



Report 349/2006
Torquay/Paignton
Harbour Liaison Forum

Tuesday 21st November 2006
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended:	Capt. K Mowat (KM)	Capt. P Labistour (PL)	Cllr D Browne (DB)
	Cllr M Hytche (MH)	Mr R Horne (RH)	Mr R Perry (RP)
	Ms S Vickers (SV)	Mr Richard Cudmore (RC)	Mr Marshall Ritchie (MR)
	Mr John Turner (JT)	Mr Terry Ekers (TE)	Mrs Y Twelves (YT)

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllr G Jennings, Cllr C Hurst, Mr M Ould, Mr J Carter, Mrs I Bolus, Mr R Porteous and Mr A Stirland.

KM explained that IB had said that she felt she could no longer attend the meetings. KM asked for suggestions for a replacement. KM said that he thought Carol Scott would be a good replacement. MR suggested that the pleasure boat owners should all be contacted and asked to suggest a replacement. KM agreed to write to all the pleasure boat owners. SV suggested that the Beacon Quay Traders may want a new representative as JH had not attended for a very long time. KM agreed to discuss this at the next Beacon Quay Traders meeting. KM said that he had received a phone call from the Herald Express asking if they could attend the Liaison Forum meeting but he had explained that traditionally the press had not been invited. KM said that if anyone felt strongly that the press should attend then please let him know.

ACTION: KM to write to Pleasure Boat Owners. KM to discuss representatives at the next Beacon Quay Traders meeting.

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:**

(a) Torquay Harbour Public Realm Phase III - Update

KM reported that he was working with Katina Reed (freelance journalist) to produce an article for the boating press to let the wider community know that the new facilities are now available. KM said that MR was also doing a good job of publicising the new facilities locally through Palm FM.

RH arrived

4. **CAPITAL WORKS**

(a) Town Dock Update

KM reminded everyone that the Town Dock project had been approved by the Council in July. The contract is now out to tender and a decision on the preferred contractor will be made on the 20th December 2006. It is then expected that the work will commence in either early 2007 or autumn 2007 depending on the contractors lead time. KM said that the work would not be carried out through the summer as it is not appropriate to inconvenience the users over the summer season again. MH asked why dredging was not part of the plan. KM explained that the harbour does not have a major problem with sedimentation and the range of boats that are on the waiting list for the Town Dock do not need deep water. The capital costs associated with dredging would also increase the cost of the berths for the customer which was not what the Council wanted from the project. RP confirmed that it had not been necessary for the marina to be dredged in the

last 20 years. PL asked if there were any plans to provide a reception tank for effluent. KM explained that there were very few boats in the harbour with holding tanks as it is only newly built vessels that are required to have them. KM suggested that it may be something that MDL and the Harbour Authority could work in partnership on. RC asked if there would be any land based facilities. KM said that there would be a security gate and possibly some trolleys but there are no plans for additional toilets or showers. KM explained that the majority of visitors would continue to stay on the Marina but the Town Dock would accommodate the events and spin off visitors. KM said that he planned to discuss a visiting boats strategy with the Marinas.

5. HARBOUR CHARGES

KM explained that he had written to the chairmen of each of the Harbour User Associations to ask them for their response to a proposed increase in charges of 3% or 5%. KM said that it is important to keep pace with inflation. MR said that the Torquay Harbour Users suggested a 2.5% increase. KM said that the Brixham Harbour Users had also suggested 2.5% but would accept 3%. KM also explained that there is likely to be a deficit in the Torquay and Paignton Harbour account at the end of 2006/07 as a full structural survey of Haldon Pier is needed. KM asked for feedback on the proposed 3% or 5%. TE said that he could not see any reason for a 5% increase but a 3% increase was sensible. There was a general agreement with this.

6. HARBOUR COMMITTEE

KM gave details of the agenda for the 4th December meeting.

