members were invited to give observations on their content and to ask questions.

The Senior Harbour Officer's report, giving a brief update to the committee on harbour matters for the year ending March 2023.

- Members were reminded that the terms of reference of the harbour committees had been created under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Cabinet had confirmed the membership.
- It was confirmed that committee members needed to formally note that they cannot continue to attend the committee in order to formally change the membership and to elect new representatives.
- It was explained that the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Community would be invited to attend meetings to discuss important matters with members, before reporting back to the Cabinet as required.
- It was stated that there was a reduction in the number of boats on moorings in the harbour. It was confirmed that the numbers had also been reduced in other harbours in the county. By now the number of boats moored in the harbour continued to be high and the number of visitors to the town had increased. It was emphasised that the number of boats registered had remained consistent.
- It was stated that the condition of the moorings was very good and there had been fewer breakages this year.
- It was explained that officers were in the process of drafting a customer satisfaction questionnaire for next year. This will be a digital questionnaire and it was hoped that the initial figures would be available to be shared with the committee at the next meeting.

Port Marine Safety Code

- Details were given that the harbour had received a thorough inspection by the Coastguard and had been given positive feedback. The harbour had received an inspection by an external Designated Person, namely Captain Mark Forbes from Conwy County Borough Council. The Council had released a Statement of Compliance with the Safety Code to the Coastguard Agency as part of the required process.
- It was mentioned that there had been a recent incident where a boat had sunk. The boat was now on the beach and officers had contacted the boat's agent. The owner has 21 days to remove the boat or officers will need to remove it from the site. It was stated that such an incident was difficult to resolve quickly as difficulties arose regarding who was the landowner. Officers could not remove any boat off the land if it is private land or railway land.
 - It was asked who would have to pay for the removal of this boat and the Harbour Manager confirmed that it was the Harbour Authority who would have to pay the cost. A re-payment of these costs could be received from the owner if there was proof that they own the boat.
 - It was explained that Natural Resources Wales had a data base of abandoned boats and this could be useful for officers in the future.
- Concern was expressed regarding the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) in the area, as they could be dangerous to other marine users.
 - Following a recent enquiry it was confirmed that the police cannot currently intervene in this situation. Should it be an incident where individuals had been injured, the police could then investigate.
 - It was acknowledged that watercraft were easier to manage when they were commercial craft, however personal watercraft were very difficult to control as insurance requirements or qualifications were required to navigate this craft.
 - It was noted that the law needed to be amended to ensure the safety of individuals. It was mentioned that it would be useful to write to the government.

- It was added that new CCTV equipment had recently been installed in the area and this may be of assistance to find the owners of Personal Water Craft.
- It was explained that the feelings of the committee members reiterated officers' concerns. However, it was emphasised that the Councils of Anglesey, Conwy and Caernarfon harbour had already adopted a registration system that had been used by Gwynedd for years and it was hoped that more areas and other counties would also use this soon.
- Attention was drawn to the pontoon installed in the harbour following the receipt of a grant by the Meirionnydd Yacht Club. The pontoon had been an excellent resource, however unfortunately the maintenance costs had recently increased and it was not possible to look after it sufficiently. By now the pontoon was a safety matter and people had to be reminded that it was for the use of light craft in the short-term or for other boats in an emergency. The Yacht Club was thanked for their web camera in order to be able to keep an eye remotely on the pontoon.
- The idea of introducing a swimming zone in the harbour was discussed. Similar zones had been successful in other harbours. This would enable people to swim safely within the harbour. However, safety was a major issue and it was necessary to think carefully how this would work before introducing the zone in the harbour.
- RNLi officers were praised for holding training recently with beach staff.
- Concern was expressed about sand that was being carried from the seawall.

