



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2023

Location

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

(For public access to the meeting, please contact us)

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 09/10/23)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Anne Lloyd-Jones
Dewi Owen
John Pughe

Local Member for Gorllewin Tywyn
Local Member for Aberdyfi
Local Member for Morfa Tywyn

Co-Opted Members:

David Williams

Member of Aberdyfi & Improvements
Committee

Huw Evans

Member of the Cardigan Bay Fisheries
Association

Nigel Willis

Member of Aberdyfi Boat Club

Desmond George

Member of the Dyfi Yacht Club

Al Crisp

Outward Bound Trust Wales

Guy Shaw

Aberdyfi Rowing Club

Freddie Collier

RNLI Aberdyfi

Observers:

Nia Wyn Jeffreys
Gwilym Jones

Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee

A G E N D A

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2023/24.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-chair for 2023/24.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

5. URGENT MATTERS

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

6. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chair will propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on the 21st of March 2023, be signed as a true record.

7. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

8 - 18

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

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

To consider the following matters raised by members of this consultative committee:

- Management plan for removal of sand from the harbour slipway.
- An update on the condition of the slipway.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 12th of March 2024.

Agenda Item 6

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 21 MARCH 2023

Present:

Gwynedd Councillors: Councillor Robert Dewi Owen (Chairman).
Councillor John Pughe Roberts (Vice-chairman) and
Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones.

Co-opted Members: Josh Cooper (RNLI Aberdyfi), David Williams (Aberdyfi Improvements and Advertisement Committee), Desmond George (Member of Dyfi Yacht Club), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Trust Wales) and Nigel Willis (Member of Aberdyfi Boat Club).

Observers: Councillor Nia Wyn Jeffreys (Cabinet Member for Economic Development) and Gwilym Jones (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee).

Officers in attendance:

Llyr Beaumont Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department), Bryn Pritchard-Jones (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), William Arthur Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 25 October, 2022, as a true record.

5. 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.

Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration

- It was reported that Aberdyfi Marine Services would provide a new mooring contracting service this year. It was explained that this service was in addition to the moorings service

currently provided by Underwater Maintenance and Inspections company, that had been operational in Aberdyfi Harbour for several years.

- It was confirmed that the Cyngor Gwynedd system to register Powerboats and Personal Watercraft continued to be administered via an on-line agreement. It was added that it was possible for customers to use the on-line system to pay for their mooring.

Port Marine Safety Code

- It was reported that the harbour Port Marine Safety Code would be reviewed this year as well as developing new risk assessments as a result of developments to the new quay wall for the harbour.
- It was explained that the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023 would come into effect on 31 March this year. This legislation would ensure that the owners of personal watercraft would use their craft safely. It was elaborated that harbour officers collaborated closely with North Wales Police to ensure an understanding of the relevant processes as a result of the introduction of this legislation.
 - In response to a query regarding training to use personal watercraft, it was confirmed by the Aberdyfi Harbourmaster that 'Waterwise Marine' training was available in Pwllheli and Porthmadog. It was expanded that personal watercraft would not be able to launch from the harbour if they did not have valid insurance. However, it was confirmed that there was no requirement for owners to prove that they had received training on how to use personal watercraft correctly.
 - The importance was stressed that individuals should note the registration numbers of any personal watercraft they see breaching regulations and to report them to harbour staff.
 - Consideration was given to nearby harbours and authorities. It was noted although it was not possible to prevent individuals from launching their personal watercraft beyond the harbour, the harbour boat travelled between Tywyn and Aberdyfi to encourage people to stay safe and to share information. There was no certainty now whether there were strict regulations with the registration of personal watercraft in Ceredigion, however, the hope was to continue to work together with the authority to encourage them to adopt this system.
 - It was mentioned that paddle-board training was available at the Rowing Club. However, it was emphasised that it was very easy for any person to buy a paddle-board and therefore we needed to be cautious of these users.

Staffing Matters

- The Maritime Service Manager was welcomed to the meeting and congratulated on his recent appointment.
- It was reported that there were no changes to staffing matters during the recent period and it was confirmed that the Harbourmaster and his assistant had undertaken a programme of winter maintenance work.