7. HARBOUR/MARITIME STRATEGY

KM reported that the second draft had been sent out for consultation and is available on the website. He explained that the consultation would finish on the 31st December; the report would then be presented to Cabinet in January and Full Council in February.

8. PAIGNTON HARBOUR CAR PARK (TE)

TE explained that earlier in the year he had met with Steve Hurley from the Council's Car Park department regarding lower car parking charges for the Paignton Harbour Users when parking in the Roundham Road car park. TE said that he had been given the impression that this would commence during the summer. KM said that a trial of a combined launch and parking charge had been introduced in August, however the harbour user reduced parking permit had not. KM said that the issue needs to be raised again. JT said that the height restriction barrier on the car park had caused a problem with the combined charge as many of the owners tow their boats with 4X4's however this should be resolved for next season by the Car Parks department. TE said that the harbour would operate more safely if there was no parking on the harbour. KM said that he would send an email to Steve Hurley on behalf of the Liaison Forum and asked TE to send one on behalf of the Paignton Harbour Users. JT said that the idea had also been supported by the local Ward Partnership.

ACTION: KM & TE to email Steve Hurley.

9. DECRIMINALISED PARKING – TRIAL AT PAIGNTON HARBOUR IN 2007

KM said that he had watched with interest the situation with the decriminalised parking on the highways in Torbay. He said that although parking on the Harbour Estate is a byelaw offence it is very difficult to enforce. KM said that there are fewer problems in Torquay Harbour as the traffic barrier controls the situation. KM said that in Paignton harbour he would like to trial decriminalised parking on the harbour estate. He explained that he did not plan to use NCP for enforcement but a fixed penalty system would work on a common sense approach. TE said that it would be a good thing provided it is run with common sense. MH asked if it would be discussed at the Harbour Committee. KM explained that he would be discussing it with the Chairman and if it was considered to be controversial a report will be presented to the March Harbour Committee. RH said that he thought it was a sensible idea if operated by the Harbour staff. TE suggested that it needed to be introduced in conjunction with the reduced parking permit scheme.

10. PORT WASTE RECYCLING FACILITIES

PL explained that a company who has been working with Salcombe Harbour had approached him and KM with a proposal to introduce a recycling scheme in Tor Bay Harbour. KM explained that the proposals involved a bag system which was mainly aimed at visitors to leisure ports. KM said that with a modest investment visitors could be provided with the bag system and residents could be made aware of the new scheme. KM said that he was already in discussions with MDL about the subject. RH said that he felt people could use recycling facilities without bags. RP said that the Marina already has glass, paper and can recycling facilities. RH suggested that information on where facilities for recycling are around the harbour should be included in a welcome pack for visitors. RH also said that most boat owners would prefer to be able to recycle.

11. SEA GRASS PROJECT

PL explained that the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust had received a grant for a one year project to research and monitor the sea grass beds in Tor Bay. He explained that these are situated at Livermead, Elberry Cove, Fishcombe Cove and Saltern Cove. There is more sea grass in Tor Bay than was originally thought. PL said that the project team are looking for outputs of advice to boat owners, interpretation boards on the beaches, voluntary protected areas and to raise the profile of the sea grass. PL said anyone wanting further information should contact him. RC suggested that as the sea grass grows in ski lanes etc the activity in the area may help the sea grass to grow. PL said that the TCCT want to take precautionary measures and the Harbour Authority to need to meet them half way. PL suggested that colleagues from the TCCT could give a presentation at the March Liaison Forum meeting or if a decision is needed before hand a special meeting could be held.

12. LDF CONSULTATION

KM explained that as an established example of community liaison the Forum had been chosen to consult with on the Local Development Framework. KM distributed copies of the Statement of Community Involvement and explained that it is out for consultation until 15th December. He asked anyone that was interested, to respond individually. DB explained that it is a very bureaucratic system but it is a government system not Torbay Councils.

KM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

Meeting closed 12.20pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:	6th March 2007	10.30am
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DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:	4th December 2006	4.30pm
	19th March 2007	4.30pm