

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>08 March 2022</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Harbourmasters Report</b>
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## **H 1 Navigational Issues**

- 1.1 The navigable channel to the harbour of Porthmadog has been monitored by harbour staff over the winter period. The course of the channel remains very dynamic with the channel entrance currently moving in the direction of Criccieth.
- 1.2 A large sand bank has formed near the 'Powder House' and a further sand bank has formed between 'Ballast Island' and the No 17 Starboard Hand mark on the outer reaches of the inner harbour. This latter movement of sand has caused four mooring buoys owned by the Madog boatyard to dry out completely and will further shortly require a movement of the No 17 buoy to a more suitable location.
- 1.3 In consequence there are currently three Local Notice to Mariners in force;
- 1.3.1 Notice to Mariners number 24/21 – The Starboard aid to navigation No 1 Buoy is not on station. The buoy is currently located on Harlech sands awaiting recovery. Despite efforts made, vehicle access to retrieve the buoy from the sands has not been possible to date, due to the soft nature of the surface in association with the steep climb away from the beach to reach the tarmac surface above. Further efforts will be made following a period of rain when the surface of the sand will be more amenable to recovery.
- 1.3.2 Notice to Mariners number 01/22 the Port aid to navigation buoy No 6 is not on station. The buoy is currently undergoing refurbishment at the harbour premises having washed ashore. Once the refurbishment has been completed, the buoy will be returned to a suitable location in the channel.
- 1.3.3 The Service advises that all navigational marks will be on station and fully operational as soon as practically possible, dependent upon staffing commitments in association with existing, weather and tidal conditions
- 1.4 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the course of the channel and move the navigational aids as and when necessary in order to ensure the aids to navigation provide the safest route in and out of harbour. As the Spring season approaches, it is hoped the course of the navigable channel will settle down.
- 1.5 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft in excess of 1.5 metres. Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach, to obtain the latest navigational information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

## **H 2 Operational Issues**

- 2.1 Throughout the winter period vessel movements in the harbour and channel approaches have been extremely limited. Forty one (41) vessels remained within the waters of the harbour over the winter period, the majority of which were moored to the pontoon structures owned by the Madog yacht Club.
- 2.2 The harbour has not been adversely affected by the winter storms to date with no reported damage to any vessel or structure. The roof of the nearby 'Canolfan' however was destroyed, with pieces of material landing onto the display of harbour lighting.
- 2.2 It is anticipated that those vessels currently ashore in the boatyards will gradually be returned to the water as the Easter period arrives. From the number of enquiries made at the harbour office over the winter period for the availability of moorings, the service is hopeful of a busy forthcoming season, despite the continuing effects of the coronavirus.

## **H 3 Maintenance**

- 3.1 Maintenance of the harbour moorings is expected to be conducted before the busy season commences, following an underwater inspection of the condition of the moorings present in the harbour. An estimated net cost of £1650 has been provided to the Service for the cost of the underwater inspection to be undertaken.
- 3.2 Two new quayside ladders are to be installed to replace those that are now beyond maintenance near to the Britannia bridge. Construction of the ladders is being undertaken by a local metalworker with delivery currently awaited.
- 3.2.1 A new guarded access is to be created in the harbourside railings east of the harbour office to assist with passenger boarding and disembarkation for vessels moored alongside the quay in that location. Concrete steps onto the lower slate surface of the quayside are to be provided in association. The new access will coincide with the provision of one of the new ladders.
- 3.3 The vessel Mv Dwyfor which underwent extensive structural repairs during last year has recently received maintenance to its engine following fuel issues which had been causing an intermittent loss of vessel power.
- 3.3.1 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel which is coded for operations at sea is due to receive an annual service of its twin engines by a local company shortly, in preparation for the forthcoming busy season.
- 3.3.2 The small tender vessel utilised by harbour staff has been removed from the water for annual maintenance. The vessel is currently being painted by harbour staff with further work conducted on the fender securing points and oars.
- 3.4 The Service are looking to replace the lockable metal storage container located at the rear of the harbour office, due to deterioration in the condition of the metal surface on the existing container, particularly in the roof section which is leaking in

several places onto the equipment inside. The Service have received an estimated net cost £3600 for a replacement 20 ft container.

- 3.5 Benches around the harbour environment continue to be refurbished with further work still to be completed. The service continues to receive requests for the placement of benches around the harbour with only limited space available.

#### **H 4 Other Matters**

- 4.1 **Borth-Y-Gest.** The sea defence gates located at the top of the slipway are to be maintained with the assistance of a local metalworker. The Service would like to remind harbour users of the need for the gates to remain in the closed position during the winter period.

- 4.1.1 The installation of a dinghy rack overlooking the car park in Borth-Y-Gest remains work to be conducted in an effort to tidy the grassed area where numerous vessels are currently stored.

- 4.2 **Traeth Morfa Bychan.** It has been necessary for harbour staff to attend the main entrance to the beach on numerous occasions over the winter period to gather and clear away rubbish and general household waste that has been indiscriminately dumped and deposited in and around the base of the waste collection receptacles located by the toilet facilities. In consequence the Service advise, that it has been necessary to temporarily remove the waste receptacles at that location to prevent a public health hazard.

#### **H5 Events**

- 5.1 Although anticipated, the Service are yet to be notified of any forthcoming events proposed to take place at Porthmadog Harbour this year. The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.

- 5.2 In considering the approval of any event, the Service will give due regard to the prevailing Coronavirus situation and any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.