



Torquay/Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum

Tuesday 3rd June 2008
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended:	Capt. K Mowat (KM)	Capt. P Labistour (PL)	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)
	Cllr N Amil (NA)	Cllr R Excel (RE)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
	Mr John Turner (JT)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr N Penman (NP)
	Mrs H Meacock (HM)	Mr M Ould (MO)	Mr R Cudmore (RC)
	Mr T Ekers (TE)	Mrs Y Twelves (YT)	

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Mrs C Scott, Cllr R Horne, Cllr P Addis, Mr J Carter, & Mr R Gater.

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) Paignton Harbour Car Park

KM explained that this matter had now been discussed at the Paignton Harbour Users meeting and asked NP what feedback he had received. NP said that there had not been much interest as people did not feel that it was fair that they would have a one in three chance of getting a space. JB pointed out that some people would be in the spaces each day from early morning to evening which would make it difficult for others who had purchased tickets to utilise the spaces. KM suggested that the Paignton Harbour Users may wish to make a direct approach to their ward councillors or the car parks department to plead their case. KM said that he did not feel that the Liaison Forum could do anything further to assist the situation.

(b) Stagecoach Ferry

KM said that he had attended an internal meeting on the 14th March 2008. KM explained that not all the planning officers believed that the case had been made to convince people that a high speed ferry would resolve the transport issues in the Bay but he had not received any further updates since that meeting. HM explained that there had been a change of staff at Stagecoach and she felt that the new employees were not as keen on the idea and therefore it might not progress. HM said that they did not want to use Princess Pier for embarkation and disembarkation and now that the Town Dock is in place there are very few other options. KM said that both he and PL would like to see embarkation and disembarkation facilities for passenger boats improve in the future. KM said that his preferred option would be a single terminus at each of the harbours. KM asked HM if the Torbay Pleasure Boat Association was still in existence and she confirmed that it was and that she hoped that it would bring the pleasure boat industry in Torbay into the 21st century. (Post meeting note – Geoff Coleman has since spoken with KM and has suggested that Stagecoach still have an appetite to proceed with their fast ferry proposals)

(c) Alcohol Ban Paignton Harbour

JF said that she had discussed the matter with Alan Faulkner who had said that it should be raised as a new request to the Licensing Committee. JT said that alcohol consumption on the harbour side and surrounding area remains a big problem. NA said

that she is on the Licensing Committee as well as the Harbour Committee so could provide a link. All agreed that the community are supportive of the proposed alcohol ban. RE advised that Cllr L Atkins has the responsibility for safety in the community; therefore it would be advisable to involve her. KM said that he would contact Cllr Atkins and would be grateful of any support that NA could give. NP asked if a letter from the Paignton Harbour Users Association would be helpful, all agreed that it would.

ACTION: KM to contact Cllr Atkins, NA to give support, NP to arrange letter.

(d) Environmental Zoning

KM explained that this item had arisen out of a discussion during the last meeting about the request to install water and electricity at the Inner Harbour slipway. KM confirmed that he had had a successful meeting with EL. EL will be trying to involve someone from Plymouth University to take the environmental issues for the Harbour forward. KM said that he would update the Liaison Forum on progress when more information is available. RC said that he felt it was important that boat owners who used the slipway to clean off their boat were made to clean the slipway afterwards. NP pointed out that at Dartside a fine is imposed on anyone who does not clean up after themselves. KM explained the legislative situation regarding fixed penalties but promised to be tougher on enforcement of the relevant harbour byelaws.

(e) Winter Storage

KM confirmed that questions had been included in the Annual Harbour User survey regarding requirements for winter storage and that judging from a random selection of responses people did not feel that an adequate amount of winter storage was being provided in Torbay. KM explained that a full report detailing the results of the survey will be presented to the September Harbour Committee meeting. PL reported that Brixham Harbour will be providing some winter storage for the 2008/09 period. A discussion about the difficulties with winter storage at Paignton Harbour, other possible locations and the prohibitive costs on the Dart took place.