Staffing Matters

- All the staff were thanked for their commitment to the work of the harbour and nearby beaches over the previous period and it was confirmed that no reduction was anticipated in the number of staff members in the near future.
- It was stated that the beach had had a very busy period over the summer and the wardens had undertaken their work very effectively. Should it be possible, consideration would be given to extending their employment term next season and to look at the facilities to ensure that no one would have to work alone.
- It was stated that beach wardens needed a better cabin than the one currently on the site, as it was not suitable.
 - It was confirmed that this problem was being dealt with under the beach improvement plans if there was sufficient budget. Other developments were also being undertaken on the beach such as improving the public conveniences.
- The continuous problem of sand accumulation that occurred on the beach was discussed. It would be an idea to find a solution regarding how to prevent sand from being blown into the town and across the RNLi slipway. There was concern that the sand left the beach and covered the car park, incurring additional costs to the Council in the next few years if there is no solution.
 - It was recognised that the Conwy area had recently been successful after inserting a pump in their area to assist to prevent this problem.
 - It was emphasised that everyone knew about the seriousness of the situation and several options were being discussed to try and resolve this problem effectively and permanently.
 - It was agreed that a meeting would be held soon with harbour users to discuss this matter further and to share ideas.
- Daniel Cartwright was welcomed as the new Barmouth Harbourmaster and Kane Triggs as Harbour Assistant.

- Arrangements were made to send a thank you to the former Harbourmaster namely Ms Bergitte Evans for her work and to Jordan Hewlett in his post as Harbour Assistant.
- The good joint working that continues between harbour officers and beach officers was praised. This had been very valuable during the recent period and the lack of recruitment. It was hoped that 5 members of staff will be appointed to supervise the beach in 2023.
 - It was noted that when recruiting officers to work on the beach that they needed sufficient first aid training.
 - It was agreed that this training was essential for the post and it was difficult to ensure that everyone had receive it when staff were recruited at different times of the season. It was difficult to finance a number of different training days and to ensure that everyone did not attend on the same day. Discussions were on going to get options to try and resolve this problem.

Financial Matters

- It was reported that there was overspending within the staffing field this year. This was because there were recruitment deficiencies that meant that officers had to work additional hours.
- It was elaborated that there had been an underspend in the fields of property, transport, equipment and tools and there was shortfall to meet the income target. Having said this, an investment of £12,000.00 had been made in the harbour boat as well as chains and aids to navigation within this financial year.
- It was confirmed that an underspend of £15,293.00 was anticipated in this financial year.
- The fee rates for the next financial year were considered. These had not currently been submitted to the committee as inflation was increasing following the current financial squeeze. It was hoped to find a way to not increase fees for harbour users too much as this increase would have a major impact on users and increase the risk of reducing the number of future users.
 - It was elaborated that the inflation figure for the harbours for next year was 8.5%.

The Harbourmaster's report, summarising the Navigational and Operational matters that had arisen between March and October 2022, including maintenance matters.

- It was stated that the investment in the aids to navigation had been effective. There had not been many problems with these, however it was noted that one was not currently on station. The Local Notice to Mariners had been issued regarding the relevant buoy, namely the Fairway Buoy.
- It was confirmed that an assessment had been undertaken by Trinity House on the aids to navigation and the assessment had been successful.
- It was noted that work near the railway was continuing into the fourth year to improve the condition of the footpath that runs parallel to the tracks.

RESOLVED

To note and accept the reports.

7. ELECTION OF OBSERVERS

RESOLVED

It was resolved to contact all committee members via e-mail to give all the members an opportunity to put their names forward as observers.

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

None to note

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 28 March, 2023.

The opportunity was taken to thank the Harbour Manager for many years of hard work and his commitment and passion to the county's harbours. He was wished well on his retirement.

