

Meeting Title	Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Torquay Harbour Office
Date	30 th August 2011 at 10.30

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr D Musgrove (DM)
	Mr J Turner (JT)	Cllr B McPhail	Mr W Butcher (WB)
	Mr M Ritchie (MR)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Cllr J Richards (JR)
	Cllr J Faulkner (JF)	Mayor Gordon Oliver (GO)	Capt P Labistour (PL)
	Cllr R Stringer (RS)		

Agenda Items	1. Apologies
	2. Minutes of the last meeting
	3. Matters Arising
	a) Finding Sanctuary
	b) Paignton Harbour - decriminalised parking review update
	c) RTYC - boat park scheme
	d) Coastguard modernisation - update
	e) Crabbing - update
	f) Ark Royal update – Agenda Item
	g) Boat Watch Scheme - MS
	4. Capital Works
	a) Haldon Pier – update
	5. Town Dock - Torquay
	6. Budget Setting 2012/13 – Harbour Charges
	7. Oil Spill Response Plan - review
8. Port Waste Management Plan - review	
9. Results of Harbour Users Survey 2011	
10. Maritime Events 2011	
a) Optimists Nationals – update (JT)	
b) Events 2012 (WB)	
11. Seabed Lease from Crown Estate (Ark Royal)	
12. Broadsands - Dinghy Sailing	
13. Torquay Harbour Entrance 5 knot Buoy (BB)	
14. Harbour Committee	
a) Upcoming Agenda	
Date of the next meeting 22 nd November 2011	

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Apologies were received from Ms H Meacock, Cllr V Ellery and Mr G Jennings.	

2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
	It was agreed that the minutes of the 31 st May 2011 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	<p>Finding Sanctuary KM reported that there was no real change from the update provided at the previous Forum meeting. Finding Sanctuary had now finalised their recommendations for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The meeting with Natural England at the British Ports Association allowed for a frank exchange of opinions. The final designation process still has to go through a number of further stages, including a full public consultation exercise which would commence in 2012. KM said he would continue to raise his concerns over a proposed MCZ within Tor Bay and particularly how certain management measures might have a social and economic impact. MR agreed to raise the issue of restricted anchoring of leisure vessels through the RYA.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>MR</p>
(b)	<p>Paignton Harbour – decriminalised parking review update JT reported that the change to the parking order allowing for short stay bays had been successful together with the scheme overall. A further review would be carried out prior to the 2012 boating season.</p>	<p>JT</p>
(c)	<p>RTYC - boat park scheme WB reported that the scheme was working well and KM agreed that things had improved from last year. A further review will take place over the winter.</p>	<p>KM</p>
(d)	<p>Coastguard modernisation – update KM reported that unfortunately the Brixham Coastguard Station was still earmarked for closure despite a considerable number of local objections. However, KM advised the Forum that the Harbour Committee's Chairman Cllr Vic Ellery had arranged a further public meeting/rally on the 17th September at the Riviera Centre.</p>	
(e)	<p>Crabbing – update KM reported that there were no new issues on this subject other than a view that a dedicated facility for this activity, like a pontoon, would be a good idea. KM stressed that whilst this was feasible in the inner harbour; it was not without risk and would therefore need to be managed. He also suggested that the project could be organised, managed and financed by the tourism industry.</p>	
(f)	<p>Boat Watch Scheme - MS MS reported that he had been in touch with the Police in pursuance of the introduction of such a scheme which he thought was most definitely required after a recent spate of incidents. KM stated that that the Harbour Authority would wish to support such a scheme. The Mayor asked for more details from MS.</p>	<p>MS</p>
4.	Capital Works	Action
(a)	<p>Haldon Pier - update KM reported that further underwater survey work had taken place and that engineers were evaluating the results. £1.2m of Environment Agency (EA) funding was to be spent on further repair works but the methodology was still to be determined. KM made the Forum aware that the Council were preparing another bid for a further £7m funding from the EA for work on both Haldon and Princess Piers. The outcome of this bid will not be known until the spring of 2012.</p>	<p>KM</p>

5.	Town Dock – Torquay	Action
	<p>KM informed the Forum that he had been approached by businesses asking for advertising space on the Town Dock bridge and was seeking the views of those present. JB objected to this proposal if it was to be competitors of Birchell Marine but did not object to the principle. Overall those present supported KM pursuing the matter.</p> <p>DM asked KM to review the need for individuals to cycle on the Town Dock as it was particularly dangerous to disabled people. KM responded that he totally supported this view and existing notices would be reviewed and if necessary amended to this effect and a regime of zero tolerance adopted.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>

