



Torquay/Paignton  
Harbour Liaison Forum

Tuesday 4th March 2008  
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,  
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended: Capt. K Mowat (KM) Cllr R Horne (RH) Cllr J Faulkner (JF)  
Cllr N Amil (NA) Cllr D Mills (DM) Mr R Cudmore (RC)  
Mr C Jefferies (CJ) Mr T Ekers (TE) Mr W Butcher (WB)  
Mrs E Lambert (EL) Mr M Ould (MO) Mr R Gater (RG)  
Mr N Penman (NP) Mr John Turner (JT) Mr J Bond (JB)  
Mrs Y Twelves (YT) Mr M Chapman (MC) - work experience

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Carroll, Cllr Excel, Mr J Carter, Capt P Labistour and Mrs C Scott. Mr R Gater, Mr J Turner & Mr N Penman had all advised that they would be arriving late.

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 the next Paignton Harbour Users meeting would be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, this item would be discussed during the meeting to establish the level of interest in the spaces. KM confirmed that he would keep RH involved.

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

RG arrived

**(b) Stagecoach Ferry**

KM said that he had been invited to a meeting on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> March to discuss this issue further. Given the size of the proposed ferry and supporting infrastructure, KM said that he had come to the conclusion that it would not be good seamanship to encourage the ferry into the enclosed harbour at Torquay. As an alternative he had identified the outside of Princess Pier as the logical embarkation and disembarkation point. TE asked if any alternative bids were being considered. KM said that he knew that the existing operators had formed an Association and were in discussions. RH said that some local operators did make a presentation. RG said that he had received contact from the British Long Distance Swimming Association who advised that they would not be able to continue their annual event if the ferry proposal came to fruition. MO said that he felt that if an improved ferry service is required it should be done so with the current local boats.

JB arrived

**(c) Oil Spill Response Plan**

KM advised that a revised Plan had now been submitted to the MCA and it was awaiting approval.

#### **(d) Paignton Harbour Redevelopment**

KM said that he had spoken to colleagues in the Estates department who advised that they had realised that there had been a title deed problem at Paignton Harbour which has since been resolved. They also advised that they were trying to ensure that this situation did not occur within other Council areas.

#### **Mayors Vision**

KM took this opportunity to explain that the Mayors Vision had been published and the harbours feature heavily within it. KM advised everyone that copies of the Mayors Vision are available in the Libraries and on the internet. DM said that CD Rom copies could also be obtained through Norma Paynton at the TDA. KM read an extract of the document regarding possible redevelopment of Paignton Harbour. DM emphasised that the vision is not a plan; it is full of thought provoking ideas to entice developers to produce possible plans. TE said that he was glad to hear that the document stated that the local community character should be maintained but he expressed his grave concern about the pictures of Paignton Harbour with eight storey blocks of flats. He stated that the Harbour Users were not against redeveloping Paignton Harbour but blocks of flats are a step too far. TE invited RH to the next Paignton Harbour Users meeting. KM reminded everyone that the document is purely thought provoking and landlords consent would be required in the first instance before any changes can occur. RH said that any changes would have to be viable and in keeping, he also explained that the pictures in the Vision are likely to be very different from any plans that developers propose. JB asked why the Council had paid money to have the pictures drawn. DM explained that the Vision was funded by a grant. KM advised that he would be taking a brief report about the Mayors Vision to the Harbour Committee meeting for information.

#### **(e) Alcohol Ban Paignton Harbour**

JT said that he had looked into the low tolerance zones but no one seemed to recognise the term. JF agreed to look into this. TE said that there was a significant problem at Fairy Cove; KM explained that they had planned to include Fairy Cove in the proposed prohibition area.

***ACTION: JF to look into low tolerance zones.***

#### **(f) Boat Demonstration**

KM confirmed that he had passed on appreciation to the Harbour Assistants. KM said that he had looked into the possibility of installing a small mesh fence at the bottom of the railings around Torquay Inner Harbour but as the railings are a different style to those in Brixham Harbour this may not provide the best solution. KM said that he would keep the option under consideration. RH suggested that there should be some analysis of the litter in order to target the offenders.

#### **(g) Port Waste Plan/Recycling**

KM confirmed that the Port Waste Management Plan had not yet been re-submitted and work on it is ongoing. KM explained that questions were being included in the Annual Harbour User Survey relating to recycling provisions.