Financial Matters

- It was reported that there had been an overspend under some budget headings this year such as staff costs and boat and vehicles costs. Nevertheless, there was underspend in property, tools and equipment. It was confirmed that the harbour this year had received £10,251 in additional income to what had been predicted at the start of the financial year. It was considered that this harbour income derived from a recent change in prices as well as more general use of the harbour.
- It was confirmed that an underspend of £13,773 was anticipated in this financial year. Nevertheless, it was confirmed that this total may be amended.

- It was explained that the intention was to retain the money from this underspend in the area, however no assurance could be given that it was possible to do this. It was noted that officers had to look at the situation in the county's other harbours before coming to a decision. Members were reminded that this was the arrangement at the end of the previous financial year when the harbour received £14,000 from other harbours to assist with property costs.
- Details of the harbour fees were given for the next financial year. It was noted that fees would increase in line with the inflation rate of the current financial squeeze of 8.5%. As a result, it was confirmed that the harbour income target had also increased by 8.5%. Some of the other harbour fees were confirmed:
 - Annual fee to register powerboats - £60 (increase of £10)
 - Annual launching fee (including registration fee) - £170 (increase of £20)
 - Launching fees - £20
 - Fees to launch boats less than 10hp - £35 (increase of £5)

The Harbourmaster's report, summarising the Navigational and Operational matters that had arisen between October 2022 and March 2023, including maintenance matters.

Navigation Matters

- It was reported that more sand had been blown near Penhelyg causing the harbour to lose some mooring sites.
- It was explained that one Local Notice to Mariners was in operation in Aberdyfi harbour. It was vital that Mariners navigate cautiously in this area.
- It was noted that work to renew Navigation Aid No. 5 had been completed recently and it was hoped that the buoy would be used as soon as possible.
- It was confirmed that Trinity House had visited the harbour in January 2023 to inspect the records of the availability of local aids to navigation. It was explained that the result of the audit noted that everything was in order and there were no matters arising that required further attention.

Operational Matters

- All local stakeholders, Cyngor Gwynedd Consultancy and the contractor at the site were thanked for ensuring that safe working practices continued in the harbour as the recent construction work was undertaken at the site.
- Attention was drawn to the concerning structural condition of the harbourmaster's office and Cyngor Gwynedd Property Department had recently undertaken an inspection of this building.

Maintenance

- It was reported that harbour staff had undertaken maintenance work to the fencing on the island to assist people walking towards the foreshore following the completion of the project to renew the footbridge over the Cambrian Coast Railway.
- It was explained that the Service had recently approved the renewal of gates in the gateway of Penhelyg gardens.

Other matters

- The concerning situation regarding the sand levels on the beach that affect the RNLI slipway was discussed. It was explained that sand levels had increased for some time and ideas were shared on how to deal with the issue and to stop it from becoming worse in the future.

- The intention to appoint seasonal beach staff was shared. It was hoped that two members of staff could be appointed by the end of May. Consideration had been given to a new cabin for staff to use during the season.

Events

- It was confirmed that the sailing and training programme of Dyfi Yacht Club submitted to the harbour office in February had been given permission.

RESOLVED

To note and accept the reports.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 17 October, 2023.

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 12:15pm.

(Chair)

Agenda Item 7

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	17th October 2023
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours 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 Aberdyfi 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 March 2023 to October 2023, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Harbour Committee's of Abermaw, Aberdyfi and Pwllheli were established under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act of 1972. The Porthmadog Harbour Committee is a statutory Harbour Committee, set up in accordance with Section 6(2) (a-j) of the Porthmadog Harbour Revision Order 1998.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There have been 73 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Aberdyfi in 2023. This compares with 72 boats on moorings in 2022.
- 2.2 The number of mooring customers at Aberdyfi harbour has generally remained the same as last year but for an increase of one extra customer. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue in 2024. The prevailing economic situation and in particular, the current cost of living, remains a factor in attracting customers to the harbour.
- 2.3 With a small number of exceptions, most of the public wishing to launch powered craft into the waters of the Gwynedd Coast now register their powered craft on-line, through the Cyngor Gwynedd website. Including those registered on paper, 1269 power boats and 1240 personal watercraft were registered in Gwynedd this season.

