



Torquay/Paignton
Harbour Liaison Forum

Tuesday 20th November 2007
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended:	Capt. K Mowat (KM)	Capt. P Labistour (PL)	Cllr R Horne (RH)
	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)	Cllr N Amil (NA)	Mrs S Wyatt (SW)
	Mr C Baker (CB)	Mr Colin Jefferies (CJ)	Mr M Ritchie (MR)
	Mr W Butcher (WB)	Mr John Turner (JT)	Mr J Bond (JB)
	Mr A Birchell (AB)	Mrs Y Twelves (YT)	Miss H Lang (HL)

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Carroll, Cllr Excel, Mr J Carter, Mr M Ould, Mr G Jennings & Mr T Ekers.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

(a) Paignton Harbour Car Park

KM explained that there had not been a meeting of the Paignton Harbour Users due to personal circumstances relating to the Chairman. KM said that hopefully a meeting would take place prior to next season to enable the interest to be assessed.

ACTION: *Harbour Authority purchasing spaces to be raised at next Harbour User meeting.*

(b) Stagecoach Ferry

KM said that he had been notified at the end of the previous week that a meeting would take place on the 21st November at 10.30am in the Torquay Museum. The Mayor and Stagecoach will both give presentations. KM said that he was hoping to attend the meeting but there would also be second opportunity to attend a meeting at the Berry Head Hotel on the 4th December. PL said that he had copies of the invitation letter and agendas for the meetings if anyone required one at the end of the meeting. KM said that this should be the first stage of the consultation process as not all of the stakeholders had been invited. KM explained that prior to the invitation to the meeting he had not heard anything about this since the last Liaison Forum. MR expressed his concerns about the changes it would cause to the way the Bay would operate. RH reminded everyone that there is an opportunity for the local pleasure boat operators to make a business presentation in the same way as Stagecoach. CB raised concerns on behalf of the fishermen. KM said that he felt it was important for the fishermen to be fully involved in the consultation process. KM reminded everyone that many of the decisions relating to the proposal will need to be made by the Harbour Committee.

(c) Oil Spill Response Plan

PL advised that he had supplied the copies required and an exercise had taken place since the last meeting. KM explained that the plan had been to carry out the exercise off Paignton Harbour but unfortunately weather conditions dictated that the exercise had to take place in Torquay Harbour. PL explained that he needed to submit the plan to the MCA.

ACTION: *PL to submit the plan to the MCA.*

(d) Mooring Policy

KM reported that the mooring policy is now on the website and hard copies are available at each of the Harbour Offices. KM advised that he would be recommending a couple of changes to encompass the Town Dock issues and disabled access.

(e) Paignton Harbour Redevelopment

KM said that he had not done a great deal about the situation regarding the title deed but he would continue to look into it. KM also explained that although Cllr Carroll had been unable to attend the meeting he was keen that the members of the Liaison Forum understood that in order to make improvements to Paignton Harbour it would be necessary to unlock value from other areas of the harbour. KM explained that a developer's brief was being drafted by the TDA and if anyone is interested in commenting on it they should contact him. KM reminded the Forum that a report would need to go before the Harbour Committee for a decision, before any redevelopment went ahead.

ACTION: KM to continue to look into situation with Paignton Harbour title deed.

(f) Alcohol Ban Paignton Harbour

KM showed a plan of the areas covered by the current alcohol ban and explained that it does not cover Paignton Harbour. KM explained that he had taken an opportunity to discuss the situation with some senior Police officers who had visited him regarding another issue. He reported that they had understood his desire to have uniformity across the Bay and had agreed to look at the facts and figures to support the case. KM reminded everyone that it is essential that any incidents involving alcohol on the harbour side are reported to the Police to enable the Police to build up a picture of the situation. JT said that the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) was supportive of the proposal for the ban to cover Paignton Harbour. JF said that under the local licensing rules there is also a low tolerance zone, she suggested it would be advisable to identify where these zones are. JT agreed to speak to the Licensing Department; JF said that she would also try to get more information.

ACTION: JT to contact Licensing department regarding Low Tolerance Zones, JF to also look into situation.