#### **(h) Observations on Summer 2007**

KM said that he would be issuing a Harbour Masters Notice relating to speeding and he would also be reintroducing signage and painted lines for fishing guidance.

### **4. CAPITAL WORKS**

#### **(a) Town Dock Update**

KM explained that all the piles are now in place but some needed finishing work carried out on them. The finger pontoons are being installed and the floating breakwater is due to arrive in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008. KM confirmed that the work is still due to be completed by the end of March. KM showed examples of mooring devices which will be kept in the harbour office to advise customers of the recommended

mooring techniques when berthing on the Town Dock. WB asked if vessels will be permitted to sail on and off their Town Dock berth. KM said that he did not feel that this was good practice so it would not be permitted. WB also asked if customers would be allowed to attach bumper fenders to their berths. Following discussions with CJ on the practices of the Marina KM confirmed that it would not be permissible to make any alterations to the berth without the written consent of the Harbour Master. WB asked if the water from the taps on the Town Dock would be safe to drink. KM said that he would not recommend drinking it therefore signs will be erected stating that it is not drinking water. WB said that some existing customers were not aware that there would be a sliding pricing scale for them. KM said that all invoices for existing customers will reflect this but if anyone has any queries they should contact the Harbour Office. KM also explained that the installation of water and power to the Town Dock was separate to the capital project and it would also be combined with work to install a water and power supply to the South Pier pontoons.

***ACTION: KM to issue guidelines for Town Dock usage etc. "Not drinking water" signs to be erected on the Town Dock.***

**5. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – Upcoming Agenda**

KM reminded everyone that the next Harbour Committee meeting is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 16.30 in Oldway Mansion, Paignton and all are welcome to attend. KM gave an overview of the agenda items. In respect of future meetings WB asked if advisors were allowed to propose items to the agenda, KM said that this would be acceptable subject to the Chairman's decision, however day to day harbour management issues are not appropriate for discussion at the Committee meeting. JF suggested that it might be appropriate to raise the issue of the alcohol ban at a Harbour Committee meeting.

**6. TORQUAY THIRD HARBOUR**

RH said that he felt that there was a need to analyse the commercial and leisure usage of the Harbours and identify if further expansion is required and what facilities would meet the needs of potential customers. RH suggested that a report could then be presented to the Harbour Committee to assess the future of proposals for a third harbour in Torquay. WB said that despite being keen to encourage youth onto the water the lack of available dinghy spaces at Torquay Harbour is always a problem. EL raised the subject of the Council's disposal of assets adjacent to the harbour and suggested that if assets such as Beacon Cove are disposed of potential developments such as the Torquay Third Harbour may well be compromised or not be possible. RH agreed to raise this issue with Cllr Carroll. RH said that he was happy to listen to anyone's ideas about a third harbour.

***ACTION: RH to discuss asset disposal with Cllr Carroll.***

**7. HARBOUR USER GROUPS – TORQUAY & PAIGNTON**

KM explained that both Paignton and Torquay Harbours have user groups. The next Paignton Harbour User group will be held at Paignton Sailing Club on the 11<sup>th</sup> March at 19.00. The Torquay Harbour User group last met on 17<sup>th</sup> January in the Grand Hotel. KM explained that during the meeting he had been requested to install a water and power supply to the Inner Harbour slipway to enable repairs and maintenance to be carried out on vessels. KM said that he had previously resisted this as there is no adjacent parking and there were structural issues with the slipway, including an uneven surface. KM asked for the opinions of the Forum members. A general discussion about the environmental impact of this type of work ensued. EL suggested that the harbour should be zoned to advise users where it is appropriate to carry out various activities. The general opinion was that the Inner Harbour was not a suitable location for maintenance and repairs to be carried out to vessels.

RH said that he was trying hard to introduce further winter storage in Torbay and would like to know the current demand for this facility. It was agreed that a question would be added to the Annual Harbour User Survey. There was a general discussion about maintenance of vessels whilst in storage and the option of dry stacking.

***ACTION: KM to look into the possibility of zoning the harbour. Question to be added to User Survey about winter storage.***

WB said that he would like to raise an extra item as there had been a press release the previous day regarding the 2012 Olympics. Torbay will be included in the Olympic guide as a training base for various events including sailing. DM said that the marketing department were willing to help anyone with their advert. A discussion about the availability of facilities took place and KM pointed out that communication would be the key to this being successful. KM agreed to meet with WB to discuss further. NP pointed out that Torbay may see the knock on effect of tourists who can not be accommodated at Weymouth. ***ACTION: KM and WB to set up a meeting***

KM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time; he also advised everyone that the dates had been set for all the meetings for the forthcoming year and suggested that they should be diarised to avoid disappointment.