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.

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.

- 3.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review process, it is necessary 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, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 The staffing level at the harbour of Aberdyfi has remained unchanged since the previous report to the Committee, with the Harbourmaster Mr William Stockford supported by his assistant Mr Oli Simmons. During what has been a busy summer, harbour staff have also assisted and worked alongside staff at Tywyn, Barmouth harbour and on the beach at Morfa Bychan.
- 4.2 The Service is also able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Abermaw and Porthmadog to assist with any work in the harbour of Aberdyfi if required.
- 4.2.1 The Service have greatly appreciated the work undertaken by the seasonal beach wardens based at Aberdyfi and Tywyn throughout the busy summer period.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided 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
 - Purchase and Maintenance of harbour tools and equipment
 - Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour Powercat patrol vessel, including Investment to maintain the boat in order to meet the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Code of Practice requirements
 - Maintenance of lands and benches

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2024/25.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2024/2025 season, on previous occasions the Service has adjusted fees in line with the prevailing rate of inflation at the time. However, no decision has yet been made with regard to the level of fees to be applied next season.

- 6. Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2023 - October 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	17th October 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	W.Stockford. Aberdyfi Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The navigable channel to the harbour of Aberdyfi has been monitored by harbour staff over the summer period. The channel remains dynamic in nature, requiring the harbour staff to undertake frequent surveys of the river to determine the extent of the shifting sandbanks.
- 1.2 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the course of the channel and request movement of the navigational aids as and when necessary, to ensure the aids to navigation provide the safest route in and out of harbour.
- 1.3 The Service advises that all necessary navigational marks are currently on station and there are no Notice to Mariners currently in force.
- 1.3.1 An annual audit of the navigational aids on the approach to Aberdyfi Harbour is expected to be undertaken by the General lighthouse Authority, Trinity House, on the 11th October 2023. The Service will advise the Committee of the result once the report has been received.
- 1.4 The Service would like to remind mariners of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft exceeding 1.5 metres.
- 1.5 Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach or departure from the harbour, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The construction of the new quayside at the harbour has, for the most part, now been completed, with only a small amount of remedial work to be undertaken. This includes the provision of an electrical supply to a davit on the eastern end of the quay, for the benefit of the local fishermen and fendering on the face and eastern corner of the quay wall.
- 2.1.1 A pair of gates are also to be installed on the approach to the harbour jetty, to enhance public safety, when fishing operations are being undertaken at that location.

- 2.2 Despite some unseasonal weather, vessel movements at the harbour have continued throughout the summer, with visiting vessels accommodated on the visitors' moorings within the estuary.
- 2.2.1 It is however regrettable, that at the beginning of the busy period, the Service had to deal with an incident on the estuary, involving three personal watercraft and a power-driven vessel. A Joint investigation into the circumstances of the incident with North Wales Police remains on-going, in relation to possible offences disclosed under the recently introduced legislation, the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023.
- 2.3 The structural condition of the harbour office building remains a cause for concern. As previously reported, the property department of the Council are aware of the matter. The Service are currently looking at re-locating the harbour staff to temporary premises an interim measure, until a decision is made concerning the future of the building.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Prior to the start of the summer period maintenance work was carried out on the visitors' moorings with new mooring equipment supplied. The moorings were subsequently laid by a local mooring contractor at a net cost to the Service of £260.00
- 3.2 Maintenance work on the engines of the harbour Powercat patrol vessel took place just prior to the start of the busy season. The work was undertaken by a local Gwynedd company at a net cost to the Service of £1143.53
- 3.2.1 The vessel continues to perform efficiently with yearly inspections conducted on the vessel to ensure compliance with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency sea-going requirements, in respect of construction standards and vessel equipment.
- 3.3 Throughout the summer period, staff have continued to monitor and maintain the aids to navigation in the navigable channel, with assistance provided as and when necessary, by a local mooring contractor.
- 3.4 Harbour staff have begun maintenance of the seating benches sited on the harbour frontage. The work will continue over the winter period.