(g) Boat Demonstration

PL explained that the vessel was a French designed coded vessel which collects floating litter and diesel. PL said that the demonstration had been well attended but unfortunately one type of seaweed blocked the filters so it was not very successful. KM said that he and PL would continue to review the vessels on the market for the collection of flotsam and jetsam as the current method is very labour intensive and a significant drain on resources. KM agreed to set up another demonstration if a suitable vessel was found. MR said that he was aware and appreciative of the hard work involved in collecting the flotsam and jetsam and asked for it to be passed on to the Harbour Assistants. PL explained that the problem is wind and tourist related. KM asked if there had been any improvement since the implementation of the large bins around the harbours. PL said that the installation of a small mesh fence at the bottom of the railings in Brixham had produced an improvement; KM said that he would consider this at Torquay.

ACTION: KM to pass on appreciation to Harbour Assistants and look into the installation of a small mesh fence at the bottom of the railings.

4. CAPITAL WORKS

(a) Town Dock Update

KM distributed plans of the Town Dock and explained that the proposed positions of the five power and water outlets were marked on the plan. He explained that he was proposing to site these in the area that would be used for events and any overspill of visitors from the Marina therefore they would be available for everyone to go alongside

and use. KM also explained that he felt that if the outlets were sited in the heart of the berths it would cause arguments over berth allocation. KM asked for feedback on the proposed positions and feedback to him by Monday 26th November. KM said that since the last Liaison Forum meeting the plan had been changed slightly to include eight personal watercraft pods and a small trolley park at the bottom of the ramp. WB asked if there was any provision for fire fighting, KM said that there would be fire extinguishers as per the Yacht Harbours Code of Practice. KM said that he felt that a water supply solution had been found to comply with the SWW regulations. KM also explained that they were revisiting the proposed corrosion protection on the piles in view of further information that has come to light from the existing Marina. KM said that a piling rig was due to arrive during the second week of January and porta-cabins would be sited on the quay. PL asked for confirmation of the completion date. KM explained that completion is due in mid March subject to weather etc. MR said that he felt it was a pity that there was not much room between the Town Dock and the WWII embarkation ramps to enable them to be used in an emergency. KM said that the new slipway was very successful and he could not encourage the use of the WWII embarkation ramps as they are not structurally sound. WB asked when the berth allocation would be complete. KM said that he was hoping that the existing customers would be contacted within the following two weeks, however before positions can be finalised input is required from the disabled sailing groups to ensure that their needs are met appropriately. KM then explained that once the existing customers are sorted the new customers will be slotted in but all will know prior to Christmas. JB asked what the situation would be for customers wanting to put a boat and a jet ski on the same berth. KM explained that he would be recommending to the Harbour Committee that all customers will be charged on the length of the berth not the length of the boat, also, that existing customers will receive a three year phased increase and that the charges for the commercial vessels are reviewed over the next twelve months. KM said that he would have to consider the issue of two craft on the one berth.

ACTION: Comments and feedback on the position of the outlets to KM by Monday 26th November. KM to consider two boats on one berth.

5. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – Upcoming Agenda

KM reminded everyone that the next Harbour Committee meeting is on Monday 3rd December 2007 at 4.30 in the Brixham 21 Offices, New Fish Quay, Brixham and all are welcome to attend. KM gave an overview of the agenda items and also explained that it would be the first meeting where the newly appointed advisors would be present.

6. TORQUAY THIRD HARBOUR

KM said that unfortunately he had not been able to find the drawing and neither had Cllr Excel. RH said that he had a copy of the plan and would bring it to the next meeting. KM pointed out that the Mayor's Vision did not encompass the third harbour. RH said that it would be useful to brainstorm for the future and he was looking for comments and ideas for the next 20 years.

ACTION: RH to bring plan to next meeting.

7. PORT WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN/RECYCLING

KM explained that the Maritime Coastguard Agency expect Harbour Authorities to increase the quantity of waste that they recycle and reduce the waste going to landfill. PL said that the Port Waste Management Plan is due for review and this coincides with the Council's current consultation on a new waste strategy. PL explained that they had started the process in Brixham where waste is a bigger problem. KM said that funding could be available from the RDA and the Groundwork Trust would be providing free consultancy work. KM reminded everyone that businesses are responsible for their own recycling and waste disposal but the Harbour Authority is responsible for waste from vessels. CJ said that the waste produced from the new Town Dock would be subject to the guidelines of the Yacht Harbours Association. KM said that the positioning of recycling facilities would need to be carefully considered to ensure that they are sympathetic to the public realm. KM asked for any feedback or thoughts to be given to

him over the coming months. The issue of waste management will also form part of the annual harbour users' survey in the New Year to ensure consultation on the issue. WB said that he felt that people needed to be made aware of the current facilities as he had not been aware that waste oil was collected by the Harbour Authority.

