

Meeting Title	Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Torquay Harbour Office
Date	23 rd November 2010 at 10.30

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr D Musgrove (DM)
	Mr J Turner (JT)	Ms H Meacock(HM)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
	Mr S Jamieson (SJ)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Cllr J Richards (JR)

Agenda Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Minutes of the last meeting 3. Matters Arising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finding Sanctuary b) Fishing within Torquay Harbour c) Town Dock – improved access (Agenda Item) d) Maritime Events – 2011 (Agenda Item) e) Torquay dinghy/boat park spaces f) Harbour Budget & Charges 2011/12 - (Agenda Item) g) Beacon Quay Public Realm - wheelchair access 4. Capital Works <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Haldon Pier – update 5. Town Dock - improved access & security 6. Inner Harbour - visitor berthing (Nefertiti) 7. Embarkation Ramps – maintenance update 8. Maritime Events 2011 9. Port Marine Safety Code - audit 10. Vessel Traffic Services and Local Port Services – policy statement 11. Harbour Budget/Charges 2011/12 12. Harbour Committee – Upcoming Agenda <p>Date of the next meeting 1st March 2011</p>
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1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
1.1	P Labistour, M Richie, M Ould and A Lane	

2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
2.1	It was agreed that the minutes of the 7 th September 2010 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	Finding Sanctuary KM reported that Finding Sanctuary was still minded to recommend a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) within Tor Bay harbour limits. The MCZ would protect the water column and sea floor in certain areas. If the MCZ was eventually agreed it could restrict some existing activity within the Bay, as with the new SAC designation. It was agreed that KM would continue to attend the Devon meetings and keep the Forum updated.	KM

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(b)	<p>Fishing within Torquay Harbour KM reported that MDL and the Harbour Authority were working together on this issue and currently a case for prosecuting two individuals was being progressed. A meeting would be arranged in the new year to agree a targeted enforcement strategy to tackle this problem in 2011. Partners would include the Police, Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, MDL, CCTV and the Council's security team. WB reported that he had observed a day boat fishing in the harbour entrance and that harbour staff had not taken any enforcement action. KM agreed to investigate why this had happened.</p>	KM
(c)	Town Dock – improved access (Agenda Item)	
(d)	Maritime Events – 2011 (Agenda Item)	
(e)	<p>Torquay Dinghy/Boat Park Spaces KM reported that there was a meeting planned for the 4th December with RTYC to discuss the possibility of them managing a large area of the boat park on block. Other in year problems administering the Beacon Quay/South Pier boat park would also be discussed. WB expressed concern that spaces were available and had not been allocated.</p>	
(f)	Harbour Budget & Charges 2011/12 - (Agenda Item)	
(g)	<p>Beacon Quay Public Realm – Wheelchair Access KM informed the Forum that he had discussed this issue with the Beacon Quay Public Realm Project Manager. It was agreed that without a wholesale re-design the existing problem could not be resolved. DM accepted that there was probably nothing that could sensibly be done but wanted his concerns to be taken on board for future Public Realm designs. KM indicated that this particular problem would be passed on to those designing the Victoria Parade scheme.</p>	

4.	Capital Works – Update	Action
	<p>KM reported that further works are to be carried out in December and January, which involved diving works and concrete piling, over a short section, to identify the best repair methodology. A bid that could total £8m is being prepared and would be made to the Environment Agency in February 2011. If successful this would allow the repairs to be completed for both Haldon Pier and Princess Pier.</p>	

5.	Town Dock – Improved Access & Security	Action
	<p>KM reported that as there were already drop kerbs at either end of the walkway and it was not intended to install another in front of the gates but this position would be kept under review. It was felt that the problem was not very significant given the likely cost of the works. WB suggested that some form of protection should be installed on the inside of the gates which were being damaged by trolleys. KM agreed to investigate this problem.</p> <p>KM gave the Forum an update on the spate of recent break-ins affecting the Town Dock and the Marina. Some arrests had been made thanks to the Marina staff and the Police. Some intelligence from the case was then shared with the Forum. KM reminded the Forum that Town Dock security should be taken seriously. The Harbour Authority would be issuing some security tips to its customers in the new year and KM reminded everyone to report all crime to the Police and ask for a log number.</p> <p>KM also informed the Forum about some structural issues with the Town Dock.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>