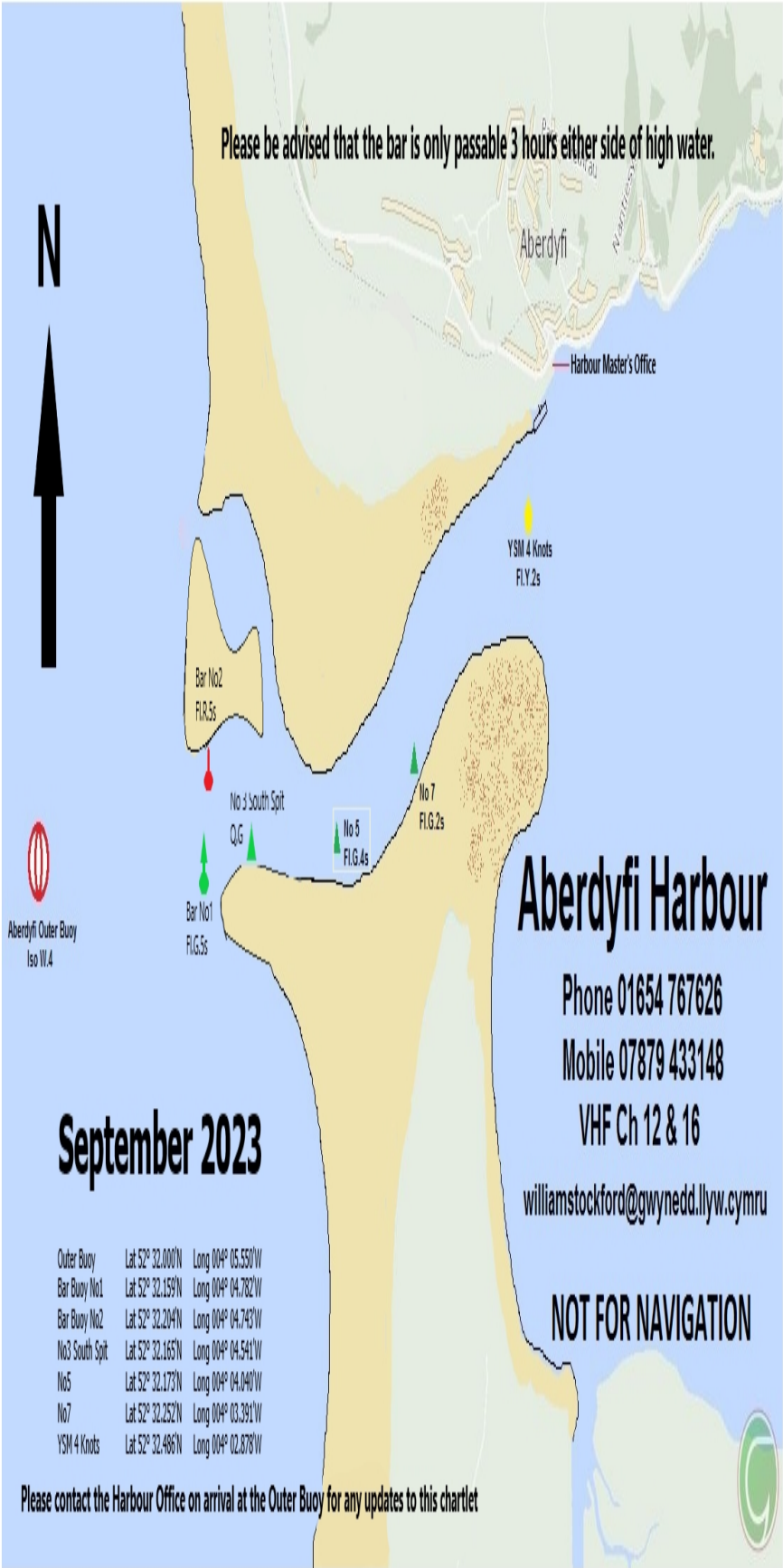
H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 The Service are grateful for the efforts undertaken by local stakeholders in trialing equipment, to remove a large build-up of sand from the slipway located adjacent to the Dyfi Yacht Club and the Lifeboat station. The process is on-going and open for review.
- 4.2 The Service remain hopeful of facilitating the provision of electricity and water services at the harbour Compound, to assist local fishermen with their fishing operations. The Service are appreciative of the efforts made by members of the Fisheries Local Action Group in attempting to secure funding for the scheme.

