

Meeting Title
Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue

Torquay Harbour Office

Date

2nd March 2010 at 10.30

Present

Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr M Smith (RS)	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)
Capt P Labistour (PL)	Ms H Meacock (HM)	Mr T Ekers (TE)
Mr J Turner (JT)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
Cllr R Horne (RH)	Mr D Musgrove (DM)	

Agenda Items

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
 - a) Fast ferry update
 - b) Alcohol ban – Paignton Harbour
 - c) Torquay Harbour Entrance
 - d) SeaTorbay – spatial mapping
 - e) Decriminalised Parking Orders – update
 - f) Harbourside Notice Boards
 - g) Harbour Budget and charges 2010/11
 - h) New harbour workboat
 - i) Port Marine Safety Code –audit
 - j) Shoreline management Plan (SMP2)
 - k) Economic Benefit of Sailing Events to English Riviera
 - l) Fishing within the Harbour- update
4. Capital Works
 - a) Haldon Pier – update
 - b) TQ Inner Harbour Pontoon Berthing Project
5. Commissioning of the Council's Harbour Authority function
6. Town Dock - Torquay
7. Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan - feedback
8. Harbour Committee
 - a) Upcoming Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
1.1	Cllr C Stocks, Mr R Lean, Mr N Penman and Mr A Lane	

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

3.	Matters Arising	
(a)	Fast ferry update KM reported that the Council's Transportation Working Party were considering the option to fund new pontoon facilities for embarking/disembarking passengers at Brixham and Torquay. The initiative was not linked to any specific fast ferry proposal but was about improving the experience for travelling passengers. Officers from Transport Planning would expect a passenger boat service to make	KM

	<p>a commitment towards an all year round operation. KM and transport colleagues were to make a business case for the potential funding of up to £500,000. Further news could be expected in June.</p>	
(b)	<p>Alcohol Ban - Paignton Harbour The Chairman of the Paignton Harbour Users Committee had written a letter to the police. JT reported that if the situation did not improve he and the Beaches Manager would meet again with the Police. JF suggested that JT mind find it useful to talk with Cllr Addis.</p>	JT
(c)	<p>Torquay Harbour Entrance KM asked the Forum for their views about the idea of a larger starboard-hand buoy with a skirt that would be big enough to mark "5-KNOTS". The idea was supported and KM agreed to purchase a buoy and ensure that a Harbour Master's Notice was issued before the start of the season.</p>	KM
(d)	<p>SeaTorbay - spatial mapping KM advised the Forum that further spatial mapping work was scheduled for 2010, subject to available funding from Natural England. An update on this work should be available in June 2010.</p>	KM
(e)	<p>Decriminalised Parking Orders – update KM reported that it was not possible to implement an "off-street" parking order at Paignton but that it could be applied to the reserved parking on Beacon Quay. It was therefore intended to implement an "on-street" parking order at Paignton. Restrictions on parking would operate between good Friday and the end of September each year. The order was now being prepared and notices would be posted shortly. KM stressed that users picking up, dropping off and/or loading from shops would not be fined. The scheme would be monitored over the first season and the results reported back to the Forum.</p>	KM/JT
(f)	<p>Harbourside Notice Boards. KM reported that a new Notice Board would soon be installed on the Town Dock in Torquay.</p>	KM
(g)	<p>Harbour budget & charges 2010/11 KM reported that the budget and charges had been defined by the Harbour Committee's budget working party and approved by the Harbour Committee. The increase for the coming season was 5% but with a lift in Harbour dues at Paignton and Brixham with the aim of harmonising the level of dues with Torquay within 2 years. TE representing Paignton harbour users objected strongly to this increase and claimed that unlike Torquay and Brixham vessels could not be left in the harbour all year and users had the additional cost of storage. KM responded that the account was in difficulty and not able to carry on with a forecast of year on year deficits. KM made the point that the harbour and associated services were provided 52 weeks a year irrespective of whether vessels were present and the harbour had to be maintained. RH stated that we must balance the books and maintain the harbour structure. TE suggested that the dues should only be increased by 10% per annum until harmonisation was achieved. KM responded that this was not what the Committee had agreed but that he and JT were willing to attend a meeting of the users so as to explain why this action had been taken by the Committee and respond to questions.</p>	KM/JT