ACTION: Feed back and thoughts to KM. Waste management to be included in the Annual Harbour Users survey.

8. HARBOUR CHARGES/BUDGET 2008/09

KM explained that the Harbour Reserve funds at Torquay and Paignton have been eroded to minimum levels therefore it is necessary to aim to make a surplus for 2008/09 to replenish the reserves. Officers are recommending an average representative increase of 5% or 7% but the Harbour Committee can choose any figure. KM explained that RPI is 4.5% and all the detail can be found in the report, the results of the consultation with Harbour User groups will also form part of the report. PL asked CJ what increase MDL were expecting to make for 2008/09. CJ explained that they were looking at an increase between 3% and 5% but it is likely to be close to 5% as the cost they are incurring are increasing by approximately 7%. He also explained that the Thames had just agreed an increase of 12% for at least the next three years. KM explained that the Harbour Committee would also be receiving a report about the repairs needed to Haldon Pier and Princess Pier which will require significant expenditure. KM said that this would require prudential borrowing of £1million; Brixham is also subject to prudential borrowing for the redevelopment therefore there are large financial pressures on the accounts. KM also pointed out that demand for facilities still outstrips supply. CB said that in relation to other areas the charges are cheap so he did not think that 6% was unrealistic. CJ said that if users are made aware of the improvements that they will see they will be more amenable to the increase. KM pointed out that consistently the Harbour Users survey shows that users do not want to pay more for improved services. RH said that the pressures on the Harbour accounts are not always easily seen as they are caused by erosion. CJ said that he felt this needed to be made clear to the users and a five or ten year plan needed to be made. KM said that this would be in line with the recommendations for municipal ports. MR said that he was disappointed that repairs to the quays were going to be funded by the Harbour Users as he felt it should come from the central fund. KM explained that the Harbours cannot fund all of the repairs to Haldon and Princess Piers so some funding would have to come from the central fund. JF said that she felt it was important that ring fenced accounts are maintained. CB said that he felt the Harbour Assistants were doing a good job of maintaining the harbour. JB suggested that it was a good year to have a large increase in charges as there would be improvements to facilities. It was the general consensus that the visitor charges are cheap so they should be raised. It was also suggested that there could be different charges for local residents in future years. KM said that he felt that Councillors had heard the debate and would be in a position to make a decision based on what they had heard.

9. OBSERVATIONS ON SUMMER 2007 (MR)

MR said that he was concerned by the use of the Starboard hand buoy as a turning point and the speed at which it is approached. He explained that the wash created was dangerous. KM said that an advisory note had been issued in the past regarding this and there is a possibility of moving the 5 knot buoys. KM said that he would look into options to improve the situation. MR said that there were problems with people fishing on the end of Haldon Pier. MR suggested that better signage or a tannoy system would improve it. KM agreed that the signage needs to be clearer. MR said that the Oscar 4 service had been very good this year. KM explained that the service was vulnerable for next year as the beaches department may try to withdraw the funding for it. KM also pointed out that there may be a similar situation with the toilets on the harbour estates but if these became funded by the Harbour Authority a charge would be introduced for the use of them.

ACTION: KM to look into options to improve the situation with the Starboard hand buoy & fishing on Haldon Pier.

10. Wave Monitoring Buoy

KM said that he had an extra item as the Harbour Authority had been approached by the Environment Agency regarding the mooring of a wave buoy in the Bay. He asked if anyone had any thoughts. All were keen on the idea. KM said that he would pursue the installation of the buoy.

ACTION: KM/PL to pursue the installation of a wave monitoring buoy.

KM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time; he also advised everyone that the next meeting was the 4th March 2008 not 4th December 2007 as stated on the Agenda.

