

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	11th October 2022
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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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 summer period. The course of the channel remains very dynamic with the channel entrance currently moving in the direction of Harlech.

1.2 The position of the Fairway buoy will continue to be monitored to keep it in line with the channel approach from seaward. The Fairway buoy is due for maintenance at the start of December, when it will be taken out of service following consent from Trinity House until late February 2023.

1.3 During the course of the year with regard to the navigable channel, there has been nine (9) Local Notice to Mariners issued since January compared to twenty-four (24) this time last year. The Service advises that all navigational marks are on station and fully operational with twelve (12) navigational buoys in service and four (5) navigation marked termed as occasional for deployment as and when required.

1.3.1 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.

1.4 The Service is to receive its annual inspection of the Navigational Aids within the Harbour of Porthmadog and the channel approach by Trinity House staff on the 4th October 2022. A report on their findings will follow. The result of the report will be relayed to the Harbour Committee once received.

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 departure or approach, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information.

H 2 Operational Issues

2.1 **Summer Season:** The harbour has seen a significant number of visitors to the area during this year. The harbour staff have been on constant watch both ashore and afloat, to ensure the safety of persons enjoying the environment, with regular patrols undertaken in the Porthmadog Channel.

- 2.1.1 Whilst the vast majority of visitors to the area were respectful of the harbour environment, there was a noticeable increase in the number of verbal warnings and advice issued to Personal Watercraft users. The wanton discharge of litter and cigarette ends around the harbour continues to be a problem for harbour staff, despite the presence of appropriate receptacles. It is also disappointing to report that staff remain subject of verbal abuse or gestures during the performance of their duties.
- 2.2 The car park at the rear of the harbour office has collected over £12,160 since April. The pay & display machine was serviced at a cost of £376 + VAT prior to the commencement of the season. The Service are currently looking at the possibility of increasing the cost of harbour parking from £4 for a full day to £5, and a limited parking time of 2 hours increasing from £2 to £3.
- 2.3 A new guarded access has been created in the harbourside railings east of the harbour office to assist with passenger boarding and disembarkation facilities for vessels moored alongside the quay in that location. It is hoped this will benefit passenger operations from the harbour
- 2.4 **Harbour Vessels:** The vessel Mv 'Dwyfor' suffered fuel starvation issues at the beginning of season which required the fuel tank to be cleaned. The vessel has however remained operational throughout the season. As the winter season approaches the vessel will be taken out of the water for maintenance, when a new propeller is to be fitted and all equipment checked for compliance with existing workboat legislation.
- 2.4.1 The harbour Powercat patrol vessel 'Glaslyn' which is coded for operations at sea is due to receive new twin engines in preparation for the start of next season. The Service is currently awaiting estimated costs from local companies.
- 2.4.2 The small tender vessel utilised by harbour staff will be removed from the water for annual maintenance over the winter period.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Maintenance and inspection of the harbour moorings was conducted at the start of the season by a local mooring contractor at a cost of £2,400 + VAT. Following inspection, it was required to replace ten (10) riser chains with new chain and shackles. At the same time an inspection was also undertaken of the moorings owned by the Porthmadog Sailing Club and Madog boat yard sales.
- 3.2 The harbour grounds including grass verges and hedges have been maintained throughout the busy period. Harbour staff continue to undertake the maintenance of the grass verge bordering the harbour walkway adjacent to the harbour-side wall of the Canolfan. The harbour slipway has also been subject to regular maintenance.
- 3.3 The harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Porthmadog harbour during the period October 2022 – February 2023. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

- 3.4 The harbour has received a new steel container for the compound at a cost of £3,600 + V.A.T to replace the old leaking container, the harbour has also given permission for a new local Rowing club to store the Celtic long boat in the compound.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Beach Cleaning:** The Service remains grateful for the help received from local groups and individuals who have undertaken beach cleaning activities on the nearby beach of Black Rock Sands.
- 4.2 **Harbour Byelaws.** The Service continues to work towards updating the Porthmadog harbour Byelaws in association with the Legal department of Gwynedd Council.

H 5 Events

- 5.1 A number of film and television companies have visited the harbour and surrounding area to undertake filming for various programmes and advertisements. A Celtic longboat race and a historic motorcycle event were among the events held in the harbour over the summer.