- 4.3 Animal carcasses washed up on the foreshore, continue to lead to several days of reactive work by harbour staff, in collecting and disposing of the animals concerned. The Service requests that any sightings are reported at the earliest opportunity so that the necessary action can be taken in a prompt manner.

H5 Events

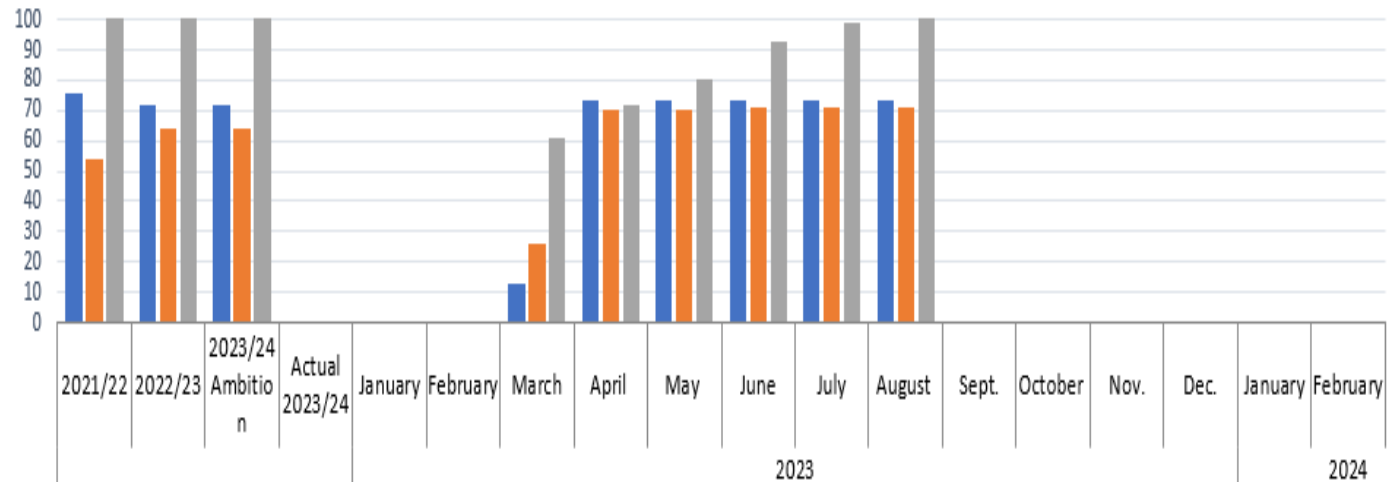
- 5.1 The following events were among those held at the harbour during the summer period;
- Swimming events
 - Sailing events held by the Dyfi Yacht Club
 - Noble Marine Allen RS 3000 National Championship sailing event
 - Dyfi Fest
- 5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed future events on harbour premises of the need to provide the relevant information about the event at the earliest opportunity. This will assist the Service in determining authorisation, staffing and administration processes.



ABERDOVEY HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 - August Review 2023		
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/23 TO 31/3/24	OVER (UNDER)
Employees	65,696	68,074	2,378
Buildings	24,750	26,584	1,834
Transport	860	733	(127)
Supplies & Services	8,080	9,234	1,154
Income	(43,730)	(48,823)	(5,093)
Total	55,656	55,802	146