Meeting closed 12.45pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:	4th March 2008	10.30am
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DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:	3rd December 2007	4.30pm
	25th March 2008	4.30pm



Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum

Thursday 22nd November 2007

10.30 at Brixham Yacht Club,

Brixham

Attended: Capt. P Labistour (PL) Mr D Bartlett (DB) Mrs A Wilson (AW)
 Cllr Horne (Cllr Horne) Cllr Hodge (Cllr Hodge) Mr K Bowers (KB)
 Mr C Bedford (CB) Mr B Curtis (BC) Mr D Jones (DJ)
 Mr R Williams (RW) Mr D Ham (DH) Mr D Putt (DP)
 Mr K Humphries (KH) Mr A Haynes (AH)

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr P Bartlett, Mrs S Armstrong, Mr R Smith, Mr N Salter, Mr K Mowat

12. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Winter Storage

Cllr Horne reported that himself and Kevin Mowatt had a very positive meeting with Dominic Acland with regards to storage on the quarry at Berry head. Dominic's main concern was the Geo Park Status but was assured that majority @ 90% would be serviced from the sea rather than having large lorries trundling up and down. Dominic mentioned that boat owner's cars will need to be kept up at the car park. This was ongoing and Cllr Horne was quite positive of a good outcome but would be looking into alternative sites within Torbay.

CB said the quarry was perfectly adequate for putting up cradles and boat owners should be encouraged to provide their own. One problem could be the use of generators as there is no electricity there.

Action: Cllr Horne to report back next meeting on any progress

Regatta

PL reported that Kevin Mowat will be organising a meeting with boat operators to discuss risk assessment with regards to close quarter situations

AH said he had attended a meeting last week and the join regatta was definitely going ahead in 2008 and that it was agreed to at least give it two years trial.

Parking

Action: PI to discuss with lawyer and send paper work to Sergeant Cassey regards disabled parking

CB mentioned that the licence with Jenny Higgins is now sorted out

North Quay

PL explained he would ask Kevin to report on this at the next meeting

Action: KM to prepare information regards North Quay for next meeting

KB the fishermen are concerned that the quay was left for their use but seem to be cast aside

CB confirmed that it was dedicated to the fishermen and Kevin Mowat was looking into it

Action: KM to look into North Quay being dedicated to fishermen

PL suggested that the fisherman try keeping the quay clear of their gear

BC Suggested they use the outside of Princess Pier as anywhere else would cause severe congestion

STAGE COACH FERRY

PL told the group that he attended the meeting on Wednesday and it was a very good presentation, many ferry operators attended. They are proposing 2 x Catamarans going between Torquay and Brixham costing about £1 million called BAYFAST. He explained this was all part of the local Transport Plan but it was Stagecoach which had approached the council and they are hoping to integrated the ferries with their bus service. They are planning to run a commuter service running from 7am to 9pm

Action: Send Stagecoach Agendas etc regards their next presentation in December

Action: keep on agenda for next liaison group meeting

BC aired concerns that approx 50 local people could be loosing their jobs/income on the local current ferries. He also mentioned that the government would be subsidising some of this (i.e. 2 pontoons to be built by Torbay council)

PL confirmed that there was no mention of subsidies at the meeting. He also mentioned that as the steps are very overused it could be the perfect opportunity to gain much improved landing facilities which will comply with health and safety.

Cllr Horne suggested it will take time for people to get used to using ferries it is a case of changing people's mindset, we need to provide the service.

DP mentioned it was a good idea especially when there are such problems parking.

PL continued that the No 12 & 12a are the longest/most profitable route and by this being improved other services provided by other operators have to improve it is a knock on effect. There is another company interested in doing this who will be going head to head with stage coach. The harbour could gain financially as the ferries pay us per passenger. There is an 18 month lead in time.

AH There is a good need for a Cross Bay Service but it is a shame local operators have not come up with an alternative as it would be much better for local operators or a consortium to provide the service. There isn't a need for a high speed service but a normal speed would do this would cause less problems for leisure boating.

PL suggested AH pass his comments about speed onto stagecoach

Cllr Horne Endorsed the above comment about speed not being necessary and is also disappointed that locals haven't come up with an alternative.

CB reported that the local ferry operators had a meeting a few days ago and were producing a join paper. They were very conscious of the safety aspect.

BC said the issue of safety toward other boat users had been put to Stagecoach and they had mentioned Cowes as an example of where they run in a very busy area.

AH replied that Cowes was a very different proposition.

Action: KM to have meeting with Yacht Club and include High Speed Ferries safety issues.

KB The operators will be highly qualified and capable.

