



Torquay/Paignton
Harbour Liaison Forum

Tuesday 6th March 2007
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended: Capt. K Mowat (KM) Capt. P Labistour (PL) Cllr D Browne (DB)
Mr R Perry (RP) Mrs C Scott (CS) Mr M Ould (MO)
Mr A Lane (AL) Mr John Turner (JT) Mr Terry Ekers (TE)
Mrs Y Twelves (YT)

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllr G Jennings, Mr J Carter, and Mr R Cudmore.

KM welcomed AL and CS.

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) Liaison Forum Representatives

KM reminded the Forum that as Irene Bolus was no longer attending a new pleasure boat representative had been sought. CS advised that she had contacted the other operators and they were supportive of her representing them. The Forum Members were comfortable with CS attending.

(b) Paignton Harbour Car Park

KM said that he had contacted Steve Hurley who had indicated that a reduced car park permit for Paignton Harbour Users would be £300 per year. TE said that he did not think that the harbour users would support this as it is three times the cost of the Brixham Harbour concessionary ticket. TE said that he had also contacted Steve Hurley and had been told that the cost would be £80 for 3 months or £300 per year. KM indicated that Steve Hurley may be fearful of setting a precedent. KM suggested that he could invite Steve Hurley to attend the next Harbour Liaison Forum meeting, all agreed. KM also agreed to promote the £300 per year and £80 per 3 months parking tickets through the Paignton Harbour Office.

ACTION: Steve Hurley to attend next Liaison Forum, reduced car park tickets to be promoted through the Paignton Harbour Office.

4. **CAPITAL WORKS**

(a) Town Dock Update

KM explained the following the tender process only two tenders were submitted and only one of them was valid, it would not have been appropriate to award a tender on this basis. Further wave analysis has been commissioned and the contract will be re-tendered in the summer with a commencement date of 1st October 2007. KM reminded Forum members that it is a design and build contract and once the contract is awarded he will call an extraordinary Liaison Forum meeting to gain feedback on the proposed Town Dock layout.

ACTION: Extraordinary meeting of Liaison Forum to be arranged when the layout plans are known.

5. MUNICIPAL PORTS REVIEW

(a) New Terms of Reference

KM explained that the work of the Municipal Ports Working Party was completed in January and a report of their findings was presented to the Harbour Committee at an extraordinary meeting in February. A report was then taken to the Constitutional Working Party who made some further fine adjustments. Finally a report was taken to the Council meeting on the 1st March where the Harbour Committee Terms of Reference and Local Protocol were approved. Copies of the Schedule of Implementation, Terms of Reference and Local Protocol were distributed. KM said that the new Committee would have the power such as making financial decisions, acting as the Duty Holder for the Port Marine Safety Code and providing strategic direction. The Committee will be made up of 7 members of the Council and up to 6 non voting external advisors.

(b) New Protocol

KM advised that the Protocol gives information about how the Committee will work and the requirements of the members of the committee. KM said that he felt that this was a huge step forward for the Harbours and it was made in the interest of good governance. KM also advised that adverts would be placed around the end of April for the recruitment of non voting external advisor positions.

6. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – Upcoming Agenda

KM gave information about the items on the agenda of the forthcoming Harbour Committee meeting. KM invited all to attend the meeting which will be held at Torquay Town Hall on Monday 19th March 2007 at 4.30pm.

7. STAGECOACH FERRY

KM explained that he had been approached by the Local Transport Planners last year regarding the possibility of a Stagecoach operated ferry as this concept is included in the Local Transport Plan. The Mayor then asked senior officers to carry out further investigative work. Stagecoach have employed consultants and sought advice from a River Link representative. The Chief Executive of Stagecoach made a presentation to the Mayors Liaison Group just prior to the press release. KM said that he has highlighted to all concerned that it will cause disruption to current harbour users and that it is important to consult with the harbour users. KM stressed that at present this is only a concept and no written proposal had been submitted. KM explained that any decisions on the ferry would need to be made by the new Harbour Committee. MO expressed concerns about the proposal. KM advised that as a Harbour Master he would be obliged to find a site for embarkation and disembarkation of passengers for any passenger carrying vessel. He also explained that Stagecoach were not looking for any form of booking facility and they planned to moor alongside the embarkation facility. DB explained that the subject had also been briefly discussed at the Transport Working Party. CS said that she was surprised that River Link were involved as they are river based. KM said he would be involving the MCA at the appropriate time and seeking advice on the port security issues. TE asked if Stagecoach were planning to take the ferry into Paignton Harbour. KM said that they were not at present. DB explained that the government will provide funding for such initiatives. TE asked if funding would be available to current operators. PL suggested that Peter Brunt attended the next Liaison Forum to explain this issue further. KM said that he was willing to answer any questions that Forum Members may have and that if anyone felt strongly about the issue they may wish to write to the Mayor, the Chairman on the Harbour Committee or himself.