(f) 2012 Olympics

WB explained that an online training camp brochure will be available in August which will feature Torbay. It was agreed that Torbay should only accept fully funded teams which would provide wider economic benefit to the local area. WB explained that there are 40 sailing nations some of whom have booked to train at Weymouth but Torbay would provide a good second choice. KM confirmed that he felt that the Harbour Committee would support fully funded teams.

4. CAPITAL WORKS

(a) Town Dock Update

KM explained that the Town Dock is up and running, the official opening took place on the 18th April where RH cut the ribbon. KM said that the contractors would be on site regarding some snagging items including the locking system, the signage had been ordered and one corner of the dock would need to be reconfigured due to wave action. Generally feedback had been very positive but there is currently a problem with seagulls which KM is looking into ways of resolving. PL confirmed that the seagulls are becoming a very big problem in Brixham. A discussion took place regarding possible solutions to the seagull problem and KM agreed to contact Environmental Health for some advice. WB asked about the situation with visiting vessels when events take place. KM said that he would prefer events vessels to use the pontoons alongside Haldon Pier and that a gangway to provide easier access would hopefully be in place at the end of June. NP asked if the Town Dock was full as seeing the empty berths is disconcerting and frustrating for those on the waiting list. KM explained that some people had been waiting more than ten years for a berth and now needed to be given a reasonable length of time to find an appropriate vessel. RE asked if berths could be sublet. KM explained this is prohibited as people could make money out of a Council asset. In the future customers will be encouraged to let the Harbour Office know when

their vessels are away to enable the berths to be re-let to visitors temporarily. JB said that the finger pontoons are springy and it was agreed that some warning signage might be appropriate. A discussion about the electricity and water supplies on the Town Dock took place.

ACTION: KM to contact Environmental Health for some advice on dealing with seagulls. Signage regarding the springy pontoons was agreed.

5. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – Upcoming Agenda

KM reminded everyone that the next Harbour Committee meeting is on Monday 16th June 2008 at 5.30 in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Torquay and all are welcome to attend. KM gave an overview of the agenda items.

6. TORBAY COASTAL FORUM

KM explained that this is a new forum to address the full range of coastal issues in Tor Bay. It will involve, among others, the Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust, Natural England and the Devon Maritime Forum. The inaugural meeting will take place on 19th June 2008 and will be by invitation only. The first meeting will be chaired by KM, then an independent chair will be appointed and those attending will discuss how to take the Forum forward. KM asked for feedback from the Liaison Forum. RE asked what the Torbay Coastal Forum hoped to achieve, KM explained that they will set their own aims and objectives. They will represent the coastal interests in the Bay and feed into the Local Strategic Partnership, the Cabinet, the Mayor and the Harbour Committee. KM said that Harbour Committee Chairman will be invited to the meeting and the agenda and minutes will be presented at the next Liaison Forum meeting. JF asked if the minutes would be presented to the Harbour Committee meeting. KM confirmed that they would.

ACTION: Minutes of Torbay Coastal Forum to be presented to Harbour Committee and the Liaison Forum.

7. PORT MASTER PLAN

KM explained that the Department for Transport are currently consulting on their Port Master Plan Guidance. The guidance states that Ports larger than Tor Bay should have a Port Master Plan and recommends that all ports consider having a Port Master Plan. KM asked for feedback and thoughts at the next meeting. A discussion about Beacon Cove took place. KM recommended that all Liaison Forum members look at the Port Master Plans consultation document which may be found at:-

www.dft.gov.uk/consultation/open/portmasterplans/

ACTION: All to consider Port Master Plans and discuss at next meeting.

KM thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone that they are welcome to add agenda items up to the day before the meeting;

PL notified everyone of the tragic death of Mr Chris Boyce – Brixham Harbour Dockmaster/Security Officer.

