

MEETING	Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	14 March 2017
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Maritime and Country Parks Officer

1. Marine Safety Code

- 1.1 The Safety Code is a 'live document' and is regularly reviewed by the Service. It is also necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code as well as observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the activities, aids to navigation, safety and general work at Barmouth Harbour.
- 1.2 No matter or cause for concern has been submitted for the attention of the service during 2016 or the start of 2017 which are linked to the statutory responsibilities and duties of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Service was expecting an inspection in January by an inspector from the Coastguard Agency. However, unfortunately, due to the lack of capacity the inspection has not taken place and the Service expects this to be re-organised. It is anticipated that the inspection will take place in September 2017.

2. Operational Issues

2.1 Navigation

- 2.1.1 A detailed inspection of aids to navigation in Barmouth will be conducted by Trinity House Lighthouse Authority inspectors on the 1st August 2017. As a result of recent significant investments it is anticipated that the report will confirm a continuation in the improvement of the condition and stations of the Harbour Aids to Navigation.
- 2.1.2 No Mariners' Notice is currently in operation in Barmouth.
- 2.1.3 The Navigational Aids maintenance work programme has been completed in accordance with the agreement, instruction and guidance of the Consultative Committee. An update of the current situation will be given to Members by the Harbour Master at the meeting.
- 2.1.4 It is proposed to maintain the existing off-station Fairway Buoy by bringing it to shore for maintenance by staff. It is anticipated that this work will commence in September. The Service will need to commission a contractor to undertake the work of installing a new buoy and to transport the existing buoy to the quay in good time. The Seawall aid to navigation needs to be maintained and it is proposed to surround the bottom of the aid with concrete. This will reduce the deterioration of the main pole. The Perch aid needs painting and Harbour staff will undertake this work when the tide and weather permits.

2.2 Maintenance

- 2.2.1 The Harbour Master will submit a maintenance work programme to be undertaken at Barmouth Harbour during the January - March 2017 period, and will provide an outline of the work programme completed in October - December 2016 in accordance with the plans submitted before the Members in October. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.
- 2.2.2 Work has been completed with the maintenance of the ladders on the Harbour walls. Two ladders need to be replaced in the ferry steps area and it is envisaged that the work will be completed before the end of May.

2.3 **Staffing Matters**

- 2.3.1 The employment period of the Barmouth Harbour Assistant (seasonal) ended on the 30th September 2016. Although a Harbour Assistant was not based in Barmouth over the winter months the postholder's contract was extended up to 31 December 2016 with the post based in Porthmadog. In order to ensure the continuation of the service and the completion of key work the 'seasonal' posts have been extended up until the end of March 2017 with a three day a week arrangement, namely Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- 2.3.2 Both harbour assistants that continue with the work contract will be part of the wider team within the Maritime and Country Parks Service and will support and enable the Service to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Aberdyfi, Porthmadog and Barmouth harbours over the Winter months. The posts will return to full-time in the harbours of Barmouth, Aberdyfi and Porthmadog from the 1st of April 2017 up until 30 September 2017.

2.4 **Operational Issues**

- 2.4.1 **Safety Signs** The Service, jointly with the Lifeboat, has commenced a review of the safety signage in the Barmouth Harbour area and beach. The Service will respond to the results of the audit. It is hoped that any new sign will contribute to safety on this section of the Gwynedd coast.
- 2.4.2 **Moorings - Three Peaks Race** An application has been received from the Three Peaks Race Committee requesting permission to place concrete blocks on the trot moorings in the area of the Harbour where there is constant deep water. It is proposed to install up to 15 concrete block type anchors in the Harbour. The Three Peaks Race Committee are of the view that the scheme will ensure moorings of a high standard for their competitions.
- 2.4.3 Attached is a copy of the plans submitted by the Three Peaks Race Committee indicating the size of the blocks, design of moorings and location of the anchors. Although moorings with a concrete block type anchor remain in Barmouth Harbour the Council has encouraged mooring owners to use purposeful anchors rather than concrete block type anchors. Some Committee Members may be aware that a 'mooring design plan' has already been submitted and adopted by Consultative Committees in the past. A copy of the recommendations submitted is attached for the comments and views of Members.
- 2.4.4 It is requested that the Consultative Committee submits comments on the proposed moorings scheme submitted by the Three Peaks Race Committee. The Committee's observations are also requested on the document that recommends the quality and construction of moorings that has already been issued by the Council.
- 2.4.5 If permission is given for the scheme submitted to proceed then this will be a significant investment (£5k- £7k) by the Three Peaks Race Committee.
- 2.4.6 **Sand Removal - 2017** It is envisaged that sand removal work will commence at the start of March 2017. The work period will be dependent on the quantity of sand that has accumulated in the area. It is anticipated that the accumulated sand on the promenade and the sea wall will be cleared as part of the contract.
- 2.4.7 **Quay Wall Pontoon.** On the 1st February 2017 a meeting took place to discuss the ownership, responsibilities, maintenance procedures and the future management of the pontoon. Local groups and organisations, Gwynedd Council and the Town Council had representatives at the meeting. It was resolved that representatives would discuss and consider the transfer of the 'ownership' of the pontoon to a group or local organisation. Since the pontoon is not in the

