

Meeting Title	Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Torquay Harbour Office
Date	28 th November 2012 at 10.30

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr C Baker (CB)	Mrs H Bruce (HB)
	Mr J Turner (JT)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mrs C Clayton (CC)
	Cllr J Richards (JR)	Mr M Ritchie (MR)	Cllr M Hytche (MH)
	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)	The Mayor (GO)	Cllr B McPhail (BMc)
	Capt P Labistour (PL)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Cllr A Baldrey (AB)

Agenda Items	1. Apologies
	2. Minutes of the last meeting
	3. Matters arising from the last minutes
	a) Torquay harbour drying grid proposal - update
	b) Tie down points for Beacon Quay – on hold
	c) Gateway signage – update – KM & JT
	d) Additional litter bins to be provided on North Quay (Torquay)
	e) Harbour Committee - external advisor update
	f) Tor Bay Harbour Business Risk Register - review
	g) Artificial Reef in Tor Bay Harbour - update
	4. Capital Works
	a) Haldon Pier - update
	b) Princess Pier - update
c) Torquay inner harbour pontoon berths - update	
5. Town Dock - visitors, waste, water & electricity	
6. Harbour Marketing	
7. Port Marine safety Code – audit	
8. Tor Bay Harbour Port Master Plan - stakeholder event feedback	
9. Wreck the World – update	
10. Maritime Events 2013	
11. Harbour Budget & Charges 2013/14	
- Kayak Charges	
12. Harbour Committee	
a) Upcoming Agenda	
b) Users Survey	
13. Other business	
Date of the next meeting 5 th March 2013 10.30am	

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Apologies were received from Cllr V. Ellery, Mr D. Musgrove, Mr A Lane and Mr A Brown.	

2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
	It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	<p>Torquay harbour drying grid proposal – update Case Consultants had been appointed to produce outline drawings and budget costs, but there was nothing further to report.</p>	
(b)	<p>Tie down points for Beacon Quay boat park KM reported that this could not be resolved until the final configuration of the boat park was known given the potential impact of the new ferry infrastructure in April 2013.</p>	
(c)	<p>Gateway signage - update KM reported that in addition to the electronic marketing that he had commissioned in the summer, showing harbour information on visitor information websites and touch screen displays; he had also purchased a half page advert in the 2013 Tourism Guide. A copy of the advert was circulated to the Forum. He also reported that following JT's survey, Paignton harbour would now be in line for a 'Brown Sign' as a tourist attraction. HB & CC felt that the archway to Paignton harbour was not particularly welcoming and that an illuminated sign should be displayed on the Harbour Lights building. KM responded that the tenant was not keen on such signage but he would continue to explore the various options to improve footfall to the harbour area. CC stated that whilst the new street lamps at Paignton harbour looked attractive they did not light up the harbour adequately enough for her customers to enjoy the view from the balcony and that she felt the harbour was failing. JT responded that he had only heard positive feedback to date and that the Harbour Users meeting had collectively welcomed this improvement. KM made it clear that Paignton harbour was not failing in any way and that income was in fact slightly up on the previous year. He continued that the Harbour Authority's prime responsibility was that of safety of navigation and estate management. However, efforts were underway to improve footfall at Paignton harbour, especially from tourists. KM indicated that the majority of effort towards marketing the Bay would come from the Council and the English Riviera Tourism Company.</p>	
(d)	<p>Additional litter bins to be provided on North Quay (Torquay) KM reported that these would be provided next season. CB advised the Forum that a charity was also to provide additional facilities for all the flotsam and jetsam picked up by the fishing vessels.</p>	KM CB
(e)	<p>Harbour Committee - External Advisor - update KM reported that candidates had been shortlisted and interviews would be held before the next Harbour Committee meeting.</p>	
(f)	<p>Torbay Harbour Business Risk Register - review KM advised that the Register had now been approved by the Harbour Committee.</p>	
(g)	<p>Artificial Reef in Tor Bay Harbour - update KM reported the Harbour Committee had approved this idea in principle. However, there was still considerable opposition from the fishing industry, particularly from the Teignmouth based fishermen. Those behind the reef idea had called a meeting with the MMO but no immediate progress had been made.</p>	

