

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	12 October 2016
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Maritime and Country Parks Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee's main function is to consider and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the harbour and to receive Members' observations on issues relating to the harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the period from March 2016 to October 2016 for the attention of the Committee.

2. Porthmadog Harbour

- 2.1 In 2016/17 figures for boats on moorings in the Harbour were as follows: -

129 boats on annual moorings in 2016. This compares with 142 in 2015. 21 boats had left by the end of 2015/16 and there were 17 new customers at the Harbour.
- 2.2 On the whole, the number of customers was fell slightly during the last year.
- 1.1 1001 Power Boats were registered in Gwynedd in 2016, compared to 989 in 2015. 37 boats were registered at Porthmadog harbour compared to 30 in 2015.
- 1.2 31 power boats were registered at Morfa Bychan compared to the 14 registered in 2015.
- 1.3 729 Personal Watercrafts were registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares with the 699 registered in 2015.

2. Marine Safety Code

- 2.1 An original copy of the Marine Safety Code has already been distributed and is available for all Committee Members, it is also available on the Gwynedd Council website. The Senior Harbours Officer is reviewing the Safety Code. We sincerely hope that the Senior Coast Guard Inspector visits the Council early in 2017 in order to inspect the Safety Code and offer feedback on the Code which is relevant for Gwynedd Council Municipal Harbours.
- 2.2 The document is reviewed on a regular basis and it is necessary to receive the observations and opinions of the Consultative Committee on the suitability of the Safety Code and receive comments on its content so that the Safety Code may be revised and made relevant to the activities of Porthmadog Harbour.
- 2.3 No issue or concern has arisen since 2016 which is relevant to the safety of the Harbour. Concerns about public safety have been raised due to members of the public walking across the Northern Bank at low tide and getting into difficulties as the tide comes in.

3. Main Matters

3.1 Navigation

- 3.1.1 Trinity House's Lighthouse Authority conducted an inspection on 26 July 2016. Compared with previous reports, the 2016 report confirmed that the condition and locations of the Porthmadog Navigation Aids had improved.
- 3.1.2 The Harbour's Navigation Aids maintenance work programme has been completed in accordance with the permission and instruction of the Consultative Committee. An update of the current situation will be given to Members at the meeting.
- 3.1.3 No Mariners' Notice is in operation in Porthmadog harbour.

3.2 Maintenance

- 3.2.1 Arrangements and a work programme for maintaining key elements of Porthmadog harbour will be submitted by the Harbour Master at the meeting.
- 3.2.2 The Harbour Master will submit a maintenance work programme to be carried out at Porthmadog Harbour during the October - December period, along with an outline of the work programme to be carried out during the January - March 2017 period. The feedback of Committee members on any additional work that requires consideration and inclusion in the work programme is requested.

3.3 Staffing Matters

- 3.3.1 The employment period of the Porthmadog Harbour Assistant (seasonal) ended on 30 September 2016. In order to ensure support for and a continuation of the service across the county, the employment period of the Barmouth and Aberdyfi Harbour Assistants has been extended until the end of December 2016. Two harbour assistants will be part of the broader Marine team to ensure that it is possible to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Porthmadog, Aberdyfi and Barmouth harbours over the winter months. The Barmouth Harbour Assistant's work location will be moved to Porthmadog initially in order to secure additional assistance in Porthmadog over the winter months.

3.4 Other Matters

- 3.4.1 **Merchant Shipping Company Enquiry.** An enquiry has been submitted by a merchant shipping company as to the possibility of importing heavy cargo on board merchant ships to Porthmadog for the purpose of supplying a nearby power station. Albeit an exciting proposal, the substantial work that would have to be undertaken to free up moorings, move a pontoon and relocate the majority of the boats in the harbour before a merchant ship can sail into the Harbour and take mooring at the Harbour's quay would have to be considered.
- 3.4.2 **Porthmadog Harbour slipway area and adjacent lands.** All service vessels that were once tied to the side of the slipway for a long time have now been removed. This has improved the appearance of the site and has improved the Safety of the area. The Harbour's staff is preparing for the relocation of the Harbour's equipment storage

container before the end of October 2016 in order to improve the appearance of the site.

- 3.4.3 **Madog Sailing Club Plan.** Representatives of the Madog Sailing Club have already submitted a verbal report stating the Club's intention to submit an application to increase the number of pontoons in the Harbour. A rough plan outlining the desired location of the pontoon by the Sailing Club is attached. Members were asked for their opinions on the attached initial plan.

3.4.4 Borth y Gest Area

4. Financial Matters

- 4.1 A summary of the Harbour's budgets and current financial situation will be presented at the meeting.

- 4.2 During the period, it was necessary to commit financial resources to the following: -

- Maintenance of Navigation Aids and Beacons
- Maintenance of Council moorings £4K was invested during the period.
- Extending staff employment term
- Maintenance of lands and benches. Cutting grass and protecting trees
- Closed Circuit Television. £3K was invested in a new system to safeguard Harbour property and users. Thus far, three cases have been investigated by the Police as a result of CCTV. One upsetting case was when a member of the public dumped kittens in a rubbish bin next to the Harbour's office.
- Cwch y Dwyfor. Substantial investment (£10K) to fix the boat so that it would comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice. The work vessel is located permanently at Porthmadog Harbour to ensure that all navigation aids are in their required position all year round.

- 4.3 The budgets are monitored monthly and a Second Quarter Review will be undertaken during the first weeks of October.

- 4.4 **Fees and Charges 2017/18.** The prospective figures spreadsheet for Porthmadog Harbour 2017 is attached. Inflation for harbours for 2017/18 is anticipated to be at 1.85%. In order to meet the financial challenge and the service's income target, it is recommended that fees for Porthmadog Harbour be increased by 2% on average for the 2017/18 financial year. Emphasis is placed on the fact that it is only a draft that has been submitted to Members and that the fees will be subject to confirmation by the Portfolio Leader early in 2017.

5. Events

- 5.1 The following was held at Porthmadog Harbour in 2016: -

- Motor Bike Exhibition Event
- Celtic Long Boat race event from Pwllheli to Porthmadog including a number of other Celtic Long Boat competitions arranged through the Madog Sailing Club.
- Number of visits by film crews