



Report 70/2007
Harbour Committee – 19 March 2007

Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum

Thursday 8th March 2007
14.00 at Brixham Yacht Club,
Brixham

Attended:	Capt. K Mowat (KM)	Capt. P Labistour (PL)	Cllr D Browne (Cllr. B)
	Cllr J Davis (JD)	Cllr C Lomas (CL)	Mr N Davis (ND)
	Mr R Perry (RP)	Mr C Bedford (CB)	Mr R Smith (RS)
	Mrs S Armstrong (AS)	Mr R Curtis (RC)	Mr D Ham (DH)
	Mr Dave Bartlett (DB)	Mr D Putt (DP)	Mr D Flint (DF)
	Mr D Becconsall (DB)	Mrs Y Twelves (YT)	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr G Jennings, Mr J Carter, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Mr K Bower.

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) Security Staff

PL explained that at the last meeting SA had asked if the number of security staff would return to four and at the time they had thought that three would be enough. However, following internal discussions and with the forthcoming repair works it has become clear that four security staff will be required.

(b) Environmental Management Group

PL explained that the Environmental Management Group met on the 12th December 2006 and the subject of refuelling was discussed. PL said that he would be distributing the minutes soon and the next meeting will be 12th April 2007. PL said that Taylor Fuels will be providing a quote for independent risk assessments of the quayside fuelling process which will be jointly funded by BTA. PL explained that the Tor Bay Harbour Oil Spill Contingency 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. PL explained that during the Napoli incident Tor Bay Harbour put their tier two responder on standby but at present no significant changes to the plan were required as a result of the incident.

(c) Mooring Contract

PL asked Sandy to let him know when she wanted him to attend a Harbour Users meeting.

(d) Sea Grass Project

PL explained that Dominic Flint would give an overview of the project later in the meeting.

(e) South West Water – Fresh Water Supply

CB asked if there was any update on the situation with SWW. PL said that all of the inappropriate taps had been disconnected but the issue had not yet been fully resolved. PL explained that the issue would be fully resolved as part of the regeneration process. RS said that the requirements are totally impractical and unworkable. KM said that it was not just harbours on the South West coast that had been targeted and some ports are spending very large sums of money to comply with the regulations despite the ports industry not having been properly consulted.

4. OUTSTANDING REPAIRS

PL reported that the sacrificial anodes work was completed with the exception of the contractors returning to carry out final checks and a maintenance contract being agreed. PL reported that the work on Middle Pier would be completed in the following two weeks. PL said that the experimental fender work would commence 1st April 2007 and take approximately two weeks to complete. PL said the tenders were not yet returned for the East Quay resurfacing contract but that work would hopefully commence in June and last approximately three months, however the work around the passenger steps would be carried out in October to avoid the busy period.

Cllr B arrived.

5. MARITIME EVENTS

PL distributed copies of the maritime events list and explained that the document is constantly being updated and the most up-to-date version is published on the website. KM said that following requests from the Liaison Forum he had ensured that the events list was published on the internet before the Christmas break. KM highlighted the fact that he is coming under increased pressure to fund maritime events through the Marine Services budget. He explained that Marine Services have always facilitated events and given support through foregone income such as harbour dues and officer time. KM asked if he was properly representing the feelings of the Forum on this issue. CL asked how much money was involved; KM explained that the port fees for events are often in the region of £10,000 or £20,000. CB said that he felt KM was correct to resist supporting the events financially and that the TDA and the private sector should work together on a 6 year plan to attract sponsors to fund the events. PL said that the Prince William was alongside the quay for a few days to change crew and have an open day. RC asked if they had paid harbour dues and pilotage. PL said that the harbour dues were foregone income which would be reported to the Harbour Committee Chairman and the vessel was paying its own pilotage.

6. 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 copies of which are available at www.countryside/trust.org.uk. The areas of sea grass have been mapped and Marine Services have been working in partnership with the TCCT to create plans to help protect the areas. PL introduced Dominic Flint who explained that 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. PL highlighted the fact that this initiative was not costing the Marine Services account anything apart from officer time. PL explained that the outputs would be finalised over the forthcoming months and then the Liaison Forums would be consulted and a report would be presented to the Harbour Committee. DF gave a brief presentation. DF explained that some areas had been designated voluntary no scalloping areas to protect the seagrass. Cllr B asked if the water skiing could be having a beneficial effect. DF said that they did not know for sure but there are indications that vessels moving at high speeds in very shallow water cause the seagrass to recede. PL said that more fishing industry representation was needed on the Forum. RC asked why the easterly gales did not cause problems to the seagrass, DF said that they did. DF explained that anchorage

causes damage to the rhizomes. DF said that it is important to map out the habitats and carry out spatial planning. KM thanked everyone for raising the points that he and PL had been raising with DF recently and explained that the Maritime Strategy includes a section about gathering data in order to carry out proper spatial planning to ensure a balance is being maintained.

7. REGENERATION UPDATE

PL advised the Forum that negotiations with BTA on how best to manage the market were ongoing. The consents and planning permissions are all approved. The termination and agreement of new leases is being carried out by Vickery Holman Estate Management and Michelmores Solicitors. Negotiations are going well and most tenants will be getting bigger and better units. SA asked what will happen to tenants during the development. KM said that most tenants were moving to Oxen Cove which will already be completed by the time they need to vacate the New Fish Quay building. The others will be housed in temporary accommodation. PL reported that the tender process is nearing completion and a panel will evaluate the tenders and award the contract. PL also said that a Freshwater Quarry/Outer Harbour development brief is being put together.

DP apologised and left the meeting.

8. 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. 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.

(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. KM explained that the advisors terms of service would be staggered initially to ensure that they did not all change at once, he also explained that there would not be a remuneration package for advisors.

9. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – Upcoming Agenda

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

10. OPRC PLAN

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. 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. CB expressed concerns for safety in the Bay. SA said that obviously she had an interest in the subject but that she had major concerns about the safety and economic issues. CL said that he did not feel that the plan was viable. DB explained that the government will provide funding for such initiatives. KM reassured everyone that there would be wide spread consultation and that the views that had been expressed were very similar to those expressed by the Torquay and Paignton Liaison Forum. PL suggested that a Transport Planner attended the next meeting to discuss the issue. KM said that if anyone felt strongly about the issue they may wish to write to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Harbour Committee or himself.

ACTION: PL to arrange for a Transport Planner to attend the next Liaison Forum.

PL closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

Meeting closed 16.00pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

7 th June 2007	14.00pm
6 th September 2007	14.00pm
22 th November 2007	14.00pm
6 th March 2008	14.00pm

DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:

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