Meeting closed 12.15pm

<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
	<b>26<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> November 2008</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>	<b>10.30am</b>

<b>DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>
	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June 2008</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>
	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2008</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>
	<b>8<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>
	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>



## Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
10.30 at Brixham Yacht Club,  
Brixham

Attended:   Capt. P Labistour (PL)      Mr D Bartlett (DB)      Mrs A Wilson (AW)  
                  Mr C Bedford (CB)      Mr R Williams (RW)      Ms S Armstrong (SA)  
                  Mr R Smith (RS)      Ms R Irish (RI)      Mr D Carey (DC)  
                  Mr P Bartlett (PB)      Capt K Mowat (KM)

8.   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Mr D Ham, Cllr Hodge, Mr D Jones

9.   **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

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

**Winter Storage**

KM explained on behalf of Cllr Horne that questions about Winter Storage will be included in the annual customer survey which goes out with the invoices this month. The results will be used to gauge demand.

**Parking**

PL explained he had spoken to our local Police Sergeant who had confirmed that the police have rights to enforce Harbour Bye laws. He also said that we are still going down the road of decriminalised parking and will get a consultant to undertake the various legal processes.

**North Quay (Torquay)**

KM explained this referred to the proposed Stagecoach ferry taking over the North Quay in Torquay to the possible detriment of local fishermen. However, the problem had probably been eradicated as there is no longer any room within the inner harbour at Torquay for a ferry of the size proposed. KM added that he would be attending a meeting about the proposed Stagecoach ferry on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**South West Water (SWW)**

PL explained there had been a meeting last week where SWW had recognised their statutory responsibility to let the Environment Agency (EA) know of any problems arising and the EA will then let the Harbour Authority know and the information can then be passed to harbour users and customers. There was no further news regarding court action in respect of the Oxen Cove incident.

CB said he had looked into this and that the Harbour waters were excluded from the definition of 'Bathing Waters' so SWW had consent to discharge into the harbour, the Oxen Cove incident clearly exceeded their consent and what had been suggested was a back up pump to be located in Oxen Cove to cope if something goes wrong again.

KM said he had responded to a an EU consultation some years ago where he tried to get the classification of harbour waters, such as Brixham, to be equivalent to those covered under the Bathing Waters Directive but this seem to have failed.

CB said there had been a survey a done prior to Dean and Dyball commencing work and and there had been talk of extending the discharge pipe, by the slipway, into the MFV basin but there were problems with slope.

RW asked if the same people who were advised about oil spills in the harbour could also be told about any SWW discharge problems. He also requested to see results of water sample testing. PL agreed to this.

***Action: PL to let RW have water sample results***

PL then distributed the Harbour Masters Notice regarding the occasional firing of RNLI maroons when the Torbay Lifeboat was launched. The Forum was also advised that Mark Criddle, the lifeboat Coxswain, and his crew, were being recognised for their outstanding efforts in the rescue of the crew of the 'Ice Prince' on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Mark would receive the Silver Medal for Gallantry.

## **11. Regeneration**

PI gave a brief update – Phase 1 started two weeks ago and should be completed by the end of the year. There would inevitably be some disruption during the construction process but the Harbour Authority and the contractor would endeavour to keep this to a minimum. PI explained that regular Stakeholder Meetings had now been established. These meetings were aimed at providing information about the work programme and dealing with any concerns raised by the stakeholders. The meetings are to be held on a monthly basis and anyone was welcome to attend.

***Action: PL to send out dates of stakeholder meetings***

SA asked if we had learnt from the problem of infilling on Eastern Quay and the subsequent subsidence. DB explained the construction method. It was also pointed out that sacrificial anodes would be used to prevent corrosion.

RS asked why there were a couple of anodes on the dump end. DB explained that these had now been knocked off but had since been reattached and it was related to the postponement of the fendering works. PL went on to say that a meeting is organised, next week, with Gordon Ross the Council's Engineer to go through further maintenance projects which needed attention. These included the subsidence at the end of the Fishmarket jetty and problems with the roof of the existing market.

KM explained that the Harbour Committee would be advised that the harbour account was likely to make a about £85,000 surplus this year and this would obviously boost the level of harbour reserves. He stated that this kind of capital repair work would be funded from the harbour reserve fund but it was important to ensure that the reserve was kept at a safe minimum level.

