

Meeting Title

Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum

Venue

Torquay Harbour Office

Date

7th September 2010 at 10.30

Present

Capt K Mowat (KM)
Capt P Labistour (PL)
Mr J Turner (JT)
Ms S Armstrong (SA)

Mr J Bond (JB)
Ms H Meacock(HM)
Mr M Smith (MS)
Mr A Lane (AL)

Cllr C Stocks (CS)
Mr W Butcher (WB)
Mr D Musgrove (DM)
Mr M Ritchie (MR)

Agenda Items

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
 - a) Fast Ferry Update
 - b) Torquay Harbour Entrance
 - c) Finding Sanctuary
 - d) Fishing within Torquay Harbour
 - e) Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan – 2010/11
 - f) Commissioning of the Council's Harbour Authority Function
 - g) Town Dock- water/electricity/access – KM/MR
 - h) Torquay dinghy/boat park spaces
 - i) Princess Gardens/Promenade proposals
4. Capital Works
 - a) Haldon Pier – update
5. Town Dock - improved access - MR/RL
6. Embarkation Ramps – maintenance - MR
7. Maritime Events - 2011
8. Harbour Budget/Charges 2011/12
9. Harbour Committee - Upcoming Agenda

Date of the next meeting 23rd November 2010

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
1.1	Cllr Excell, Cllr Horne, Cllr Carroll and Roger Lean	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
2.1	It was agreed that the minutes of the 8 th June 2010 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	Fast Ferry Update KM advised the Forum that there was nothing to report. There was a brief discussion about the need for improved passenger embarkation facilities and possible locations for these in Torquay harbour.	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(b)	<p>Torquay Harbour Entrance</p> <p>KM reported that the wording “5 knots” had been marked on the seasonal buoy, a 5 knot marker buoy had been re-positioned and a Harbour Masters Notice had been issued. The meeting was asked to comment about whether they had noticed any improvement. JB suggested the use of much bigger 5 knot buoys. MR felt that one of the best controls was when ‘Oscar 4’ was present and that a further starboard buoy may help. He stressed the value of ‘Oscar 4’ as a patrol boat and occasional rescue craft. WB felt that a further 5 knot buoy to seaward would help. KM thanked those who commented and he emphasised that ‘Oscar 4’ was primarily a Beach Patrol craft but that it was nonetheless a vital service, performing a critical safety role. KM indicated that other harbours had utilised voluntary crew for patrol boat services but this would affect the service and be difficult to achieve because of the “at sea” qualifications required.</p>	
(c)	<p>Finding Sanctuary</p> <p>KM advised the Forum that the new candidate sites for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the Bay excluded the limits of the enclosed harbours. The SACs would help to protect the habitats associated with sea caves and reefs. KM also advised everyone that Marine Conservation Zones were currently being considered and that all or some of Tor Bay could ultimately become an MCZ. He indicated that such a designation could easily have a direct impact on existing activity in the Bay. i.e. certain fishing activity, small craft anchoring and ski-lanes, etc. KM agreed to keep the Forum updated.</p>	
(d)	<p>Fishing within Torquay Harbour.</p> <p>KM made the Forum aware that the problem had not been resolved with individuals still casting on or near moored boats resulting in damage and the risk of serious injury. Netting, wires on Princess Pier, reducing the fairway by additional buoyed lines had helped but not overcome the problem. CCTV and the police were involved and evidence was being assembled regarding prosecution. KMs comments were fully supported by MS whose staff were constantly abused when asking anglers not to fish or during the Festival not to cast near boats. The Forum collectively felt that the dispensation for next years Fishing Festival should not be granted. Issues relating to crabbing by holidaymakers were also discussed but the matters were not fully resolved.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>
(e)	<p>Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan. 2010/11</p> <p>KM reported that the plan had been signed off by the Chairman and was therefore operational.</p>	
(f)	<p>Commissioning of the Councils Harbour Authority Function</p> <p>KM updated the Forum by reading the Harbour Committee minute on this subject which resolved to defer the matter. KM therefore considered that commissioning would not go any further until after the Council elections in May 2011.</p>	
(g)	<p>Town Dock - water/electricity access</p> <p>KM asked if the new dedicated water/electricity supply berth was working for the users. MR raised again the matter of users wanting more utility points but conceded that, given the choice, water was more important. KM responded that an additional facility had been provided which those present felt had generally been successful, he continued by stating that the harbour authority were not minded to increase the services on the Town Dock to create marina style facilities.</p>	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(h)	<p>Torquay dinghy/boat park spaces KM asked if this matter had now been resolved. WB complained that despite spaces being available they were not being allocated in a timely manner. There followed some discussion on the benefits of the RTYC renting a large area of the boat park and administering that space themselves. The Forum was concerned about the size of the space and the possible implications regarding control of the area. KM indicated that the maximum space allocated to the RTYC should be 50% of the boat park area. KM said he would meet with the RTYC to discuss the problem. It was also suggested that KM should explore the large scale rental options with the RTYC and the Harbour Committee Chairman.</p> <p>(i) Princess Gardens/Promenade proposals There had been positive feedback from the public and the current situation was that procurement issues were being discussed.</p>	KM