ACTION: KM to arrange for Peter Brunt to attend the next Liaison Forum.

8. MOORING POLICY

KM explained that he was in the process of writing a Mooring Policy to assist in the clear and accountable management of all facilities within the three harbours. Currently the only written document is the terms and conditions detailed on the back of the Facility Form Accounts. KM said he was planning to distribute a draft copy of the policy by the middle of March for Forum Members to comment on. Once the Liaison Forums have

been consulted it will be taken to the June Harbour Committee meeting. JT explained that input had been sought from other harbours. YT requested email addresses to enable documents to be emailed to Forum Members. KM said that he was planning to include a section in the policy about the Commercial Passenger Boat waiting list.

ACTION: KM to circulate draft moorings policy for consideration.

9. HARBOUR/MARITIME STRATEGY

KM advised that this is now completed and adopted by the Council. Bound copies will be available from the Harbour Offices in the summer or the document can be printed from the website.

10. MARITIME STRATEGY

As dealt with above.

11. DECRIMINALISED PARKING – TRIAL AT PAIGNTON HARBOUR IN 2007

KM stated that a report will be presented to the next Harbour Committee on the concept of decriminalised parking on the Harbour Estate. It will include a recommendation to put a contract out to tender to set up the decriminalised parking process. Specific areas will then have parking regulations and a breach of the regulations would result in a fine. KM advised that the original plan of the Harbour staff enforcing the regulations was not feasible as this would require additional IT equipment, appeals boards etc. So the proposal would now be for NCP to enforce the regulations and in Torquay and Paignton they would be asked to attend the harbours when required. TE asked when this would be put in place. KM advised that it would be 2008/09 at the earliest. KM advised that the set up costs for this would be in the region of £25,000 split between the three harbours. KM said that the Local Government White Paper indicated that there may be the ability to give fixed penalties for byelaw offences in the future which may be another way of dealing with the situation.

12. OPRC PLAN

PL explained that the Tor Bay Oil Spill Response plan is a statutory requirement. The plan is now due for review so it has been sent to a number of stakeholders for comment, the final version will then be sent to the MCA for approval. Anyone who wants a copy of the plan should contact PL. AL asked if there were any significant changes to the plan since the Napoli incident. KM explained that during the Napoli incident Tor Bay put their tier two responder on standby but at present no significant changes to the plan were required.

13. SEA GRASS PROJECT/BAP

PL explained that the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust had written a Biodiversity Action Plan which included protecting the sea grass in Tor Bay. The areas of sea grass have been mapped and Marine Services have been working in partnership with the TCCT to create plans to protect the areas. There are plans for information boards, marker buoys and a voluntary code of practice for the fishing industry to raise awareness of the issue. PL explained that these areas are mainly situated at Livermead, Elberry Cove, Fishcombe Cove and Saltern Cove. KM highlighted the fact that this would not be costing the Marine Services account anything at present.

CS asked if there was a mission statement for the Liaison Forum. KM said that within the Terms of Reference for the Harbour Committee there is a requirement of the Harbour Committee to recommend the format, composition and governance of the Harbour Liaison Forums but at present there is no constitution. KM explained that links would also be established with the Local Ward Partnership groups. KM asked anyone with ideas about the constitution of the Liaison Forums to pass them to him.

KM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

Meeting closed 12.10pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

5th June 2007 10.30am
4th September 2007 10.30am
20th November 2007 10.30am
4th March 2008 10.30am

DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:

19th March 2007 4.30pm
18th June 2007 4.30pm
18th September 2007 4.30pm
3rd December 2007 4.30pm