Meeting closed 12.15pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

26 th August 2008	10.30am
25 th November 2008	10.30am
10 th March 2009	10.30am

DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:

16 th June 2008	5.30pm
8 th September 2008	5.30pm
9 th December 2008	5.30pm
23 rd March 2009	5.30pm

Thursday 5th June 2008
10.30 at Brixham Yacht Club,
Brixham

Attended: Capt. K Mowat (KM) Capt. P Labistour (PL) Mr D Bartlett (DB)
Mrs S Armstrong (SA) Mr C Bedford (CB) Mr D Jones (DJ)
Mr D Carey (DC) Mr R Williams (RW) Mrs Y Twelves (YT)
N Henderson (NH)

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Mr R Smith, Mr R Curtis, Mr D Ham, Mr N Wright, Cllr R Horne, and Mr J Carter.

9. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record of the meeting with the exception of Cllr Horne's name being spelt incorrectly on the first page.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Winter Storage

PL explained that questions had been included in the Annual Harbour User survey regarding requirements for winter storage and that judging from a random selection of responses people did not feel that an adequate amount of winter storage was being provided in Torbay. PL said that a full report detailing the results of the survey will be presented to the September meeting of the Harbour Committee and an analysis will be tabled at the next Liaison Forum meeting. PL reported that Brixham Harbour will be providing some winter storage for the 2008/09 period on Breakwater Hard and some vessels on Oxen Cove. It was agreed that each year the possibility of winter storage at Brixham Harbour should be considered and weighed up against the regeneration situation. NH pointed out that there is likely to be greater demand for winter storage as some of the facilities on the Dart are disappearing. SA raised the fact that once a Northern Arm is built the requirement for winter storage would be likely to decline. A discussion about the land-use planning system and the fragile existence of the land-water interface took place. SA suggested the idea of dry stacking. KM explained that this had been included in a question within the survey but this concept is still relatively new to the UK and there are not many in the South West. A discussion took place about the option of winter storage at Berry Head quarry and KM explained that he and the Chairman had already visited the site.

DC arrived.

South West Water

RW asked about the results of the water sampling. PL agreed to forward the result to RW and DC. PL said that so far the results had been clear and South West Water had agreed to let Torbay Council have information about any outfall releases. PL explained that notification will then be cascaded down. RW said that he would like a copy of the letter that PL was referring to.

ACTION: PL to provide RW and DC with water sampling results, PL to give RW copy of letter.

Regeneration Stakeholders Meetings

PL pointed out that the next Regeneration Stakeholder meeting would be held on 11th June at 2pm and every fourth week thereafter. PL said that everyone is welcome to attend or go on the distribution list. PL gave a review of the last meeting and explained

that the webcam and information regarding the regeneration can be reviewed at www.brixhamfishmarket.info. A discussion about the fuel crisis and the impact on the fisherman took place. CB said that he would be meeting Jim Portus and would feedback to the next meeting.

Torbay Coastal Forum

PL explained that this is a new forum to address the full range of issues affecting Torbays's coast. It will involve, among others, the Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust, Natural England and the Devon Maritime Forum. The inaugural meeting will take place on 19th June 2008 at 09.30 in the Berry Head Hotel and will be by invitation only. The first meeting will be chaired by KM, then an independent chair will be appointed and those attending will then discuss how to take the Forum forward. PL gave details of the invitees and explained that the Forum will set its own aims and objectives. They will represent the coastal interests in the Bay and hopefully feed into the Local Strategic Partnership, the Cabinet, the Mayor and the Harbour Committee. KM said that he felt strongly that Torbay needs a Coastal Forum to provide a balanced view as mirrored in the draft Marine Bill. i.e. social, economic & environmental. Minutes of the meeting will be presented at the next Liaison Forum meeting and the Harbour Committee meeting.