Council's ownership, the Council is in no position to continue to undertake the future maintenance and management of the pontoon.

- 2.4.8 **Petrol Storage** At the previous meeting the Committee requested that the Service should look at the possibility of storing petrol for sale on the quay for powerboats only, and not for vehicles. In accordance with requirements, the Service has commenced the work to look at the regulations that are in force. Our initial enquiries and discussions with Trading Standards officers indicated serious complexities and limitations for the storage and sale of petrol, especially in a restricted site.
- 2.4.9 Although no rules or limitations confirm that petrol should not be stored and sold, consideration needs to be given to the cost of establishing and providing a service against any profit made through the sale of petrol.
- 2.4.10 **Owner's Licence and Boatman's Licence** During the last few years the Council has permitted a total of 4 Owner's Licences and 6 Boatmen's Licences in Barmouth Harbour. Three licences have been issued for a ferry to transport passengers between Barmouth and Penrhyn Point with one Licence approved for a boat that will offer trips around the estuary up to the toll-bridge only. The details and requirements of the licences as well as the safety equipment requirements needed on board the ferry have already been confirmed by the Consultative Committee.
- 2.4.11 We request the views of the Members of the Consultative Committee on the following: -
- Consider limiting the number of Owner Licences permitted in Barmouth Harbour.
 - Consider establishing a maximum number of Owner's Licences permitted to operate in the harbour
 - Consider establishing a specific period and number of days when Owner's Licence holders can operate in the Harbour
 - Consider establishing a minimum number of operational hours (during favourable weather as previously published)
 - Present any improvements or further requirements for consideration as conditions for an Owner's Licence or Boatman's Licence.

3. Financial Matters

- 3.1 A summary of the Harbour budget is attached reporting on the current financial position.
- 3.2 During this period, it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following: -
- Maintenance and purchasing Navigation Aids and Lights
 - Maintenance of equipment and furniture.
 - Maintenance of boat and boat trailer
 - Extending staff employment periods.
 - Grounds Maintenance.
 - Maintenance of ladders
- 3.3 **Fees and Charges 2017/18** . Attached is a spreadsheet for the proposed fees in 2017 in Barmouth Harbour, that has already been submitted to the Harbour Committee requesting comments. It is confirmed that the inflation rate of Gwynedd Harbours for 2017/18 will be 1.85%. In order to meet with the budget challenge and the service's income target it was suggested that Barmouth harbour fees are increased by 2% on average for the 2017/18 financial year. There will be an increase in the fee of mooring commercial boats of 6% in Aberdyfi and Barmouth Harbours.

- 3.4 In 2017 the Council will need to add a fee for each mooring in each Harbour under the Council's management. The fee has been added by the Crown Estate who claim £25.00 from each individual with a mooring in the harbour. It is a requirement that the Council, as the Harbour Authority, charges and collects this fee on behalf of the Crown Estate. There is no VAT attached to the additional fee. The additional fee is also payable for visitor moorings and this payment will need to be funded via the Harbour budget.
- 3.5 It was stressed that only a draft had been submitted before Members thus far, and the fees were subject to the receipt of confirmation from the Portfolio Leader before the end of March 2017. All Harbour customers have received a copy of the proposed fees and an application form for a mooring for 2017/18.