(h)	New Harbour Workboat KM reported that the existing workboat at Torquay, 'Our Fortune,' was to be sold and replaced by an Atlantic Fisher which was due to be delivered by the end of March.	
(i)	Port Marine Safety Code Audit KM reported that the harbour had received a successful audit and the resulting improvement plan was in place.	
(j)	Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2) KM outlined the broad strategy of the plan and informed the Forum that a presentation on the SMP had been cancelled but might become available again later in the spring. Members of the Harbour Committee would be invited to the briefing and KM hoped that Forum members could also be invited to attend.	
(k)	Economic Benefits of Sailing Events to the English Riviera KM expressed the view that more and more people were now recognising the wider economic benefits of large maritime events. WB believed that circa £3m had been brought into Torbay and that it would be beneficial if some of this could be delivered directly into harbours. WB made those present aware that there were a number of national events and world championships lined up for 2010, 2011 and 2012.	
(l)	Fishing within the Harbour KM and MS were to examine the area to see what could be done to deter rod fishermen. JB suggested a horizontal fence with a wire that would prevent landing of the fish. The issue was debated at length without a clear solution being found. KM and RH agreed to keep the matter under review.	KM/RH

4.	Capital works	Action
(a)	Haldon Pier KM reported that phases 1 & 2 had been completed (spray concrete and rock armour) KM continued by stating that the overall cost was £1.8m with £1.2m borrowed by the harbour account and £600k coming from the Council's general fund. Both Haldon Pier and Princess Pier were now recognised as coastal flood defence structures by the Environment Agency and this will help attract additional funding in the future for phases 3 and 4, etc. KM stated that attempts would continue to gain similar status for Brixham's breakwater and possibly Paignton's East Quay.	
(b)	Inner harbour pontoon project - Torquay KM explained that this project was adjacent to the Marina car park/Pavilion site, which was a key site in the Mayor's Vision. Consequently progress on the pontoons had been put on hold until it was clear what options might be presented for that whole area, including the Princess gardens.	
(b)		

5.	Commissioning of the Council's Harbour Authority Function	Action
	KM reported that the Harbour Committee had held a special meeting in January to consider the whole issue of commissioning the harbour authority function. The Committee fully supported the commissioning process and had agreed to change to a Harbour Board with independent voting members rather than advisors. The Harbour Committee's recommendations were now being considered by the political leadership before final proposals were taken for a decision by the Council, probably in May. The changes should bring the governance of the harbour more in line with other Harbour Authorities, especially in the trust port sector. This would	KM

	lead to a number of benefits that could be achieved over time. Forum members were asked to contact KM if they required further information.	
6	Town Dock - Torquay	Action
	<p>In his absence Mr R Lean had submitted a number of suggestions concerning possible improvements to the Town Dock. These included matters concerning safety ladders, fire extinguisher/lifebuoy positions, location of the "Exit" button, protective buffers, electricity/water points, bicycle racking and anti-seagull measures.</p> <p>KM read out all the points raised and the Forum considered that a number of the points were achievable whilst some were not so desirable e.g. bicycle racks on the pontoons and re-locating the commercial boats. KM reminded the Forum that this kind of positive feedback was always most welcome and he hoped it would lead to improvements. A number of Forum members went on to discuss the use of electricity points. It was agreed that those users leaving vessels permanently connected to the power supply should be informed to desist in writing. Non compliance should then result in disconnection. KM agreed to follow this policy.</p>	KM
7	Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan – 2010/11	Action
	KM reported that the draft Business Plan had been circulate to Forum members by email. He had received a response from Cllr Stocks and would endeavour to implement her suggestions. KM outlined the main changes from last year but no other comments were forthcoming.	KM
8	Harbour Committee - Upcoming agenda	Action
	KM ran through the various Agenda items for the forthcoming Harbour Committee.	
9	AOB – Paignton Harbour redevelopment	Action
	KM informed the Forum that Paignton harbour had been identified as part of a potential Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) and he explained in outline how a LABV would work. No further details were available but the Harbour Committee would soon receive a briefing and update from Steve Parrock the CEO of the Torbay Development Agency.	SP
	<p>KM advised the Forum that Nick Clarence, the Assistant Harbour Master, had accepted a new position at Dartmouth. He would soon be advertising for the vacant post.</p> <p>KM thanked the Forum members for their attendance and for their valued contribution. The meeting closed at 1300.</p>	

Next Meeting
Venue
Future meetings

8th June 2010 at 10.30am
Torquay Harbour Office
7th September 2010
23rd November 2010

Dates of Harbour
Committee Meetings

15 th March 2010	5.30pm Brixham
21 st June 2010	5.30pm Paignton
20 th September 2010	5.30pm Torquay
6 th December 2010	5.30pm Brixham