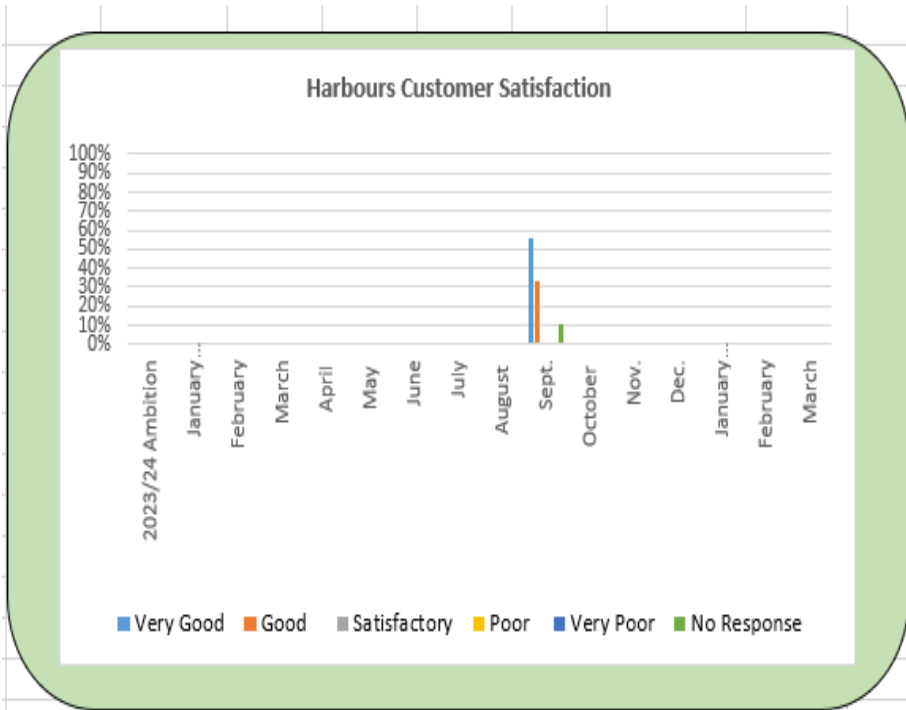
Economy and Community Performance Management Dashboard

Total number of customers (annual contracts) on Gwynedd harbour moorings

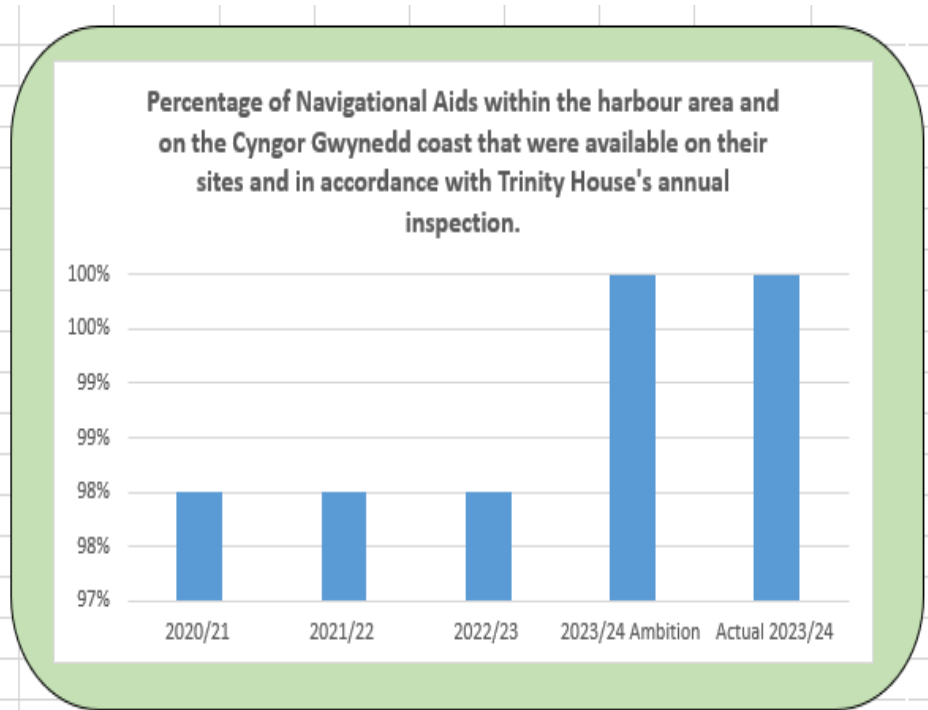


Observations: The aim and objective is to try to maintain the number of customers and ensure customer support and loyalty to continue mooring in Gwynedd. The financial squeeze means that many customers have been attracted to Gwynedd as the cost is lower in general. Some customers have also returned following the end of Covid restrictions. The online system to apply for a mooring has been operational since April 2023.

