

Meeting Title	Brixham Liaison Forum		
Venue	Brixham Yacht Club		
Date	Thursday 13 th February 2025		
Present	Tim Jones (TJ/HM) Sam Walker (SW/AHM) Susan Shaw (SS) Andrew Strang (AS) Nigel Penny (NP) Mike Fox (MF)	Christine Carter (CC) Clive Nicholls (CN) Peter Lytton (PL) Robbie Richardson (RR) David Faithful (DF) David Range (DR)	David Saunders (DS) George Holyard (GH) Neil Murray (NM)

Agenda		
1. Welcome & Apologies		HM
2. Minutes from the last meeting		HM
3. Actions from minutes		HM
4. Harbour Financial Update & Charges		HM
5. Operational Update		HM/NB/SW
6. Health & Safety		HM/SW
7. Staffing		NB/SW
8. Events		SW
9. AOB		HM

1.	Welcome & Apologies	Action
	TJ welcomed all to the meeting. Attendees made introductions.	
	Apologies received from Jessica Marles	

2.	Minutes from the last meeting	Action
	Minutes from previous meeting received as accurate. The minutes were approved by AS and seconded by NP.	

3.	Actions from minutes	Action
3.	<p>2025 Events List is still being compiled and will be published on the website once confirmed.</p> <p>Future meeting dates have been confirmed, and will take place at Brixham Yacht Club, where parking is available.</p> <p>Dredging process is still ongoing. Awaiting results from recent survey to identify dredge areas for MMO sampling plan. This will determine the next step in the procedure.</p> <p>The Liaison group invitation has been expanded to include various commercial operators around the harbour, but there has been little take up. The HM is in communication with commercial groups and other interested parties around the harbour and can give feedback as required.</p> <p>SW informed the group about the issues with disposing of old fishing nets. In the past 'Keep Britain Tidy' has been part of the disposal project, but this is due to change over the coming months. Unfortunately, local community groups cannot be used due to H&S concerns. SW continues to look at various options of recycling under the Waste Management Plan for the Harbour.</p> <p>The possibility of cruise liners using Brixham for tendering has been considered by the DfT and decided not to be suitable. Torquay remains the landing point and there is the option to use local ferry companies to bring passengers across to Brixham.</p>	
4.	Harbour Financial Update & Charges	Action
	<p>TJ reported on Q3, stating that the harbour is currently overspent on repairs and maintenance. Fish Tolls are higher than budget, so should cover the necessary additional expenditure.</p> <p>TJ has completed infrastructure reports on all three Torbay Harbours, which identifies areas where future budgetary planning is necessary. Storm Darragh also caused additional repairs expenditure. AS also pointed out the Capital Projects that are underway outside of the Harbour Committee budget. The Northern Arm project was mentioned as a way forward for the future, which could provide a Council run marina and an option for cruise ships. MF informed the group of the Brixham Local Plan is currently being developed for the area.</p>	TJ
5.	Operational Update	Action
	<p>SW reported that the Harbour continues to be extremely busy. A major clean-up operation was recently completed with SWISCo over two weekends, removing old fishing gear. This had accumulated due to difficulties finding waste streams for some of the materials, trawls are usually mixed material and are labour intensive to break down into their component parts. The commercial fishing fleet were informed of this cleanup during a new 'Fishers Forum' meeting in January. Waste is being processed immediately upon landing or rejected back to fishing boats if it is hazardous or contaminated, to prevent it accumulating again.</p> <p>Repairs are being completed on the ferry pontoon after a recent collision involving a fishing vessel. A navigation light and a section of decking had to be repaired, and costs recovered from the vessel involved.</p> <p>Floor mounted flood lights have been installed on the Shellfish Jetty to replace lamp posts that were repeatedly being damaged by vessels coming alongside.</p> <p>MDL are currently refurbishing various aspects of the marina – e.g. pontoons, walkways and wave screen.</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>SW</p>

