



**Meeting: Harbour Committee**

**Date: 24<sup>h</sup> September 2018**

**Wards Affected: All wards in Brixham**

**Report Title: Parking on the Fish Quay**

**Executive Lead Contact Details: Non-Executive Function**

**Supporting Officer Contact Details: Adam Parnell**

**Head of Tor Bay Harbour Service**

**Tor Bay Harbour Master**

 **Telephone: 01803 292429**

 **Email: [Adam.Parnell@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Parnell@torbay.gov.uk)**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To agree future parking arrangements for the Fish Quay, Brixham Harbour and to make recommendations regarding alternative parking arrangements in Oxen Cove.

## **2. Proposed Decision**

- 2.1 **That all car parking on the Fish Quay be suspended for Health and Safety due to congestion; and**
- 2.2 **That the Harbour Master be directed to liaise with the Executive Head of Assets and Business Services to investigate arrangements for displaced vehicles to park in the Oxen Cove car park.**

## **3. Action Needed**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Fish Quay continues to operate safely and efficiently and with due regard to the additional traffic as a result of a thriving local fishing industry and growth in fish landings.

## **4. Summary**

- 4.1 The number of cars parking on the Fish Quay has increased in line with the success of Brixham as a fishing port, where the volume (and value) of landed catch has almost doubled over the previous 3 years. Where historically parking has been a 'nuisance' issue it is now a serious Health and Safety concern due to the number and size of vehicles attempting to manoeuvre on and off the site, the lack of space for the increasing quantity of fishing equipment and ready-use stores required, and the resultant over-congestion.
- 4.2 A reasonable (and easily implemented) Risk Control Measure is to prohibit car

parking on both sites and permit vehicles on site to load and unload only. This will free up space for essential fishing stores and equipment to be safely stored away from the main thoroughfares and allow the pedestrian walkways to be reinstated.

- 4.3 Parking enforcement will be greatly simplified and operational harbour staff will be better able to maintain a safe working environment.

## **Supporting Information**

### **5. Position**

- 5.1 When the Fish Quay was redeveloped 8 years ago, it included an amount of excess capacity for growth in vehicle numbers. However, the amount and value of fish product now landed has almost doubled in the intervening period, frequently creating a serious H&S situation due to the number of lorries, trucks, fork-lifts, stores and pedestrians in a very small area. Not infrequently this congestion also spills onto the public highway which creates a H&S risk to the passing general public. Enclosures 1-4 are screen-shots from on-site CCTV cameras and show scenes encountered on a daily basis. At present these risks are being managed through enhanced management and oversight by the Dockmasters and other staff but the situation is not sustainable.
- 5.2 The situation is aggravated by the number of private cars brought onto the site by tenants, MFV owners and other operatives. Harbour staff already park in Oxen Cove both to act as a positive example but also because of the risk of damage to vehicles as well as staff safety.
- 5.3 The eastern arm of the Fish Quay has similarly become congested because of the greater number of vessels refitting on site. The amount of stores, equipment, skips and plant have all increased as have the number of cars belonging to the vessels' crews.
- 5.4 These issues were in part the catalyst for the attempt to tender an area of Oxen Cove car park for use by the fishing industry. However it makes more sense to displace the cars onto the car park rather than fishing equipment, and hence the proposal is to prohibit all car parking on the sites. Oxen Cove car park forms part of the harbour estate but it has always been used as a public car park, albeit in the knowledge that the land was reclaimed to help support the needs of the fishing industry.

### **6. Possibilities and Options**

- 6.1 To continue to allow parking on the sites and accept the evident and escalating H&S risk to personnel and equipment.

### **7. Preferred Solution/Option**

- 7.1 To displace car parking onto the Oxen Cove site, noting that this will reduce the parking available to the general public. This is in turn mitigated by the MDL multi-story car park in Brixham, although revenues to the Council's car park service could be affected.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 The Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum have been consulted as have the Town Council's clerk, the Chamber of Commerce and the Council's Parking Service, who all understand the H&S imperative for such a move.

## **9. Risks**

- 9.1 Unless this action is taken there is a real risk of serious accident or death due to the movement of large commercial vehicles and pedestrian movements in a very congested area which is exacerbated by the time-imperative operations of the fishing industry.

## **Additional Information**

None