Economy and Community Performance Management Dashboard



Observations: The online questionnaire was 'live' from July 2023. 89% of respondents considered their experience of the harbours to be 'Very Good' (56%) or 'Good' (33%) with a majority stating that the harbours were clean and tidy and that the staff were pleasant, professional and knowledgeable. No one thought the harbours were 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Unfortunately the number of respondents was low and therefore in order to get a more accurate and detailed picture we would be sending a link to the questionnaire to all mooring holders when we correspond



Observations: The aids are within Category 3 National Navigational Aids. The Tywyn breakwater navigational aid has been re-positioned since March 2023 and the Abersoch beach groyne 1 navigational marker was replaced during May 2023.



Observation Three quarters of the respondents (75%) considered their experience of the beaches to be 'Very Good' (59%) or 'Good' (16%), and of the 177 respondents 53 (or 30%) indicated that Beach Wardens were helpful, professional and knowledgeable. Positive comments were also received about the safety of the beaches, specifically effective management of powerboats, accessibility, cleanliness and quality of bathing water. Some noted that dogs on beaches were a problem, that there was a lack of litter bin provision in some locations and that the quality of cleanliness and the condition of some public toilets needed to be improved. Some of the respondents were also of the opinion that the beaches were "too busy" with many

Economy and Community Performance Management

Reference	Measure	Report on the Level of	Frequency	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Actual 2022/23	2023							Observations/Reasons for the performance		
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.						
M1	Total number of customers (annual contracts) on Cynfor Gwynedd harbour moorings.	Department	Monthly				240	250										The aim and objective is to try to maintain the number of customers and ensure customer support and loyalty to continue mooring in Gwynedd. The financial squeeze means that many customers have been attracted to Gwynedd as the cost is lower in general. Some customers have also returned following the end of Covid restrictions. The online system to apply for a mooring has been operational since April 2023.
	Number of Aberdyfi customers	Department		47	76	72	72	73				13	73	73	73	73	73	A number of powerboat customers have decided to have a mooring instead of launching daily. This has contributed to keeping the number of moorings fairly stable. It has also managed to attract a number of new customers. A change in the channel and sand collection in the harbour means that there are fewer suitable places to locate moorings than in the previous year.
	Number of Barmouth customers	Department		31	54	64	64	71				26	70	70	71	71	71	
	Number of Porthmadog customers	Department		64	112	104	104	106				61	72	80	93	93	106	Stable numbers. The harbour has managed to attract a number of new customers, although a number of customers have given up their moorings due to age or health reasons. A number of customers continue to take a mooring on the Madog Yacht Club pontoon.
	Gwynedd Harbours Customer Satisfaction %	Service	Annual															
	<i>Very Good</i>																	56%
	<i>Good</i>																	33%
	<i>Satisfactory</i>																	0%
	<i>Poor</i>																	0%
	<i>Very Poor</i>																	0%
	<i>No Response</i>																	11%
M3	Number of licensed Powerboats / Personal Watercraft. Information to confirm that there is a specific registration system to identify each Powerboat or Personal Watercraft that launches in Gwynedd.	Service		1680	2,434	2,380	2,380	2,509				921	1,759	1,876	2,204	2,436	2,509	The aim and objective of registration is to ensure an increase in the number of powerboats registered in order to ensure that all boats on the Gwynedd coast display a Cynfor Gwynedd registration permit.
M4	Percentage of Navigational Aids within the harbour area and on the Cynfor Gwynedd coast that were available on their sites and in accordance with Trinity House's annual inspection.	Service		98%	98%	98%	100%	100%	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%	100.00%	100.00%					The aids are within Category 3 National Navigational Aids. The Tywyn breakwater navigational aid has been re-positioned since March 2023 and the Abersoch beach groyne 1 navigational marker was replaced during May 2023.
M5	Gwynedd Beaches Customer Satisfaction %	Department	Annual															
	<i>Very Good</i>																	59%
	<i>Good</i>																	16%
	<i>Satisfactory</i>																	12%
	<i>Poor</i>																	7%
	<i>Very Poor</i>																	5%
	<i>No Response</i>																	1%