

TORBAY COUNCIL

Report No: **66/2006**

Title: **Brixham Harbour waste management**

To: Harbour Committee

on 21 March 2006

1. Purpose

- 1.1 In response to the request of the Committee to investigate possible solutions for addressing waste management issues at Brixham Harbour, this report sets out the current position and indicates a series of improvements to the situation.

2. Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report relates to Tor Bay Councils Priority of "Valuing Our Environment"

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 **That the Director of Marine Services be requested to keep waste issues under review and in consultation with the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum.**
- 3.2 **That the Director of Marine Services be requested to discuss port waste management issues with the Strategic Director for Environment as part of the review of the waste management strategy.**

4. Reason for Recommendation(s)

- 4.1 To respond to the request of the Harbour Committee to investigate waste management issues at Brixham Harbour (Minute 785/12/05 refers).

5. Alternative Options (if any)

- 5.1 Members identify an alternative course of action to address waste issues at Brixham Harbour.

6. Background

- 6.1 Following the sinking of the tanker Braer off the Shetland Islands in January 1996, Her Majesty's Government appointed an Enquiry, under the Chairmanship of Lord Donaldson of Lymington, to enquire into what measures could be taken in order to protect the coastline and Ports of the United Kingdom from pollution by merchant shipping. The subsequent report, "Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas" published in May 1994, made some 125 recommendations including the improvement of port waste reception facilities.
- 6.2 Under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations (SI 1997 No. 3018) Tor Bay Harbour Authority is required to produce a Waste Management Plan for the Harbour of Tor Bay. A copy of the current Tor Bay Harbour Waste Management Plan is available in the members' rooms.
- 6.3 Torbay Council, under the provisions of the Tor Bay Harbour Act of 1970, is The Competent Harbour Authority which includes the enclosed harbours of Brixham, Torquay and Paignton. Waste Disposal is managed as a part of the overall plan for port management.

6.4 Although the Council is required to provide port waste reception facilities for ships and boats, it is not required to provide waste facilities for general commercial waste. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, businesses have a duty of care for the disposal of their own waste and there are clear legal obligations. Responsibility rests with the business itself to contract with a licensed waste management company to collect and dispose of their waste.

7. **Strategic Aim**

7.1 Tor Bay Harbour Authority is committed to carrying out ongoing consultation over its Port Waste Management Plan with all harbour users. The objectives of the Plan are set out below:-

1. To comply with all legislation pertaining to the disposal of waste within Harbour areas.
2. To ensure that all craft using the Harbour are able to land or dispose of Waste materials or to receive advice on proper disposal.
3. To provide a framework for the co-ordinated management of waste associated with the Harbours and provide and improve communications between Marine Services, harbour users, waste disposal authorities, regulators and contractors.
4. To recover the costs of disposal, where appropriate, through an equitable charging system, which recognises the differing needs of all harbour users.

7.2 Marine Services had a number of smaller skips that are placed around the MFV (motor fishing vessel) basin area. The advantage of these skips is that they can be moved around by forklift to where they are best needed and can be emptied on an individual basis as and when required. These skips are currently managed in combination between the Marine Services and a contractor responsible for moving large items of fishing gear on and off the site.

7.3 However, waste from fishing and other vessels is sometimes left lying around the quayside and is subsequently cleared away by members of Marine Services' staff.

7.4 Waste management throughout the rest of the Harbour Estate in Brixham is through the use of port waste bins which are emptied through a service level agreement with Torbay Council's contract services.

7.5 Brixham doesn't have a waste transfer site and the port facilities subsequently suffer from issues relating to the illegal dumping of both domestic and business waste. A large percentage of waste dumped around the MFV basin consists of household waste, commercial waste and fish processors waste and other waste not emanating from fishing boats or any other craft.

8. **Possible Solutions**

8.1 Marine Services recently looked at costing for obtaining its own Hiab lorry and driver but felt that the current system of operation using outside contractors is more financially beneficial although we will keep the option under review.

8.2 When the site had 24-hour security in place the dumping of illegal waste was reduced by close inspection of various vehicles allowed on and off the site. Due to contractual difficulties Marine Services have been unable to maintain a 24-hour security presence in recent months. This year it is intended that Marine Services employ its own in house security staff who will have specific responsibilities to reduce illegal dumping of waste.

8.3 It is possible that the site could be designated under a Traffic Regulation Order and consequently patrolled by enforcement staff. This would further improve the situation as non industry vehicles and personnel would have further restrictions.

8.5 Another possible solution would be the improved use of the existing CCTV system to monitor the misuse of port facilities.

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