4.	Capital Works	Action
(a)	Haldon Pier – update KM reported that the small amount of concrete spraying had now been completed. The small amount of rock armour would be installed at the outer end of the quay in January 2013. Repairs to the inside of the wall, with the balance of the current funding package, would be put out to tender. All of the remaining works will be subject to a separate capital bid to the Environment Agency of between £7~8m, which would include the repairs to Princess Pier. The Council’s Engineers (DS) are leading this bid.	KM DS
(b)	Princess Pier – update See above.	
(c)	Torquay inner harbour pontoon berths - update KM said that a report was due before the Council in December. If approved work was expected to be completed and the pontoons operational, by April 2014.	KM
5.	Town Dock – visitors, waste, water & electricity.	Action
	KM stated that although there was no intention to provide full marina style facilities he was still planning to install one additional water point on each of the main pontoon legs. Following some debate led by MR, KM reiterated the concept and principles behind the Town Dock stating that only a few individuals did not seem to accept this position.	KM
6.	Harbour Marketing	Action
	KM stated that the majority of this matter had been covered under ‘Gateway signage’ in matters arising. CC asked why there were not to be any Christmas lights around Paignton harbour. JT responded that those at Torquay and Brixham were not funded by the harbour authority but by the local community. In terms of the Paignton harbour businesses, JT stated that he had sounded out a number of them that remained open over the winter period. They had not shown any interest claiming that it would not be money well spent. CC was directed towards the Tourism Company and Town Centre Company in Torquay, who might be able to help	
7.	Port Marine Safety Code	Action
	KM reported that the independent audit had now been carried out by our ‘Designated Person’ and the report would be published as part of the December Harbour Committee meeting agenda. He had no reason to believe there would be anything other than a positive report for all three harbours.	KM
8.	Tor Bay Harbour Port Masterplan – stakeholder event feedback	Action
	KM reminded the Forum of the initial stakeholder event, which had been well attended at Oldway Mansion in October. The summary of the information captured at the event had now published in a leaflet, which would be circulated to the Forum after the meeting. This simply recorded collective ideas and the final plan would hopefully be in place by the summer of 2013.	KM

9.	Wreck the World - update	Action
	<p>KM advised the Forum that the bid for the 'Ark Royal' had been unsuccessful and that it had now been sold for scrap. However, Wreck the World were now going to bid for 4 Class 22 Destroyers and if successful they would want to sink of these ships within Tor Bay Harbour limits. KM expressed the view that one was sufficient and that it should be just outside the SAC, broadly in a position adjacent to the site of the proposed artificial reef. The Forum were informed that no formal application had yet been made to the Marine Management Organisation. KM had recently met with Wreck the World and although he could not support the location of a second ship he had said he would raise the matter with the Forum. CB indicated that the fishing industry would probably have some objections and others in the Forum raised concerns about a wreck in the Bay causing a hazard to navigation and impeding the existing anchorage areas.</p>	

10.	Maritime Events 2013	Action
	<p>KM made the Forum aware that organisers were currently in the process of submitting next year's maritime events for approval and it was hoped that an initial events programme would be published on the harbour website by Christmas 2012.</p>	KM

11.	Harbour Budget and Charges 2013/14	Action
	<p>KM indicated that it would not be a break even budget and that the dividend payable to Torbay Council had been increased to £140K which equals 6% of predicted income. He went on to say that the budget report to the Harbour Committee would go a long way towards meeting the Council's expectation in respect of the cash dividend. There then followed considerable debate as to how long the Council would expect the harbour authority to make such payments. JF expressed a fear that this would erode the ring fenced accounts and the harbour authority would end up being in a position where they were no longer self sufficient. JF made it clear that she would raise this matter further at the Harbour Committee.</p> <p>In terms of harbour charges for 2013/14; meetings had been held with Torquay and Paignton harbour user groups who were not opposed to a rise of between 2.5% and 3%. i.e. in line with CPI and/or RPI. The increase being recommended for approval was 2.8%, with 3.8% for the Town Dock. In addition, a small charge would be made for the launch and recovery of kayaks with the objective of encouraging such users to launch and recover directly from beaches. The reason being that certainly at Paignton and Torquay, paddling a kayak out/in of the harbour was not seen as the safest way to access the sea.</p> <p>KM ran through a number of other detailed changes that would be outside of the general 2.8% recommendation.</p> <p>The Forum generally accepted the need for an increase in line with inflation.</p>	KM

12.	Harbour Committee	
(a)	Upcoming Agenda	
	<p>KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the next Harbour Committee meeting on 17th December 2012 at the Town Hall in Torquay.</p>	

13.	Other Business	Action
(a)	<p>The 'Banjo' at Torquay Harbour The Mayor gave the Forum an update of the works being undertaken and he anticipated that they would be finished by June 2013.</p>	
(b)	<p>The Super Weekend The Mayor announced that this event would take place again in 2013 and it was hoped to improve on the thousands of people who visited in 2012.</p>	
(c)	<p>Cruise Ships The Mayor informed the Forum that every effort was being made to ensure that the maximum number of passengers actually stayed in the Bay. A number of the Forum members highlighted that the welcome appeared to stop at the end of Beacon Quay and that retailers and businesses throughout the town could do more to welcome cruise ship visitors. The Mayor agreed to pursue these issues.</p>	GO
(d)	<p>Blue Sea Food KM updated the Forum on the current position and highlighted that whilst planning consent had been refused for the containers, enforcement action had been deferred until December 2013. The lease for this area of land expired in April 2013 and KM indicated that this matter would be put to the Harbour Committee for a landlord's decision. Given the sensitivities on this matter KM did not feel that he should make the decision alone.</p>	KM

Next Meeting

Venue

Future meetings

5th March 2013

Torquay Harbour Office

28th May 2013

10.30am

10.30am (TBC)

**Dates of Harbour
Committee
Meetings**

17th December 2012

18th March 2013

June 2013

5.30pm (Torquay)

5.30pm (Brixham)

5.30pm (Torquay)