

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	10th March 2021
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour 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 yearly period ending March 2021, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour. It is regrettable that the October 2020 meeting had to be postponed as a consequence of the Coronavirus epidemic.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In 2020/21 figures for 'on moorings' in the Harbour were as follows:-
- 2.2 There has been 64 boats on annual moorings in 2020, compared to 130 in 2019. The figure has been greatly affected by the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic and the associated restrictions placed upon individuals by the Welsh Government. Many vessel owners decided not to utilise their vessel in 2020.
- 2.3 The effect of the Coronavirus epidemic has affected all of the harbours across Gwynedd. On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been a decrease in the number of customers over the past year.
- 2.4 There were 831 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2020 compared to 894 in 2019. 16 Boats were registered at Porthmadog Harbour compared to 33 in 2019.
- 2.5 There were 843 Personal watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2020 compared to 827 in 2019. This increase reflects the popularity and current trend of those individuals wishing to enjoy themselves on the water. It has also been indicated by local businesses that purchases have been made by individuals instead of travelling abroad for a holiday.
- 2.6 There were 41 Personal watercraft registered at Porthmadog harbour in 2020 compared to 55 the previous year.
- 2.7 Copies of all data relating to occupancy and registration is appended.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 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.

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. 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 and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Porthmadog Harbour.

3.1.2 Following a thorough inspection of the Gwynedd Harbours Port Marine Safety Code and its associated safety management system by examiners from the Maritime and Coastguard agency last year, the Service intend to send a letter of compliance with the code to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This will be completed after an annual external audit of the safety management system has been undertaken.

4. Staffing Matters.

4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the Coronavirus pandemic to ensure the safety of the harbour. Adaptations have been made to the public counter area of the office and signage has been put in place around the harbour to assist in compliance with existing Welsh Government Coronavirus Regulations and to ensure staff remain safe in their working environment.

4.2 The full time assistant harbourmaster has continued to support the harbourmaster in his daily duties working from the harbour. The member of staff remains on a scheduled training programme under the guidance of the Harbourmaster and Senior Harbour Officer.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation will be discussed at the meeting by the Principal Maritime Officer. The Coronavirus epidemic has had major impact on the income gained from the harbour. In accordance with the instructions of the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council, a reduction in the mooring fee required from mooring holders was applied for the 2020-2021 season.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessels
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Tools and equipment including safety equipment

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2021/22.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2021/22 season. It is anticipated that the harbour fees will rise by inflation at 2% whilst launching and registration fees will remain standstill.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2019 - March 2021 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.