6.	Budget Setting 2012/13 - Harbour Charges	Action
	<p>KM informed the Forum that the Harbour Committee's Budget Working Party had recently held a meeting to discuss the 2012/13 harbour budgets. There would be two more meetings of this Working Party ahead of the December meeting of the Harbour Committee where the budget setting report would be considered. The Working Party was made up of Councillors and External Advisors from the Harbour Committee.</p> <p>KM said that the in year budget for 2011/12 was on track and he explained a number of variations. He said it was always hard to forecast the budget for next year ahead of the third and fourth quarter results. The Forum was reminded that the harbour accounts were set to show a deficit over the next few years of up to £50k and income was currently falling from visitors, slipway use and Marina rent. KM advised the Forum that Torbay Council was facing a significant budgetary challenge with an estimated funding gap of £10m for 2012/13. He said that the Harbour Authority had been asked to help contribute towards this shortfall. Following a meeting with the Mayor and the Council's CEO, the Chairman (VE) and KM agreed to recommend to the Harbour Committee a cash dividend contribution of £50,000 to Torbay Council and in return the Council would reconsider commissioning the Harbour Authority function and revisit the level of recharging for support services. This outcome would protect the policy of ring fenced accounts for the Harbour Authority and help deliver future cost savings. KM said it was important that stakeholders understood these proposals and were comfortable with the way the Harbour Authority was moving forward. The Forum was generally supportive of this approach.</p> <p>KM indicated that the Budget Working Party (BWP) would be looking for feedback on proposals to increase harbour charges in 2012/13 to keep pace with rising costs. Options for consideration included a general increase of 2.5% or 3.5% or 5%. Some of those present felt that the boating population could not sustain a further increase and that any such action would result in more vacant berths. It was suggested by the Forum that some charges need not be increased at all and the Working Party should look at the charges on an individual basis rather than simply implementing a generic increase. KM explained that whilst the reserve fund could be used to cover any deficits both in this and in coming years there needed to be an increase in harbour charges to fund some of the deficit. KM & MR agreed to organise a meeting with the Torquay Harbour Users group.</p>	<p>KM & MR</p>

7.	Oil Spill Response Plan – review	Action
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	<p>KM said that it was a statutory obligation to have an Oil Spill Response Plan which incorporates a Tier 2 contractual responder and that all relevant officers were fully trained. The plan is due to be reviewed and it will go out to consultation to various stakeholders and then on to the MCA for approval. PL asked interested parties to contact him directly. MS emphasised the need to consider the fuel station in the plan. KM agreed to take such action.</p>	<p>PL All KM</p>
8.	Port Waste Management Plan – review	Action
	<p>KM reported that the Port Waste Management Plan was also a statutory obligation. The plan is due to be reviewed and it will go out to consultation to various stakeholders and then on to the MCA for approval. PL asked interested parties to contact him directly.</p>	<p>PL All</p>
9.	Results of Harbour Users Survey 2011	Action
	<p>KM gave the Forum some headline figures from the annual Harbour Users Survey; he said that a full report would be going to the Harbour Committee in September with the results being available to anyone who is interested.</p>	<p>All</p>
10.	Maritime Events 2011	Action
(a)	Optimists Nationals ~ update JT	
	<p>JT reported that PSC had to date not been successful with their bid to hold this event but were hopeful of attracting alternative national events to compensate.</p>	
(b)	RTYC Events 2012 ~ WB	
	<p>WB reported on the successful events hosted to date by the RTYC in 2011. He stressed the economic value to the Bay by providing some spending figures. WB also told the Forum about the events proposed for 2012.</p>	
11.	Seabed Lease from Crown Estate (Ark Royal)	
	<p>KM said that a report regarding a lease of the seabed from the Crown Estate would be considered by the Harbour Committee in September. A bid had been put in for the Ark Royal by a local charity who would like to create an artificial reef off of Tor Bay. However, the Crown Estate required the Council to take a lease of the seabed for 125 years, as they would not accept responsibility. Also, they would not grant a lease to the charity. KM explained a number of risks associated with this proposal especially if the charity ceased to exist. He explained that these risks existed despite the fact that the vessel would be sunk 6/7 miles off Tor Bay. The risks included a possible financial burden on the Council/Harbour Authority. The Forum understood the concerns expressed by the officers and the potential risk exposure. They agreed it was a good idea to seek further advice on the various risk issues. KM continued by saying that any Harbour Committee recommendation would ultimately need approval from the Mayor/Council.</p>	
12.	Broadsands - Dinghy Sailing	Action
	<p>KM explained that a member of the public had asked for this matter to be raised at the Liaison Forum meeting. The Forum were keen to encourage dinghy sailing from Broadsands and KM agreed to revisit this idea with the TDA</p>	<p>KM</p>
13.	Torquay Harbour Entrance 5 knot Buoy (WB)	Action

WB reported that a power boat had hit the 5 knot mark on the evening of the fireworks display and he suggested that this buoy could be moved further seaward and re-assigned as a port hand mark complete with a navigation light. KM welcomed this proposal and the Forum also supported this view. KM agreed to investigate this matter further.

KM

14. Harbour Committee

(a) Upcoming Agenda

KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the next Harbour Committee meeting on 12th September 2011.

Next Meeting

22nd November 2011 10.30am

Venue

Torquay Harbour Office

Future meetings

21st February 2012 10.30am

29th May 2012 10.30am

Dates of Harbour Committee Meetings

12th September 2011 5.30pm (Brixham)

5th December 2011 5.30pm (Paignton)

5th March 2012 5.30pm (Torquay)

11th June 2012 5.30pm (Brixham)