

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	6th March 2019
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 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 period October 2018 to March 2019, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Porthmadog Harbour Moorings

- 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.

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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 relevant to the harbour activities conducted at Porthmadog Harbour including navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work, in order that the Harbour Safety Management System encompassed within the code may be reviewed.
- 3.4 As previously reported between the 19th and 21st September 2017, a thorough inspection was carried out by auditors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the existing safety arrangements and systems of Gwynedd Municipal Harbours in order to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. As a follow up to their previous review, a return visit to Gwynedd has now been arranged during the period 4-6th March 2019. It is the intention of Captain Forkanul Quader from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Inspectorate to be present at Committee meeting.

- 3.5 A revised edition of the Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours of Gwynedd encompassing the enhancements suggested by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Inspectors has been completed. Internal Health and Safety audits of all harbours including Porthmadog harbour has recently been completed and an external audit of the existing Safety Management System for the harbours of Gwynedd is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2019 by the newly appointed Designated Person Captain M. Forbes.

4. **Staffing Matters**

- 4.1 As reported in the previous meeting, the service is now in a position to confirm that a full time assistant harbourmaster post is to be created at Porthmadog Harbour, to assist the harbourmaster with his duties and responsibilities. The post holder will also be required to work in the harbours of Aberdyfi and Barmouth as and when required. Applications from prospective candidates are to be invited through the media and following an interview procedure, it is intended to have the successful candidate in post by the Easter period 2019.

5. **Financial Matters**

- 5.1 A summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the financial year is to be provided at the meeting.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following:-
- Maintenance of lands and benches
 - Maintenance of harbour patrol vessel
 - Tools and equipment for maintenance

Fees and Charges 2019/20. Details of the mooring fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour for the period 2019/20 are enclosed. Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching and registration fees have not, as yet, been sanctioned, but they are not expected to be significantly different from the previous year.

- 6.0 **Harbourmaster's Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2018 – March 2019 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.