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 3.30pm

(Chair)

Agenda Item 4

MEETING	Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	28th March 2023
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 Barmouth 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 ending March 2023, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, harbour staff will be undertaking an inspection of the trot moorings within the harbour operated by the Service. The visitors' mooring in the harbour operated by the Service, will be subject to inspection by a local mooring contractor. It is anticipated that all inspections will be completed before the Easter period, subject to the availability of the mooring contractor in association with favourable tidal and weather conditions.
- 2.2 The Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system will continue to be administered through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of that arrangement, it is now hoped to allow mooring customers to both confirm and pay for their harbour mooring via a similar on-line system.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1. 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.
 - 3.1.1 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 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 Barmouth Harbour.
 - 3.1.3 The Service is due to review and update the Port Marine Safety Code this year to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained. An annual external audit of the code is also expected to be undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster later in the year.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 The Service are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Kane Triggs as the Assistant Harbourmaster at Barmouth, to work alongside the Harbourmaster. Prior to his appointment on the 1st January 2023, Mr Triggs gained work experience at Porthmadog Harbour and he has also performed duties as a seasonal member of Barmouth beach staff.
- 4.2 Harbour staff have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Aberdyfi and Porthmadog. 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 new 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 vessel and the associated road trailer
 - Maintenance of land and street furniture
 - Purchase and maintenance of tools and equipment including safety equipment
- 5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2023/24.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2023/24 season. It has been indicated that mooring fees and charges will, in general, rise by 8.5%.
6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Barmouth has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2022 - March 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	28th March 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	Abermaw Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 Harbour staff have continued to monitor the course of the navigable channel to the harbour during the winter Period. It has become evident that the dynamic nature of the river, particularly near the seaward entrance to the channel at the Bar, will require re-location of the Port and Starboard hand aids to navigation in that vicinity shortly.
- 1.2 A newly refurbished 'Fairway buoy' has been prepared and is ready for deployment in safe water on the approach to the navigable channel. The buoy, fitted with new mooring equipment, is to be placed on station as soon as possible subject to the availability of the mooring contractor in association with favourable weather and tidal conditions.
- 1.3 Following authorisation from Trinity House, a new Port Hand aid to navigation has been established in the navigable channel at position 52°42.908'N 004°03.308'W, between the harbour breakwater and the South Cardinal Mark located at the Perch.
- 1.3.1 The new buoy is marked No 10 with an authorised flash character of FL R (4) 15s. The buoy has been placed in the navigable channel to assist mariners in negotiating a spit of sand that has begun to encroach into the channel at that point.
- 1.4 There are currently two Local Notice to Mariners in operation at Barmouth Harbour:
- Local Notice to Mariners 05/22: The Fairway Buoy at position 52°42.796N 004°04.906W is currently "not on station".
- Local Notice to Mariners 02/23: The number 10 Port hand aid to navigation is now on station at position 52°42.908'N 004°03.308'W.
- 1.5 An inspector from Trinity House attended the Service on 24th January 2023 to conduct an audit of the records of the availability of the local aids to navigation, under the management of Gwynedd Council. Following the inspection, a report was received to state that everything was found in good order and there were no matters arising which required further comment.
- 1.6 Mariners are reminded of the need to contact the harbour office prior to departure or arrival at the harbour to obtain latest navigational and weather information.

