

## Report 56/2011

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Torquay &amp; Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Torquay Harbour Office
<b>Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2011 at 10.30

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr A Birchell	Mr D Musgrove (DM)
	Mr J Turner (JT)	Ms H Meacock(HM)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
	Mr C Baker (CB)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Cllr J Richards (JR)
	Cllr B McPhail (BMc)	Cllr P Addis (PA)	Capt P Labistour (PL)
	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)		

### Agenda Items

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
  - a) Finding Sanctuary
  - b) Fishing within Torquay Harbour
  - c) Town Dock – trolley damage & security tips (Agenda Item)
  - d) Torquay dinghy/boat park spaces (Agenda Item)
  - e) Local Port Services – policy statement
4. Capital Works
  - a) Haldon Pier – update
5. Town Dock - trolley damage, security tips & berth sizes
6. Princess Gardens report & Torquay inner harbour pontoons - update
7. Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan
8. Changes to the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy
9. Paignton Harbour – decriminalised parking review
10. Marine Fuel Station options - Torquay
11. Royal Torbay Yacht Club – boat park scheme
12. Consultation on proposals to modernise the Coastguard
13. Maritime Events 2011
14. Torquay Harbour various
  - a) Beacon Quay Car Park
  - b) Cleaning of ground floor car park
  - c) Dog mess on harbour side
  - d) Update on Beacon Quay access barrier
15. Harbour Committee – Upcoming Agenda

Date of the next meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Cllr R Horne	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>Action</b>
	It was agreed that the minutes of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2010 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	<p><b>Finding Sanctuary</b>  KM reported that Finding Sanctuary were continuing to recommend a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) within Tor Bay Harbour limits. He indicated that the British Ports Association had also raised their concerns over the designation process. KM advised the Forum that he considered the MCZ designation to be unnecessary in Tor Bay and he had advised Finding Sanctuary of his objection on behalf of the Harbour Authority. Proposed conservation measures had still not been discussed and activity restrictions were unclear. Full public consultation would take place in December 2011. KM stated he would continue to attend relevant meetings and keep the Forum updated.</p>	KM
(b)	<p><b>Fishing within Torquay Harbour</b>  KM reported that two individuals were currently being prosecuted and they were due in Court on 11<sup>th</sup> March. KM continued by making it clear that the Authority would be robust on this issue in 2011 and would continue to work with partners to police the quays and take action as necessary. The question of crabbing was discussed and the Forum agreed that this was generally not a problem. At the last Forum WB reported that he had observed a day boat fishing in the harbour entrance and that harbour staff had not taken any enforcement action. Unfortunately KM had been unable to identify the staff member concerned.</p>	
(c)	<p><b>Town Dock – trolley damage &amp; security tips (Agenda Item)</b></p>	
(d)	<p><b>Torquay dinghy/boat park spaces (Agenda Item)</b></p>	
(e)	<p><b>Local Port Services - policy statement</b>  KM reported that this had been agreed at the last Harbour Committee meeting and would now be reviewed annually. He also advised the Forum that Automatic Identification System (AIS) shipping data was now available via the harbour website.</p>	

4.	Capital Works – Update	Action
(a)	<p><b>Haldon Pier</b>  KM reported that further repair works had now commenced to help identify the best repair methodology. Diving contractors had recently completed repairs to a 10 metre section of the foundation blocks and the concrete piling should start before the end of March. The work to install the mini-piles should be completed in early April. A funding bid to the Environment Agency (EA) was being prepared and the trial section should show how the repairs can be successfully completed. KM agreed to keep the Forum advised about the progress of the EA bid.</p>	KM

5.	Town Dock – trolley damage, security tips & berth sizes	Action
	<p>KM reported that the Authority was reviewing all aspects of the security gate including its replacement. He hoped that this review would resolve the trolley issue. Some security tips had been sent out to all the Torquay customers with the annual invoices.</p> <p>Following concerns over the stresses caused to the Town Dock by the larger 13 metre boats KM reported that letters had been sent to customers on the waiting list informing them that no new 13 metre berths would be allocated. The existing 13m berth holders would remain but the situation would be kept under review.</p>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Princess Gardens report &amp; Torquay inner harbour pontoons - update</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM referred to a special Harbour Committee meeting held in February and the associated press coverage concerning the Council's regeneration proposals for the Princess Gardens area. KM explained the background to the report and the outcome of the Harbour Committee meeting. PA advised the Forum that the proposals for the development had not been well received by the Harbour Committee, especially the references to the inner harbour. He said that the Committee had requested that the Mayor should defer any decision until more information was available. PA added that the Harbour Committee would consider the proposals further but they must be involved in the decision making process. These thoughts were echoed by JR, BMc and JF. KM indicated that an amended report would be presented to the Mayor recommending that the Harbour Committee would be part of any future decision making process regarding the Marina car park site. The same report would recommend a joint investigation, by the TDA &amp; the Harbour Authority, into the potential for pontoon berths in the inner harbour. KM agreed to keep the Forum updated.</p>	<b>KM</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM thanked those who had provided comments following circulation of the draft Tor Bay Business Plan. He indicated that these comments would be incorporated where possible prior to the plan being submitted to the Harbour Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Further comments were invited from the Forum.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Changes to the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM made the Forum aware of the proposed changes which included :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity over non refundable waiting list deposits</li> <li>• A new mooring exchange scheme for the Torquay Town Dock</li> <li>• Confirmation that persons under the age of 18 could not hold facilities in their own right – the account must be in the name of an adult</li> <li>• Boat owning partnerships could only include a maximum of three, details must be declared when the facility is first allocated &amp; the partners must be 18 years or older</li> </ul> <p>WB asked if there could be more flexibility on the partnership arrangements. KM explained the various issues over possible manipulation/abuse of waiting lists etc and the Forum accepted the reasons for the change. To improve efficiencies a new £50 administration charge was to be introduced for customers promoting a change of facility.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Paignton Harbour – decriminalised parking review</b>	
	<p>KM reported that the Authority had conducted a review of the new decriminalised parking arrangements. He stated that this was always planned but it was also necessary because of an ongoing complaint against the Council, which had now progressed to stage 3 of the complaints procedure. Following the review it was intended to introduce 4 new short term (20 minutes) customer parking spaces on South Quay. KM emphasised that these would not apply during very busy periods like the school summer holidays, bank holidays, etc. There was some adverse comment from some Forum members who felt this action was not necessary. i.e. encouraging car parking on the harbour estate was counter intuitive. KM explained that this matter involved a unique set of circumstances that included a freehold interest. Normally such concessions would not be considered especially as a large public car park was situated immediately adjacent to Paignton harbour. KM indicated that the changes would probably be implemented in May.</p>	<b>KM &amp; JT</b>

