

Wednesday 26 November 2008
10.30 at Brixham Yacht Club, Brixham

Attended:

Capt. P Labistour (PL)
Cllr C Bedford (CB)
Mr D Putt (DP)
Cllr M Hodge (MH)
Mr D Ham (DH)
Mr P Aggett PA)
Mr A Haynes (AH)

Mrs A Wilson (AW)
Mr R Williams (RW)
Mr B Curtis (BC)
Mr N Davies (ND)
Mr A Lloyd (AL)
Mr R Richardson (RR)
Mr D Jones (DJ)

Mrs S Armstrong (SA)
Mr R Smith (RS)
Cllr M Morey (MM)
Mr S Smith (SS)
Cllr G Oliver (GO)
Ms M Spiller (MS)

1. APOLOGIES :

Apologies were received from Kevin Mowat and Dave Bartlett

PL asked all members to email their email address to Brixham.Harbour@torbay.gov.uk to enable future correspondence to be electronically sent.

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) Stagecoach Ferry

PL explained that the Harbour Authority had not heard anything formally in writing from Stagecoach as to their future plans but at a recent meeting their consultant had indicated that they did want to set up at the earliest opportunity but this could not be done until the right infrastructure was in place. He thought it highly unlikely they would be providing a service next year as the infrastructure was not in place.

Cllr MM asked if a report was still going to the Harbour Committee.

PL replied that he and Kevin Mowat were not in a position to write a report to the Committee as no firm proposals had been received from Stagecoach.

PL mentioned that there had been a report done between Western Ladies and Greenway Ferries which had gone to all elected members. SA said she was happy to forward this report to any Forum member who would like to see it. PL also added there was a copy in the Harbour Office which can be made available.

There was brief discussion about both the report commissioned by Stagecoach (PL indicated that this had not been released) and also the report produced by the existing local operators. Cllr CB was concerned that Stagecoach had not run at a viable rate as they had been charging at £1/head so any report was not really going to be accurate.

PL said that the Harbour Masters thought that a dedicated project team was needed to take this fast ferry proposal forward.

Cllr GO mentioned that it would be a good idea to invite Geoff Coleman and Cllr Lewis to attend the next Harbour Committee meeting to discuss transportation issues in the Bay.

Cllr GO said that he had asked Kevin Mowat to request views from Stagecoach in writing, regarding what service they intended to run, how long for and confirmation as to what facilities they would require from Tor Bay Harbour Authority. He said that until we get a reply there is nothing more we can do.

Action: KM to chase up Stagecoach for a written proposal and to invite Geoff Coleman and Cllr Lewis to the next Harbour Committee meeting.

(b) Assets

RS asked if there was any update regarding the possible centralisation of harbour assets.

PL replied that this was an ongoing debate within the Council about its assets and advised the Forum that with the current financing of the Harbour & Marine Services business unit it was essential to contain the current assets within the harbour estate. He advised the Forum and that there was to be a working party meeting soon to review the existing harbour assets and he would advise the Forum of the outcome at the next meeting.

Action: PL to report back regarding Harbour Assets

(c) Underwater Survey

RS asked for the results of the underwater survey.

PL replied that as part of the harbours inspection and maintenance regime, this year underwater inspections had taken place at all harbours by Millennium Marine –the results were back and a meeting had been set up with Nick Garswood the Council's Engineer and Millennium to discuss the results. The main issue that PL had noted was that a number of anodes had been found on the seabed in the MFV basin and we were of the opinion that they were due to weld failure. The Harbour Authority had been in discussion with the original contractor Corrosion Control on the issue and we were awaiting their reply.

Action: PL will bring report back to next Liaison Forum and/or the Harbour Committee

4. DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE HARBOUR LIAISON FORUMS

PI explained that this was a requirement which related to the Guide to Good Governance for Trust Ports that government recommended should be followed by the municipal ports. He mentioned that a copy should have gone to all Forum members and any comments were welcome. After any changes the constitution would go to the Harbour Committee for approval. A discussion followed on appropriate membership of the Forum. RW asked how the secretariat support would work in the future. PL replied that the Harbour Authority was happy to provide this support if required.