H 2 Operational issues

- 2.1 Following a routine inspection of the road trailer supporting the harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel, the Service were advised of the need to purchase a new trailer for the transportation of the vessel.
 - 2.1.1 A company specialising in the manufacture of such trailers were contacted and a new trailer has been supplied at a net cost of £3820 to the Service.
- 2.2 Following a number of maintenance issues experienced with the engines on the harbour patrol vessel last season, the Service were advised to replace the twin engines on the vessel. The work to fit the new engines has commenced and is being undertaken by a local company. It hoped that the work will be completed at the beginning of March.
 - 2.2.1 Following regulatory changes in vessel coding requirements the 'Powercat' vessel has also been subject to construction, stability and equipment inspection checks, in conformity with Maritime and Coastguard Agency vessel operating requirements.
- 2.3 Following routine servicing, the maritime patrol vehicle has recently been fitted with a new roof warning light and tannoy system. The new system will assist staff working on the beach to alert the public of any safety issues or hazards apparent at the relevant time.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Harbour staff have undertaken maintenance on a number of aids to navigation during the winter period, including the attachment of new mooring equipment.
- 3.2 The large and small trot moorings operated by the Service are currently subject of routine inspection and maintenance in preparation for the forthcoming season. New link lines and floats have been attached to the small trot moorings and the Service is in the process of attaching new link lines to the larger trot moorings.
 - 3.2.1 Harbour staff have started to number all moorings located in the harbour for ease of reference in confirming vessel and ownership particulars.
- 3.3 The wooden doors to the harbour refuelling station have recently been renewed using timber that will withstand inclement weather. The installation has included new locks and new ventilation ports into the building. New doors to the main store access of the SS Dora building are also to be fitted shortly.
- 3.4 Staff have commenced maintenance of the historical 'Round House' and the surrounding area to keep it clean and free of discarded waste and weeds.
- 3.5 The Service wish to thank the owners of small tender vessels sited on the tender rack at the harbour frontage, for the removal of their tenders to facilitate maintenance over the winter period.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Barmouth Rail Bridge Restoration Works:** The Service are currently in discussion with project staff regarding the removal from the harbour of the existing iron works on the bridge, prior to the installation new structures. Any effect on navigation will be notified through the issue of a Local Notice to Mariners.

- 4.2 **Barmouth Beach Sand Dunes:** Harbour staff have recently installed additional lengths of paling fencing near Ynys Y Brawd and the associated causeway, to help with the development of sand dunes. It is hoped this will assist in preventing sand from being deposited onto the causeway and the Ynys Y Brawd area.
- 4.2.1 It is anticipated that the sand currently covering the causeway, will be cleared before the Easter period.