<b>10.</b>	<b>Marine Fuel Station options - Torquay</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM made the Forum aware of the background concerning the existing station at Torquay and the fact that the service was intermittent to say the least which had resulted in a number of complaints. The Harbour Authority was therefore considering a range of options to operate their own marine fuel station. One option would be a floating facility.</p> <p>KM said he would be seeking some strategic direction from the Harbour Committee. Several members of the Forum indicated support for the Harbour Authority operating a marine fuel station. KM agreed to keep the Forum advised of any progress.</p>	<b>KM</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Royal Torbay Yacht Club – boat park scheme</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM made the Forum aware that it had been agreed that the club would have a block booking on a significant element of the boat park which they would manage and administrate in house. This should improve the customer experience.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Consultation on proposals to modernise the Coastguard</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM reported that he had prepared a draft response to the MCA's consultation exercise and that it included the outcome of a unanimous motion passed by Torbay Council. He said that the Council were very concerned about the proposed closure of the Brixham MRCC and the impact that closure would have on maritime safety. KM indicated that he would welcome any further contributions to the response which would now be considered by the Harbour Committee. The Forum supported the position taken by the Council to oppose the closure of the Brixham coastguard station.</p> <p>PL reminded the Forum that there would be a rally on Brixham harbour side at 1400 on 10<sup>th</sup> March followed by a consultation meeting at Brixham Community College starting at 1930.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Maritime Events 2011</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>KM reported that a comprehensive list of Maritime Events for 2011 was now available to download from the Tor Bay Harbour website. Hardcopies of the list were circulated to the Forum at the meeting. KM told the Forum that it was another busy year of events and additional details were still emerging. The website list would be updated as required.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Torquay Harbour various</b>	<b>Action</b>
(a)	<p><b>Beacon Quay Car Park</b></p> <p>KM advised the Forum that there were conflicting pressures on the use of Beacon Quay car park. On the one hand there was a case for short stay parking to ensure a regular turnover of spaces for people using the local businesses and attractions. However, regular harbour users and boat owners required long stay parking because boating was often an all day activity. Furthermore the organisers of large events often needed use of the car park and this reduced the publicly available capacity. The Forum was generally against any kind of short stay charging policy. KM suggested that the Council needed a clear policy on the future use of the Beacon Quay car park, including guidelines on its use in supporting maritime events. He agreed to take forward this idea to the relevant Council officers.</p>	<b>KM</b>

14.	Torquay Harbour various	Action
(b)	<b>Cleaning of ground floor car park</b> WB raised the issue of cleaning of the ground floor of Beacon Quay car park. KM said he would ensure that the cleanliness improved either by way of the contract with TOR2 or via harbour staff. In connection with this area KM reported that the entrance area was being repaired with exposed aggregate concrete and that the aim was to achieve a close match with the original surface finish on Beacon Quay.	KM
(c)	<b>Dog mess on harbour side</b> WB raised the issue of dog mess on harbour side. KM confirmed that one individual had been caught, prosecuted and fined. KM stated he would ensure harbour staff sought to identify subsequent culprits but also to clear the mess themselves if the offender was not apparent. He would also see if this issue fell within the TOR2 cleaning contract.	
(d)	<b>Update on Beacon Quay access barrier</b> WB asked for an update on the condition of the Beacon Quay access barrier. KM recognised that the barrier had not been operational for some 12 months but that a solution was in sight but it would require some ground works at the entrance to Beacon Quay. The work was planned for the end of March and the Harbour Authority would aim to minimise the disruption to access. KM said he would issue further details when they were available and the matter would be discussed with the Beacon Quay traders group the following week.	
15.	<b>Harbour Committee Upcoming Agenda</b> KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the Harbour Committee meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.	

#### Next Meeting

#### Venue

#### Future meetings

31 <sup>st</sup> May 2011	10.30am
Torquay Harbour Office	
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	10.30am
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2011	10.30am
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2012	10.30am

#### Dates of Harbour Committee Meetings

14 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	5.30pm (Paignton)
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	5.30pm (Torquay)
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	5.30pm (Brixham)
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	5.30pm (Paignton)
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	5.30pm (Torquay)