11. RENGENERATION

PL advised that Torbay Council had signed an agreement for over £8 million of grant funding towards the £17m fish quay & market scheme and this means that the money is now available for Phase 1. PL said that there were paragraphs within the agreement giving the RDA certain rights in respect of Freshwater Quarry and Oxen Cove. A discussion took place about BM21.

12. PARISH POLL

PL gave details of the questions being asked by the parish poll. SA explained that BM21 had produced a newsletter which will be delivered door to door prior to the Parish Poll. PL pointed out that the Harbour Committee had not been consulted on the questions included in the Parish Poll that related directly to the future of the harbour.

13. COASTGUARD NAVIGATION WARNINGS

PL said that this item had arisen following an incident at the weekend where a trawler had recovered some unexploded ordnance. PL confirmed that the coastguards and the individual harbour offices are happy to issue navigation warnings. SA said that it had not been clear where the ordnance was going to be buoyed off and dealt with. SA said that she was very concerned to note that the water-ski championships were taking place very close to the designated point. KM said that he had heard various versions of the incident and would be investigating the situation and producing a report. KM said that the standard procedure in a situation like this would be to buoy the ordnance one mile North-Northwest of the Brixham Breakwater. KM also pointed out that exclusion zones can only ever be advisory and they are difficult to police.

14. PORT SECURITY PLAN

PL explained that the Port Security Plan relates solely to large passenger vessels and as the passenger vessels within Torbay are smaller than the stated size Tor Bay does not have to produce a plan, however the occasional cruise liner visit to the Bay has led the Harbour Authority to produce a port security plan. PL said that he is the Port Security Officer for Tor Bay and a successful Security Committee meeting had taken place the previous day. A discussion about the security situation with the American support ships took place.

15. HARBOUR COMMITTEE AGENDA

PL reminded everyone that the next Harbour Committee meeting is on Monday 16th June 2008 at 5.30 in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Torquay and all are welcome to

attend. PL gave an overview of the agenda items. PL reminded everyone that copies of the minutes of the meetings and reports are available on the internet, however the minutes are not agreed and published until the following meeting has taken place so it is not possible to present the most recent minutes at the Liaison Forum meetings. KM said that he was hoping to arrange for the Tor Bay Harbour website to link directly to the Harbour Committee publications. A discussion took place about the Harbour Committee Advisors and their voting entitlements.

16. PORT MASTER PLAN

KM explained that the DfT are currently consulting on their Port Master Plan Guidance. The guidance states that Ports larger than Tor Bay should have a Port Master Plan and recommends that all ports consider having a Port Master Plan. KM asked for feedback and thoughts at the next meeting. KM recommended that all Liaison Forum members look at the consultation document which may be found at :-

www.dft.gov.uk/consultation/open/portmasterplans/

ACTION: All to consider Port Master Plans and discuss at next meeting.

RW raised concerns about the small number of people attending the meeting. PL said that he would like to see representatives attend when appropriate and also agreed to chase up key stakeholders and elected members prior to the next meeting.

ACTION: PL to look into attendance.

SA asked for an update on the Stagecoach ferry proposal, KM said that at the Torquay Liaison Forum Helen Meacock had said that since the change of personnel at Stagecoach there was no longer an appetite for the project. However, later that day KM had received a phone call from Geoff Coleman to the contrary.

KM said that as part of the reshaping of the Council, Harbours would become a separate entity and no longer part of the Torbay Development Agency. KM said that he had met with Elizabeth Raikes to discuss the future of Harbours and they had agreed Harbours would remain part of the TDA until the new Chief Executive is appointed but then customers will start to see the a Tor Bay Harbour brand emerge.

PL thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 12.05pm

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

28th August 2008	10.30am
27th November 2008	10.30am

DATES OF HARBOUR COMMITTEE:

16th June 2008	5.30pm
8th September 2008	5.30pm
9th December 2008	5.30pm
23rd March 2009	5.30pm