

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	10 October 2018
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	M.Humphreys. Porthmadog Harbourmaster

H1. Navigational Issues

- H1.1. Each year Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority, conduct an independent audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation recorded at the harbours of Gwynedd and every two years the same Authority conduct an independent audit of all systems, processes and records kept of the aids to navigation at the harbours of Gwynedd including a check of all maintenance records.
- H1.2 On Thursday 12th April 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended at Porthmadog Harbour to conduct an audit of the systems, processes and maintenance records kept by the Service. Following the audit all was found to be in good order.
- H1.3 On Tuesday 14th August 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended at Porthmadog harbour to conduct and audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation at the harbour. All aids at Porthmadog were found to be good order and fully functional.
- H1.4 There is currently one 'Notice to Mariners' in operation at Porthmadog Harbour
- H1.5 52° 53.681' N 004° 09.471' W Starboard Aid to Navigation No 7 Fl G (3) 10s is currently off station.
- H1.6 The Service is currently looking to purchase a new Safe Water Mark (Fairway buoy) at the channel approach to the harbour to replace the existing buoy, which had to undergo extensive refurbishment earlier this year. The buoy remained off station for a period time with the approval of Trinity House. Quotations received for a replacement range from £4500 to £9500 dependent upon the type and size of the buoy.
- H1.7 The Porthmadog Harbour navigation channel has changed course considerably and now forms a straighter seaward course from previously running adjacent to Harlech Sands. Growing sandbanks in the Borth-Y-Gest area have also been of particular concern.
- H1.8 In conformity with the change in the course of the navigable channel and in conjunction with Trinity House and the Hydrographic office, it has been necessary to relocate the 'Fairway' buoy Safe Water Mark to the position of 52° 52.970' N 004° 11.200' W upon its return to the water following refurbishment. The Service regularly inspects the channel at low tide in order to try to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location. Due to constant changes to the channel this can be challenging work.

H1.9 The Service would like to thank RNLI Criccieth for their assistance in dealing with a reported sinking Catamaran vessel 'Jessica's Day' at Porthmadog Harbour on the evening of Monday 23rd July 2018. No persons were found to be on-board the vessel, which was subsequently recovered to the harbour wall.

H2 **Operational Issues**

H2.1 The vessel Dwyfor has been maintained to ensure that the boat complied with the required workboat code. The engine of the vessel was in particular need of a major overhaul and replacement parts at a total cost of £6115.20. Internal structural work was also required at a cost of £8496.00. The vessel is an essential item of equipment in assisting the Harbourmaster at Porthmadog to maintain and move the Navigational aids as required, which is work that would otherwise have to be contracted out.

H2.2 The vessel 'Dilos' which had been moored alongside the harbour wall at Porthmadog for a period of time was rapidly falling into a state of disrepair and had begun to take on water. The owner of the vessel was accordingly advised and the vessel was subsequently removed from the harbour in April at the owner's expense.

H2.3 The harbour welcomed a new customer to the harbour in the form of a 60ft long, 8ft draft, decommissioned Danish trawler named 'Beverly' at the beginning of the season. The vessel which is currently the largest vessel in the harbour has been moored on the Harbour wall near to 'Bont Britannia', and its presence has attracted a number of visitors to the harbour.

H3 **Maintenance**

H3.1 Following an inspection earlier in the year maintenance work was undertaken on the moorings in the harbour. In total 22 riser chains, 22 Hippo Mooring Buoys, 32 Ground shackles and 22 Top shackles that were required to be replaced were installed. The total cost of which including diving work was at £3120.

H3.2 Wooden flower boxes have now been placed around some of the trees in the harbour to afford protection to persons walking from the tree roots and associated uplifted paving slabs. Following initial concerns, the flower boxes have received positive comments following the insertion of wooden spacers around the trunks of the trees, to keep the soil away from the trunk. The harbour staff continue to maintain the grass around the harbour area and clear litter from the area at every opportunity.

H3.3 The Harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Porthmadog harbour during the period October 2018 – February 2019. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

H3.4 **Parking Safety:** Railings adjacent to the Maritime Museum. It is the intention of the service to repair and improve the standing railings sited between the Maritime museum and the rear of the Canolfan, including the installation of a gate, to allow controlled vehicle access to the pedestrianised area adjacent to the museum. No vehicles are permitted to park on the area, but the Harbourmaster has seen numerous vehicles encroach onto the area particularly on busy summer days.

H4. **Other Matters**

- H4.1 **Safety Signs.** In joint partnership with the RNLI a detailed review of all safety signage in the area of Morfa Bychan beach has been undertaken. In response to the inspection and in consultation with the RNLI, it remains the intention of the Service to erect new signs on several sites around the area of the beach. Safety signage in conjunction with the RNLI has now been put in place at Aberdovey, Tywyn and Barmouth with signage work at Morfa Bychan behind schedule and yet to be completed. As it was anticipated that the signs would need to be removed from the beach during the winter months to reduce potential damage from severe weather, it is now expected that the signs will be in place in time for the start of the busy season next year.
- H4.2 **Madog Yacht Club Plan.** Representatives of the Madog Yacht Club have already reported of plans to increase the number of pontoon berths in the harbour. It is hoped that an update on the proposal is available by the representative at the meeting.
- H4.3 **Borth-Y-Gest.** The sea front area of Borth-Y-Gest has seen significant work undertaken in respect of the Borth Y Gest Flood Alleviation Scheme over the last few months. The car park of the sea-front has also been used as a base by the Company of Fugro in respect of exploratory work undertaken in Dwyrud estuary. In consequence there has been delay in work to improve the appearance of boat storage at that site. It is now hoped to undertake this work over the winter period.
- H4.4 **Memorial Benches at Borth y Gest.** The Maritime service are in the process of reviewing, removing and renewing where necessary, memorial benches sited in the Borth –Gest area. As a number of which had fallen into a state of disrepair.
- H4.5 **Porthmadog Sailing Club.** A request has been received at the Harbour office from the Sailing Club at Porthmadog, to have a representative from that organisation co-opted onto the Harbour Consultative Committee. The matter is brought to the attention of the Committee for their views and observations.

H5. **Events**

The following events were held at Porthmadog Harbour in 2018:-

- Motorbike exhibition event
- Celtic Long boats race between Pwllheli and Porthmadog
- A number of film companies visited the area surrounding the Harbour and black Rock Sands.
- Moveable Feast & Caru Port