	<p>Fencing on the derelict Breakwater Fuel Jetty has been upgraded. The effectiveness will be monitored, and if necessary, anti-climb paint or redesign work will be considered.</p> <p>DS mentioned use of the abandoned fuel jetty. SW informed the group that H&S dictates that as a dangerous structure, it cannot be used. Unfortunately, it is too expensive to consider removing it in the current economic situation. GH suggested that enforcement should be looked into. SW told the group that enforcement around the harbour is being reviewed.</p> <p>TJ informed the group of recent storm damage to boats and the cuttle market roof in the harbour. This has resulted in an amendment to the Harbour Terms and Conditions for all owners of all vessels allocated to Tor Bay Harbour moorings to have wreck recovery insurance. This raised issues with abandoned/neglected boats in the harbour and an audit will be completed to identify these vessels. Boats can be arrested for nonpayment for dues but selling and disposal is a problem. AS questioned the use of eBay for possible boat sales. This is not currently available to the HM due to council policy. There has been an interest in Accumulate which could lead its removal. Joy Bell will be removed from the Inner harbour in March.</p> <p>The Port Emergency Plan is currently being updated and the Harbour Master Plan is due for review. The latter led to a discussion on the Northern Arm which TJ advised is again being investigated due to the effects of Storm Darragh all members stated that this proposal has been a desire for many years.</p> <p>A RIB is being refurbished for use in Brixham, but lack of funding is delaying completion until next financial year.</p> <p>GH told the group about the move of the existing mussel farm seed collection area located off Watcombe Head, to a position approximately half a mile to the southeast. The new position has half the area within Tor Bay harbour's jurisdiction. Consultation has been completed and the application currently awaiting official approval.</p> <p>A restricted area between Berry Head and the Mew Stone/Cod Rock is designated as a guillemot breeding area. Proposals are in place to position yellow, illuminated buoys across the bay from March to July, with warning signage on the cliff. Awaiting approval. Enforcement may be an issue. TJ suggested that the refurbished RIB may be able to provide support, as well as patrolling nearby areas across the Bay. This could also include monitoring of the fishing off Berry Head.</p> <p>A clean up of the inner harbour neglected/abandoned tenders and boats is planned within the next few weeks. Unidentified and unauthorised vessels will be removed. 2025/26 Stickers to be issued once dues paid. New mooring chains will be installed during 2025 for the fore and aft moorings.</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>GH</p> <p>TJ</p>
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6.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>A recent H&S incident has been recorded following injuries incurred during repairs on a fishing boat. Now awaiting report from MAIB, but it stresses the need to monitor contractors working on site in the harbour.</p> <p>DS reported degrading concrete on the Breakwater wall. TJ advised that it was planned to do temporary repairs and reline an area for safe access and egress.</p> <p>Heritage sailing trawler Vigilance is due back in the harbour in April. They plan to use the Town Pontoon when available to finish refit, ultimately running trips and open days on board the vessel.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>SW</p> <p>TJ / SW</p>
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	A new pontoon is being planned for the Breakwater area as part of the Brixham Harbour enhancements. Proposals are currently being consulted as part of the public realm project, to improve facilities for launch and recovery of vessels.	
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7.	Staffing	Action
	<p>The Harbour Ops Team are now well established and working well. However, the Admin Team are facing vacant positions with retirement, maternity and resignations on the horizon.</p> <p>The use of seasonal staff on Breakwater slipway was discussed, with suggestions for a coin/card operated barriers. Discussions were had over whether this was appropriate for the area concerned.</p>	

8.	Events	Action
	The 2025/26 Events Calendar is filling up. There are two events planned most weekends over the summer. There is still some admin work to be completed before the list can be published (e.g. conflicting events, collation of required documents, processing, etc).	

9.	AOB	Action
	The next Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum will be held on Thursday 8 May 2025 at Brixham Yacht Club. Parking will be available at the Club.	