Action: PL to provide list of current members and list of potential stakeholders which can be discussed at the next meeting. All Forum members to provide feedback.

5. WINTER STORAGE

PL said that about 30 boats had been stored on the Breakwater and all had gone successfully and together with the Yacht Club it appeared that winter storage had been taken care of for this year. The Forum needs to decide if we are to continue with this service.

BC asked what had happened regarding the proposal to use Berry Head quarry as he thought it was ideal.

SS said that MDL's storage facilities were full to capacity and that there were over 5,000 boats on the Dart and in Torbay so there is a further need for more space to be available for winter storage.

Action: PL to ask Cllr Horne and Kevin Mowat what was the outcome of their meeting with the Countryside Trust.

6. PORT MASTER PLANS

PL advised that the Harbour Authority would be looking to see if this could be done in-house to support the harbour's position within Torbay Council, especially in the context of medium and long term plans. The idea would be to take elements from existing and other plans and work with these to get started. Cllr GO agreed it was necessary to use local talent rather than outside consultants.

PL informed the Forum that we are not obliged to write a Master Plan but it is expected that small to medium ports with big ambitions should be looking to have a plan which would help to convince the RDA etc to fund port related projects.

Action PL to bring this to the next meeting

7. HARBOUR BUDGET AND CHARGES

PL said that every year Kevin Mowat writes to all user groups and takes a budget forecast to the Harbour Committee. This year the increase being recommended is 3%, 5% or 7%. He added that harbour users had previously indicated they would rather have consistency. i.e. steady increase

SA agreed that rather than taking a hard hit one year she would prefer a steady 2% year on year and then they could budget.

Cllr CB commented that you had to justify the increase to mooring holders. He also wondered why fish toll income was always under estimated and asked if Rick could provide a reasonable figure for next year.

RS said it is very difficult to predict and gave the example of the anchovies worth £1million last year and this year they didn't appear!

RW said that Torbay Council staff had received a rise of 2.45% cost of living so perhaps that is the figure we should be looking at.

PL replied this debate is a good indicator to give to elected members

8. PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE AUDIT

PL informed the group that the PMSC was a safety management system to assist in managing risks in the port. He referred to a report from the MAIB concerning the Flying Phantom and the investigation revealed that the port in question did not have a 'Designated Person' in place to audit their Code. He explained that there was an independent person employed by the Harbour Authority to audit our compliance with the PMSC and report back to the Harbour Committee. He had just completed an audit and the report will go the December Harbour Committee meeting.

Cllr CB asked who the consultant was and what his credentials were. PL replied it was Peter Nicholson and he had been asked to provide a full CV of qualifications as he had been recommended.

Action: PL to report back to the Forum regarding the report on the Port Marine Safety Code audit.

9. REGENERATION

PL said that Phase I was on track to be completed in February and with an 80% cost certainty for Phase II which will be known at the end of November and Phase II will be due to start February 2009. This will involve building the new fish market which will be completed in June; then knocking down the existing office building and rebuilding. With regard to Phase III the SWRDA had invited the Council to make an application for the regional infrastructure fund in order to pay for the new breakwater.

AH highlighted a problem with the corner by the new fish market quay joining the walkway by the old slipway. This was a Health and Safety issue which had originally been dealt with in the early design but due to various changes was now a very real issue and needed to be dealt with as soon as possible before someone is swept off the walkway.

PL replied that he was attending a stakeholder meeting that afternoon together with AH and both would highlight this problem with the Project Manager Keith Humphries.

Cllr CB said he had previously requested for the slip to be filled.

10. LAUNCH OF TORBAY COASTAL PARTNERSHIP – ‘SEATORBAY’

PL explained to the group that this new partnership came out of our original Environmental Group which was then picked up by the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust who initiated the idea of a new coastal forum.

PL advised the Forum that the inaugural meeting of ‘Seatorbay’ would be at Living Coasts that evening.

Cllr CB said Seatorbay must be made aware that this is a working port and that the fishermen have always been looking after the environment and complying with any environmental legislation. He was uncertain whether this group was actually a good thing.