4.	Capital Works - Haldon Pier	Action
	<p>KM reminded the Forum that the concrete spray and rock armour work was complete and that £50k had been spent on emergency repairs to fill holes on the inner face of the wall. He added that further problems had been identified with some of the concrete foundation blocks on the inside wall. A new repair method would now be trialled over a 10 metre section using the balance of the capital funding. It was hoped that this would identify the long term repair solution. External funding from the Environment Agency (EA) was still expected to help fund the next big phase of the work. Repairs were also required on Princess Pier but this was currently a lower priority although EA funding may still be available. In response to a question by AL regarding Paignton Harbour KM responded that both North and East Quays were subject to annual inspection by the Council's Engineers, with works being carried out over the winter period.</p>	

5.	Town Dock – improved access	Action
	<p>MR requested that a drop kerb be installed in front of the gate to improve disabled and trolley access. KM agreed to investigate but pointed out that there were already two drop kerb access points at either end of the walkway, albeit not immediately in front of the gate.</p>	KM

6.	Embarkation Ramps - maintenance	Action
	<p>MR requested an update. KM responded that the ramps were regularly inspected during cleaning operations and that the maintenance was following an agreed plan. A full visual inspection was expected every 5 years in line with the plan submitted to English Heritage and KM believed that this was now due. MR made the Forum aware that 55 American veterans were visiting in 2011 and that the establishment of a viewing platform would be beneficial. KM responded that both funding and space would present a challenge but that it may be possible to provide some sites for interpretation signage.</p>	

7.	Maritime Events - 2011	Action
	KM asked those present to notify the Harbour Office of any planned events prior to the year end. WB announced that the RTYC had secured the SB3 world championships in May 2011 and the Tasar worlds in September 2011. The round Britain power boat race was also scheduled for next year. There followed a debate over the balance between events and general public access to the slipway which KM agreed would be picked up for a review with RTYC when they held the end of season debrief.	KM/WB
8.	Harbour Budget & Charges 2011/12	Action
	KM stated that he expected that the view on increases would be tempered by the 2.5%VAT increase and the reaction to last year's increase. He reminded those present that the harbour authority would not escape the general spending review and that he would need to find cost savings of circa £40k against an income constrained by the economy. KM agreed to meet stakeholders in both harbours during the Autumn and prior to the December Harbour Committee when the budget and charges would be finalised.	KM
9.	Harbour Committee - Upcoming Agenda	Action
	KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the Harbour Committee meeting on 20 th September.	
10.	Any other business	Action
	<p>Due to the late circulation of the draft agenda KM suggested that an AOB item should be allowed.</p> <p>DM asked if anything could be done to improve the restricted access in front of the big seats on Beacon Quay. He indicated that this was a particular problem with wheelchair users. KM sympathised with this issue and confirmed that he had witnessed the problems first hand. It appeared that this particular aspect of the public realm had been poorly designed and that an easy or quick solution would be a challenge. KM agreed to investigate.</p>	KM

Next Meeting

Venue

Future meetings

23 rd November	10.30am
Torquay Harbour Office	
1 st March 2011	10.30am
31 st May 2011	10.30am

Dates of Harbour Committee Meetings

20 th September 2010	5.30pm Torquay
6 th December 2010	5.30pm Brixham
14 th March 2011	5.30pm Paignton
13 th June 2011	5.30pm Torquay