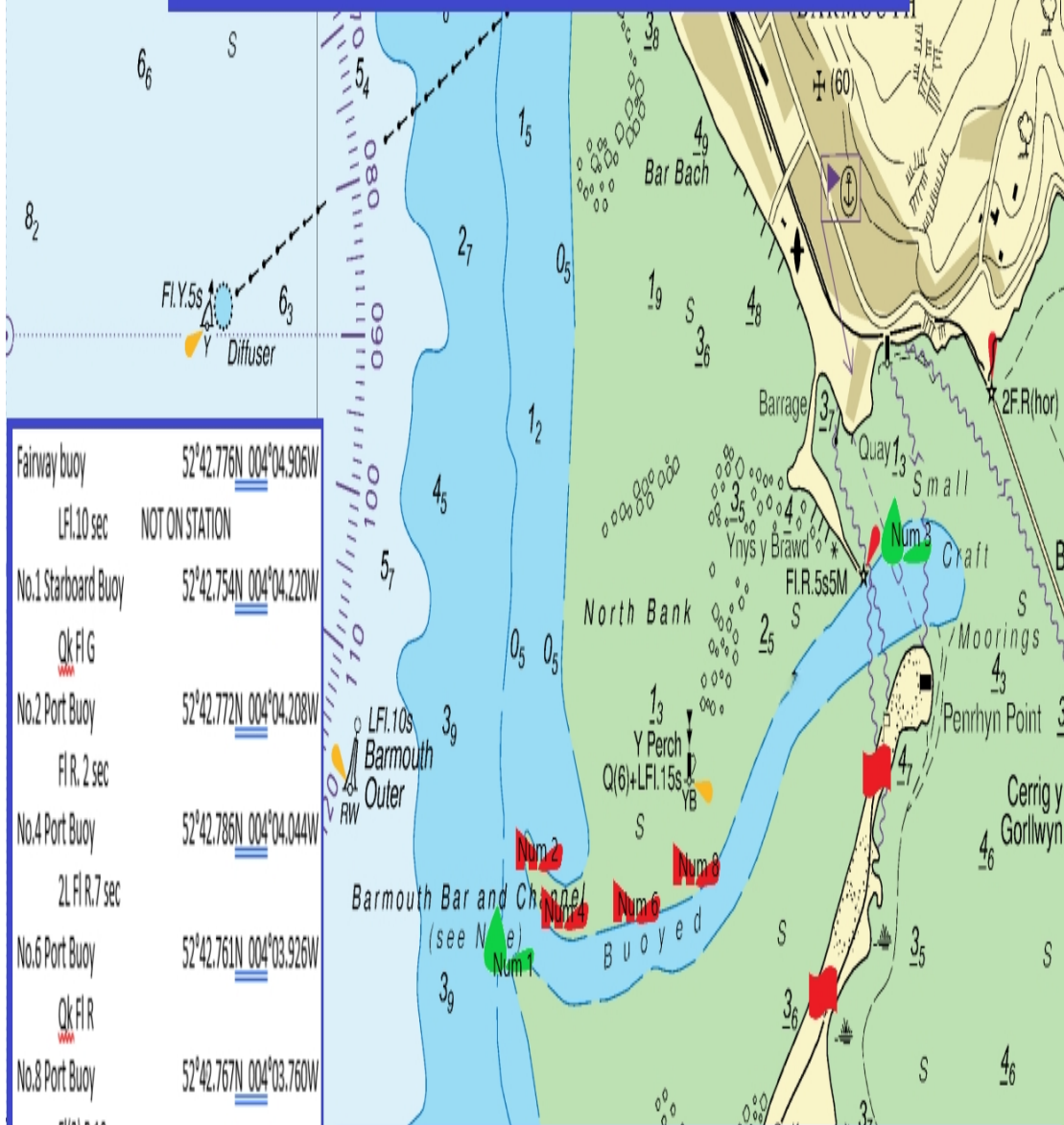
H 5 Events

- 5.1 The Service have received notification of the following events to be held in and around the harbour area this year.
- 'Three Peaks' Yacht Race scheduled to take place on the 10th June
 - Road race (10km) to be held on the 10th June.
 - 'Food Festival' to be held over the weekend of the 1st - 2nd July
 - Kite Festival also to be held over the weekend 1st – 2nd July
 - Vintage lorry rally to be held on the 16th September
 - Motorcross event.
- 5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed events of the need to provide early notification to the harbour office. This is to ensure that all safety protocols and administration processes can be assessed before an event. Events will not be permitted to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service.

DG54 - HARBWR ABERMAW		01/04/2022 up to 31/03/2023			
GROUP	ACC	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	PREDICTED EXPENDITURE UP TO 31/03/2023	OVER (UNDER)
Staff	AGWE	Staff Costs	65,930	52,982	(12,948)
Property	BEID	Ground and Buildings	6,790	6,757	(33)
Transport	CTRA	Boat and Vehicles	820	90	(730)
Equipment	DCYF	Tools and Equipment	10,170	20,004	9,834
Income	INCM	Harbour Income	(30,760)	(33,869)	(3,109)
Total	CYF	Total	52,950	45,964	(6,986)

Barmouth Harbour / Harbwr Abermaw

January 2023



Fairway buoy	52°42.776N 004°04.906W
LFI.10 sec	NOT ON STATION
No.1 Starboard Buoy	52°42.754N 004°04.220W
Qk Fl G	
No.2 Port Buoy	52°42.772N 004°04.208W
Fl R. 2 sec	
No.4 Port Buoy	52°42.786N 004°04.044W
2L Fl R.7 sec	
No.6 Port Buoy	52°42.761N 004°03.926W
Qk Fl R	
No.8 Port Buoy	52°42.767N 004°03.760W
Fl(3) R.10 sec	
South Cardinal Perch	52°42.822N 004°03.720W
Q(6)+Lfl(1).15 sec	
Breakwater Port	52°42.989N 004°03.127W
Fl R(5) 5s5m	
No.3 Starboard Inner mark	52°43.013N 004°03.082W
Fl G 1.5 sec	

This illustration is intended as a guide only and not to be used for navigation. All positions are given as approximate. The aids to navigation may be moved without prior notice. Mariners are advised to contract the harbour masters office for the latest navigational information.

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