

MEETING	Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
DYDDIAD	18 October 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management and Operational Issues
AUTHOR(S)	Commercial Manager & Deputy Manager Hafan & Pwllheli Harbour

Introduction

The main function of the committee is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, protection and development of the Harbour and to receive members' comments on matters relating to Pwllheli Harbour.

The purpose of this report is to give the committee a brief update on the harbour's issues for the period up to the end of September 2023, in order to get feedback from the members on safety and operational issues of the Harbour.

The Pwllheli Harbour Committee is a non-statutory harbour committee, established in accordance with the approval and support of the Council. The consent provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Pwllheli Harbour Advisory Committee. There is a comprehensive list of the groups and organisations that are represented on the harbour committee in the programme.

In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the representatives from each group and organisation will be required to provide evidence of their constitution to the Council together with a letter from their organisation confirming the name of their representative. The above does not apply to a Town or Community Council.

1.1 Port Marine Safety Code.

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) sets out the national standard for all aspects of port marine safety. Its aim is to improve safety for all those who use or work in the marine environment of ports. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice recognised by a wide range of stakeholders in the industry and Gwynedd Council understands that not adhering to good practice can be a sign of a harbour authority breaching specific legal duties. It is necessary for the service to receive the comments and opinions of the members of the advisory committee on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive comments on its content, so that it can be reviewed and is relevant to harbour activity, navigational aids, suitability of bylaws, safety issues and general day-to-day work at Pwllheli Harbour.

Following the local elections, the leader of Gwynedd Council's cabinet portfolio has changed. I would like to thank Councillor Gareth Thomas for his work as a 'Duty Holder' assigned to the Code over the past few years. Councillor Nia Jeffreys takes over the role, and Council officials have begun the process of inducting the Councillor into the post. In addition, Council officers are in the process of an overall review of the code in line with the standard timeline.

1.2 Dredging the Channel

The harbour mouth dredging campaign was carried out in May this year, with the reports identifying good work had been done, with the whole channel below -3mOD (-0.56mCD) and over 21,000m³ of material removed out of the channel within 10 days. Another campaign will be done again early next year.

The distilling lagoon is full and therefore different methods of silt disposal are currently being considered. No further dredging can be completed using the distilling lagoon until a viable solution is identified.

Discussions are going on between officials of the Hafan and YGC to the short and long term programme, with a number of challenges identified. There is a review being made on the dredging strategy which had been recognised, given that there is pressure on the placement/disposal of the silt.

It is anticipated that the marina basin will be dredged in quarter 4 of the 2023/2024 financial year.

1.3 Financial Matters.

A summary of the Hafan and Harbour Pwllheli budget, and the current financial situation will be presented to the members at the meeting.

During the Spring and Summer period, financial resources had to be committed to the following areas of work: -

- New engine and gearbox for the harbour launch boat
- New pump for the fuel quay
- A new bridge to the fuel quay
- Maintenance of the facilities - toilets and showers
- New additional bicycle shelter following the successful installation of the first shelter.
- CCTV on the slipway
- Regain possession of land from a trader due to debt owing to the Council. The land to be used by the Hafan for the customers of the Hafan e.g. store trailers
- Dredging the Harbour

1.4 Fees and Charges 2023/24

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Hafan & Pwllheli Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2023/2024 season, it is the intention of the service to adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the service is yet to receive confirmation of the rates to be applied.

1.5 Operational Items

Navigation - All Navigation Aids in Pwllheli Harbour are working and in place. There are no "Notice to Mariners" active in Pwllheli Harbour at the moment. Trinity House conducted an annual inspection of navigation lights and buoys at the beginning of October. Report available soon.

Fuel Quay - A new petrol fuel pump for the quay has been installed along with the access bridge to the Fuel Quay. Officials have received a price, through a process, from a company which will install a new pontoon on the fuel quay. The fuel quay had to be changed following an inspection as the erosion of the quay showed further signs of deterioration with the possibility of the quay breaking in a bad storm. The work will be done in early 2023.

Hafan Slipway and Power Boat Registration - CCTV is now located on Hafan slipway in order to monitor the use of the slipway, ensure the safety of all users of the slipway, whilst ensuring that every boat that is launched is registered. The Hafan staff will look at the best way to monitor the use of the slipway to ensure that everyone follows the appropriate procedure, which had been agreed previously by the Park and Launch companies.

Hard standing and parking space for Annual Berth Holders – There was success in changing the management of storing boats on the harbour shore. It has enabled the release of additional areas in order to increase the availability to the annual berth holders.

Because of this work there was success in offering an overflow car park during the busy summer period, which was welcomed by many of the customers.

Annual Harbour/Hafan Statistics - Details of the Hafan and Harbour statistics for 2022 are included with this report. The annual residential number has increased greatly this year, and the Hafan is full. 100% of the berths have been taken by annual residents and inquiries for berths for 2023/4 are extremely strong, with over 120 on the waiting list.

The percentage of moorings in the Harbor has decreased because customers' needs are changing. A number have transferred to the Hafan, while others e.g. traders (fishermen) have given up.

Staffing - Please note that 2 seasonal assistant posts had not been filled over the summer period, this following 2 campaigns to fill the posts. No applications or anyone showing interest. The Hafan team are currently collaborating with Coleg Meirion Dwyfor, and have already received a visit from 8 young students to the Hafan, with the hope that some will be interested in getting a job over the summer of 2023.

Due to a lack of staff it was not possible for the team to carry out the additional work of managing the water use of the Hafan/Harbour and the Glan don and Marian-y-De beaches over the summer period. The officers will hold discussions with the Maritime department on how to improve the situation by the summer of 2023.

The position of Assistant Harbour Master, which has been vacant since April 2022 following Keith's retirement, has been filled, with Emma White moving from Assistant Bosun to this position. She started her work on October 1st. We have extended Tony Adams' contract to work through the winter following a successful spell as Harbour Assistant over the summer.

It was a sad time when Louise Holt left the Hafan in the summer. This followed service of over 30 years. The team and the customers were very grateful for the work she had done over the years. Taking her place will be Siobhan Hannah, who started with us at the Hafan at the end of September. Not an unfamiliar face because she worked at the Hafan from 2000 to 2008.

The team at the Hafan would like to thank Eryllt Jones, from the Maritime department, for stepping into the breach following Louise leaving us, to ensure that the administrative/financial service was maintained over the summer.

Strategic Plan – As reported in the previous committee, the Hafan's staffing structure has changed, with the Commercial Manager in place since June. One of the main tasks is to look at a strategic 'masterplan' for the Hafan/Pwllheli Harbour area. Applications are out with consultants to work together with department officers. The Commercial Manager will provide an update at the meeting.