6.	Inner Harbour – Visitor Berthing (Nefertiti)	Action
	<p>KM raised an idea to allocate a new permanent berth alongside the South Pier pontoon. It was noted that this space was used by some inner harbour users but equally there had been no complaints about this space being regularly used by the vessel 'Nefertiti'. KM indicated that making this change would unlock space on the Town Dock and reposition a heavy vessel away from the Town Dock. It would be necessary however to seek the views of the Forum and possibly the inner harbour customers prior to any decision being made. JB stated that more commercial space on the pontoon would be appreciated but having a large vessel berth permanently would cause them and others some problems. KM agreed to investigate these issues and stated that he would try to achieve a 50/50 split between commercial and leisure users on these pontoons. In general terms the idea was not supported by the Forum and KM said that he would not therefore make this arrangement permanent. No further action was required.</p>	
7.	Embarkation Ramps – Maintenance Update	Action
	<p>KM reported that the structures had recently been inspected by the Council's engineers and the ramps were reported as continuing to deteriorate. The engineers had advised that staff/personnel should not be allowed to stand on these ramps and options were now being considered for how ongoing cleaning could be achieved with this access restriction. Currently the annual cleaning cost exceeded £2000 and every effort would be made not to increase these costs, which were being met by harbour users through the harbour account. No funding was received from English Heritage.</p>	
8.	Maritime Events - 2011	Action
	<p>KM made the Forum aware that invitation letters had been sent out with the target of an outline schedule being completed before Christmas. KM reported that unfortunately the Around Britain Power Boat Event had been cancelled. WB told the Forum that two World Championships had been secured by the RTYC along with three National Championships for 2011. KM reported that the one cruise ship due to visit in 2011 would now no longer be visiting the Bay.</p>	
9.	Port Marine Code Safety - Audit	Action
	<p>KM reported that the annual external audit had been completed and the findings would be reported to the Harbour Committee on the 6th December. He continued by stating that the overall report had been positive with accidents and incidents down on last year. KM also reported that the Pilotage Directions were out for consultation and only one response had so far been received.</p>	
10.	Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Local Port Services (LPS) - Policy Statement	Action
	<p>KM made the Forum aware that the Port Marine Safety Code clearly indicates that Harbour Authorities have the power to establish Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) or a Local Port Service (LPS) to mitigate risk, enhance vessel safety and to protect the environment. The Code recognises that every harbour is different, and the requirement to manage navigation varies from one to another. A VTS system is essential in some bigger ports, but is not appropriate in Tor Bay. However, the Harbour Authority has a requirement to analyse to what degree monitoring, controlling or managing traffic needs to be taken. The assessment for Tor Bay Harbour did not identify the need for a VTS but a LPS does exist. The LPS policy would need to be agreed by the Harbour Committee.</p>	KM

11.	Harbour Budget/Charges 2011-2012	
	<p>KM reminded the Forum that the Harbour Committee had an appointed Budget Working Party, which had met to assist with the budget setting recommendations. The Working Party would recommend that there should be no plan to close the gap in harbour dues between Brixham/Paignton and Torquay in 2011/12. The overall proposed average increase would be 2.5% (excluding 2.5% VAT increase). This had been presented to User meetings at Torquay and Paignton, Brixham had responded by email. The Torquay user group wanted no increase but the outcome from Brixham and Paignton was that 2.5% was acceptable. The forecast for 2011/12, with a 2.5% increase, was that the Paignton/Torquay account would break even whereas Brixham would make a loss. This latter position should be improved in 2012/13. The Forum was supportive of the 2.5% recommendation.</p>	

12.	Harbour Committee Upcoming Agenda	
	<p>KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the Harbour Committee meeting on 6th December.</p>	

**Next Meeting
Venue
Future meetings**

Torquay Harbour Office
1st March 2011 10.30am
31st May 2011 10.30am
30th August 2011 10.30am
22nd November 2011 10.30am

**Dates of Harbour
Committee
Meetings**

6th December 2010 5.30pm (Brixham)
14th March 2011 5.30pm (Paignton)
13th June 2011 5.30pm (Torquay)
12th September 2011 5.30pm (Brixham)
5th December 2011 5.30pm (Paignton)