

Meeting Title	Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Torquay Harbour Office
Date	10 th July 2012 at 1400

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
	Mr J Turner (JT)	Mrs H Meacock (HM)	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)
	Mr C Baker (CB)	Mr A Brown (AB)	Cllr M Hytche (MH)
	Cllr J Richards(JR)	Ms S Farley(SF)	Cllr J Richards(JR)
	Cllr V Ellery (VE)	Cllr B McPhail (BM)	Mr T Ekers(TE)
	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr A Pooley (AP)	Capt P Labistour (PL)
	Mr A McCloud (A Mc)	Ms H Shrimpton (HS)	Mr M Bishop (MB)
	Mr J Bardolf-Smith (JB-S)		

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Gordon Oliver	

2.	Agenda
	KM stated that the only item for discussion was the issue around the Sustainable Transport Fund and the related ferry infrastructure.

3	Subject
	<p>KM made it clear that a similar meeting would be held with the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum the following day. He also stressed that certain contractual issues could not be discussed as possible interested parties could be present. Furthermore KM stressed that any discussions concerning the future provision of a ferry service would need to be held without ferry operators present at the end of the meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the location and layout of the new passenger ferry infrastructure.</p> <p>SF reminded those present of the background and current status of the funding and the likely expression of interest and bidding dates for both the construction of the infrastructure and the provision of the actual ferry service.</p> <p>KM stressed that given the timescale of delivery, by Easter 2013, and other considerations relating to the condition of existing structures and legal consents; the only viable location for the pontoon in the short term was off Beacon Quay. He continued that he was aware that most parties involved did not see this as an ideal solution and he knew that the Old Fish Quay and/or Princess Pier were seen as preferable options.</p> <p>There followed a lengthy debate on why these alternative locations could not be considered at this time and some expressed the view that once in place on Beacon Quay it would not then be moved.</p> <p>After continued further debate VE stated that in the final report to the Harbour Committee it would be a good idea to suggest that a working group be established to plan longer term locations/solutions. KM stated that his preference at this time was not Beacon Quay and he would endeavour to ensure that any contract design included the ability to move the structure to an alternative location.</p>

KM further stressed that if the Forum are unable to accept an interim solution then the project could not be delivered and the funding would be lost. He then tabled three different design solutions and after some detailed debate option 3 (a sketch option prepared by the harbour staff) was considered to be the most viable.

The following were emphasised by the Forum as vital constituents :-

- 1 Minimise any restriction on sea room for the benefit of all users
- 2 Provide reasonable access for those with limited mobility
- 3 Flexible enough to accommodate vessels with varying freeboard
- 4 A non slip decking surface
- 5 Adequate lighting
- 6 Adequate fendering
- 7 Appropriate navigation lights on the pontoon
- 8 Power supply

This section of the meeting was concluded and the ferry operators left the meeting.

There then followed a discussion that covered the likely level of ferry subsidy, potential limits on the size of craft and price capping.

The meeting then recommended that the following factors were fully considered when reviewing any bids from a ferry operator :-

- 1 The vessel's turning circle
- 2 The need for bow thrusters
- 3 The need for twin screw conventional propeller propulsion
- 4 Noise restrictions
- 5 Wake/wash limits
- 6 Operating speed
- 7 Waste water reception tanks/pump out facility
- 8 Wave height operating limit
- 9 Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) passenger classification

KM agreed the above but emphasised that a number of these matters would be in the hands of the MCA.

It was agreed that the views of the Forum would be relayed to the Harbour Committee.

Next Meeting

Venue

Future meetings

4 th September 2012	10.30am
Torquay Harbour office	
27 th November 2012	10.30am
5 th March 2013	10.30am

Dates of Harbour

Committee

Meetings

17 th September 2012	5.30pm (Paignton)
17 th December 2012	5.30pm (Torquay)
18 th March 2013	5.30pm (Brixham)