PL replied that we need to engage with everyone so any proposed legislation involved fishermen’s points of view along with other stakeholders.

Cllr CB said there was a need for local input specific to these waters.

PL informed the group that the new chairperson of Seatorbay is also an advisor to the Harbour Committee.

A discussion was had about the recent closure of fishing areas in Lyme Bay and how that process had taken place.

11. MUSSEL FARM EXTENSION

PL advised the Forum about the existing farm which has been situated off Elbury for 10 years and who are now requesting to expand 100m Elbury End and 50M seaward.

ND explained that there was such a demand for the product that they were looking to double the area which will double the income the harbour will receive as rent.

BC thought this was excellent and everyone agreed. He also mentioned that we need to settle with the Crown Estate regards the Northern Arm

PL told the Forum that the mussel farm employs about a dozen people and operates out of the site at MDL at the moment but had expressed an interest in moving to Brixham.

Cllr CB pointed out that they had originally wanted to process in Brixham.

ND agreed that he did want to work in Brixham as the water in the bay is clean unlike where they are now.

SA agreed that as the mussel farm had been in situ for so long; any problems would have been highlighted by now. PL agreed that new enterprise should be encouraged.

12. BRIXHAM 21

PL told the Forum that there is to be a meeting on 2 December at the Yacht Club to discuss how to take Brixham 21 forward as they have been very instrumental so far in the regeneration process. The Chief Executive of Torbay Council will be there together with the new Environment Commissioner and other Torbay and Brixham Council members including Cllr Bedford.

Cllr CB explained there were about 120 volunteers in Brixham 21 and there are still issues regards the Northern Arm which need to have community involvement so it was important it keeps going with new and existing volunteers.

AH indicated some worries regarding partnerships with the Council, TDA, etc for Brixham 21 and that perhaps relationships need to be re-established.

PL said there was much more debate to be had especially regarding the Northern Arm.

SA explained that the town had given a mandate and a vote of confidence to Brixham 21 and all seems to be going from strength to strength.

Cllr CB invited people to email him if they wanted to attend :
c.bedford330@btinternet.com

BC agreed that everyone was invited.

AH explained it was all day next Tuesday 2 December.

Cllr GO asked for the view around the table as to whether Phase III should remain as a permanent agenda item on the Harbour Committee agenda.

BC expressed concern that Torbay Council had called in consultants without local knowledge and it is imperative locals were involved.

SA agreed that local expertise was needed.

Cllr CB told the group that Hyder did say they would come back with a re vamped report but not sure it should be a regular item on the Harbour Committee agenda.

Cllr GO said that Brixham 21, the Harbour Committee and Torbay Council need to be kept up to date on all the TDA meetings involving the harbour regeneration at Brixham.

Cllr CB agreed that Brixham 21 needed to deal directly with harbours as now separate from TDA.

13. HARBOUR COMMITTEE – UPCOMING AGENDA

PL explained that the meeting location alternates between the three towns and the next meeting would be at Oldway, Paignton on 8 December at 5.30pm and that these minutes would be discussed at that meeting together with Budget Monitoring, Harbour Budget & Charges, Port Marine Safety Code Audit Report and an update on work related to Haldon Pier, Torquay.

14. A.O.B

Cllr MM asked if Geoff Coleman and Cllr Lewis could do either a presentation or verbal report on the Stagecoach ferry proposals at the next Forum meeting.

RW informed the group that this was his last meeting and he had found them very interesting and informative and thanked the team for putting on the meetings.

PL thanked RW for his unwavering presence at the meeting and wished him well. He also thanked everyone for attending stating it was very important that the elected members came to hear the issues at source thanking especially Cllrs Hodge and Bedford for their continued support.

SA requested that some Harbour Committee members attend future Forum meetings. PL explained that Cllr Morey is the Harbour Committee representative for this meeting.

The meeting closed 1230hrs.

DATES OF NEXT LIAISON FORUM MEETINGS:

Wednesday 11 March 2009 10.30am

DATES OF NEXT HARBOUR COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Monday 8 December 2008	5.30pm	Oldway Mansion, Paignton
Monday 23 March 2009	5.30pm	Town Hall, Torquay