RS asked why at the last meeting it was said that Fish Tolls were underplayed. KM explained that it was always difficult to predict the level of fish toll income and a cautious approach was adopted when setting the budget. He went on to explain that the Harbour Account was borrowing £2,000,000 towards the new fishmarket project and that there was £150,000 to service this loan already allowed for within the revenue budget, so it would be no different from previous years.

## **12. Environment Management Group**

PL explained that a meeting had been held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and he could make the minutes available to anyone who wanted them. The Forum was then asked what they would like to do with regards to keeping the Environment Management Group going. He explained that the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust was thinking of forming a Torbay Coastal Forum and a preliminary meeting had been scheduled to discuss the way forward. PL suggested that RW and DC might wish to join such a Forum if it was established and perhaps the Harbour Environment Group could sit within the Coastal Forum. KM explained that the Harbour Authority would be a major player within any emerging Coastal Forum for Torbay.

**Action: PL to let members know the dates of meetings of the Torbay Coastal Forum if and when it is established.**

PB was worried that we seemed to be doubling up with so many different groups and that really they all needed to be pulled into one.

KM explained that the idea of a Torbay Coastal Forum would only be supported if it had similar objectives as those emerging from the proposed Marine Bill i.e. the agenda covered the strands of social, economic and environmental issues. Natural England were also likely to be involved in the set up process. He explained that when the Marine Bill arrives it will move towards the setting up of Marine Planning Areas and the size of these areas would determine how all the various different Forums will come together.

SA stated that the recent MCA audit meeting set pollution high on the Agenda and she had mentioned it was an issue that involved the Harbour Authority.

## **13. Maritime Events List**

PI distributed the Maritime Events list for 2008 and asked if any events had not been included to contact Annie in Brixham or Adam FitzPatrick in Torquay. He went on to explain the he had had to cancel the Stavros Tall ship coming into Brixham because of the works on the regeneration project.

SA said they were all extremely grateful to Alan Haynes and Brixham Yacht Club for getting the two tall ships here over the last two years.

CB mentioned that because of problems regarding the Regatta Fair the money received from the Fair paid for the fireworks in Brixham and they are looking for an answer from the Charitable Commission. The contact point for the Fair fireworks is Mike Morey.

## **14. Hydrographic Survey**

PL explained that this was being done in the summer and that either paper or electronic copies could be made available.

KM mentioned that a survey would also be done after Dean & Dyball had finished the new quay works to ensure that the charted depths had not been compromised.

## **15. Harbour Committee**

PL explained the various forthcoming agenda items and informed members that the next meeting was on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm Oldway Mansion, Paignton. He also said he would mention to the Harbour Committee that the Liaison Forum would like to see Harbour Committee members present at these meetings, although he accepted that this was a re-arranged date.

PL distributed information regarding the Wave Rider Buoy which it is proposed will be positioned off Paignton harbour.

**Action: The website for information from this buoy is: [www.channelcoast.org](http://www.channelcoast.org)**

SA mentioned that providing the wave data was acceptable it could help to get Tor Bay set as categorised waters, if only for the summer, and this would help local passenger boat operators.

RW asked why the wind strength is not included. PL explained it was a matter of cost. KM explained that Marine Services were establishing a new weather station which would be sited at the end of Princess Pier, Torquay and information from this would be available via the harbour website: [www.tor-bay-harbour.co.uk](http://www.tor-bay-harbour.co.uk) and if this works satisfactorily a similar one will be positioned in Brixham harbour.

PI mentioned that the Harbour Committee would also discuss a proposed lease to the National Coastwatch Institution at Torquay, a lease on the old Market House in Brixham and they would note the new Mayoral Vision.

KM mentioned that the Vision was available on the Council's website but that hard copies were also available for viewing at the Brixham Harbour Office and also the Library.

SA said she thought that the building had been left to the people of Brixham and that there may be a covenant on it. KM explained that better use could be made of the building and this would increase the income from it for the harbour account.

SA also mentioned that there was a move to list the breakwater slipway. KM said that he was aware of this matter and any protective listing that could compromise harbour operations or regeneration potential would probably be resisted.

PB mentioned that the RYA had been asked to do a survey of all the slipways and accesses in the South West. KM said that an audit had been done of the slipways in Torbay and this could be made available if needed.

Meeting closed 11.45am

<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008</b>
	<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>
	<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008</b>
	<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>

<b>DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>
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