PL the new ferries will do between 35 and 50 knots. The MCA licence the ferries and will not issue operating licences if they are not capable.

CB there have been limits put on local ferries by MCA but they are being lifted.

Pollution

RW asked PL if he had heard back from South West Water regards discharge

PL replied that he was awaiting a reply

CB has been involved in dealing with the environment agency with Tony Toscani there had been 1 unconsented discharge when the pump broke down and there is no limit on the number of discharges as can't predict when going to rain.

KH there is a lot of storage in the tunnels and pipeline so it has been well diluted when discharged.

BC said he was concerned with contamination by sewage contamination in the harbour being walked into the fish market so the council does need to pressure south west water.

KB said that contamination of individual discharges might be fine but when added together it is a different story.

Action: PL to chase up SWW for a reply regards discharges consented or otherwise

RW asked for another environmental management group meeting to be organised

Action: PL to organise meeting for January 2008

14. HARBOUR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

PL the next meeting is 3rd December at 4.30pm in Brixham 21 Office it is an open meeting and all are welcome. It will be the first meeting with the new advisors which include Captain Curtis and Colonel Bedford.

Action: PL to send out Harbour Committee Agenda to group members

15. Port Waste Management

PL reported that it was a Statutory requirement to have a Port Waste Management Plan and ours is coming up for review. MCA are suggesting Port look at segregating and recycling waste. It will go out for consultation again and will then be sent to MCA for approval. We have already stated the recycling/segregation glass, paper, aluminium, clothing, wood, steel, batteries and waste oil. Waste Oil facility has been upgraded and

a new pump with a 10m suction is to be fitted so it is easy for the beamers and day boats to pump oil directly into the tank

16. Life Boat Maroon

PL – head office decided to stop the maroon s being fired due to health and safety

DH we have to manage the risk – it has been agreed that if the casualty will benefit from seeing or hearing the maroon they will be used, Also if the pagers are down or there is heavy traffic they might be fired. There is a group of 4 nominated to fire them. It is the 5th busiest lifeboat in the country

PI also mentioned that it had been agreed that if there is a lot of traffic in the fairway (which is likely in the summer) the maroons will be fired.

CB suggested it would save @ £2 million a year not using maroons.

BC asked how the new jetty was working

DH replied that there had not been any testing situation yet and so far so good, lads were very happy with it . The work went very well on it.

Action: PI to put out a harbour master notice

17. HARBOUR CHARGES – 2008/2009

PI said that the officers were looking at a 5% to 7% increase and it is open for comment/suggestions it had been based on the Retail Price Index which is 4.5%. The reserves are now severely depleted to about £400,000 left. The resurfacing, lighting and all new boxes cost £500,000 and came in on budget. There is an outstanding project looking at D fendering all of the fish quay and replacing rings with bollards.

RW enquired what the surplus would be after an increase of 5 – 7%

PL replied we work on a break even account we are tasked to break even but the fish tolls are underplayed.

CB suggested that due to the increase in fish prices that fish tolls had increased. There is a feeling that harbour charges are getting a bit steep for general people of Brixham Harbour users view was 3.5% was reasonable.

PL said there was the issue of the account under writing £2 million of prudential borrowing and £4 million off the back of the new units and processing units.

Chris Bedford suggested it was marketed as Harbour Dues + 1% to cover regeneration costs.

RW said it was interesting that Torbay Council paid their staff 2.475%

18. Tor Bay Wave Buoy Proposal

PL gave out information sheets to everyone with a provisional location. We have been offered a Wave Monitoring Buoy worth £50,000 + worth of investment for nothing as long as we can find a suitable location in the bay and somewhere inland to receive its messages. The Data will be available through the Channel Coastal Observatory Webb Site.

http://www.channelcoast.org/data_management/wave_charts/index.php?table=envdata_StartBay&start=1194190200&end=1194276600&disp_option=0

19. Regeneration Presentation

Keith Humphries project manager gave a presentation on the situation so far.

Keith agreed that all were working very hard to ensure we had a project and that it was actually too late to appoint another contractor because of time constraints regards using the Objective 2 funding by Sept 2008 and other by December 2008.

PL thanked Keith for his presentation

Cllr Hodge also thanked Keith for an Honest presentation.

Meeting closed 12.30pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:	6th	March	2008	10.30am
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DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:	3rd	December	2007	4.30pm
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