

Draft Minutes of the VDBHA held on the 19th March 2016.

Note

1. "Having built up a relationship with Llyr Jones from the council and David O'Neil the harbour master from scratch I have after each meeting sent them a copy of the minutes to ensure that they thought it was a fair and representative overview of their respective input's. The items on red below are Llyr's comments which I have chosen to publish as part of the meeting.
2. The council action plan and Llyr's presentation should also be read as part of the package"

John O'Sullivan

The meeting opened with J. O'Sullivan welcoming Llyr Jones and Barry Davies from the Council and stated a desire to hold two surveys a year from the members to keep their views up to date.

Llyr Jones, Council Senior Manager, opened the meeting with a projector presentation, a copy of which is attached to this email. He restated the value of co-operation with the berth holders, and how solving their problems was important to The Council.

He stated that the action plan being presented had to follow technical and financial considerations but there was a common goal and that it was important that we all work together.

'Key Areas' of the Action Plan very much based on results of the berth holders' survey.

After the presentation he offered a question and answer session between the berth holders and himself and Barry.

The topics from the presentation were talked about by Llyr and the main points are reported below:-

Perhaps useful to note the key headings within the draft Action Plan?

Info and communication.

On this topic Llyr praised the website and offered The Councils help if there was a need for Welsh Language support. He looked forward to meetings with a **representative from** the Committee in the future, when John O'Sullivan took a step back from front line negotiations.

Fuel Station

The aim of The Council is to establish a fuel facility for red diesel with a 5000ltr. Tank sited alongside the harbour office and payment will be chip and pin. This is hoped to be in operation before the end of May.

Parking

A drop off point is to be established alongside the end of the Galeri with a maximum waiting time of 20 minutes for north end berth holders. This is to start from April 2016 and will be reviewed after a 12 month trial basis. North end berth holders are to be given parking permits for the Balaclava car park (the one opposite the Galeri extending to behind ASDA) with the car registration number on. A question from the floor as to whether berth numbers would be a better idea, as the member asking the question stated he came in different cars. The reply from Llyr was that this request would have to be considered when the final method was decided.

It was stated that the requirement and usage of the south end would be monitored to access if there was a problem there in busy periods, and it was requested that the drop off time limit of 20 mins was respected.

To have a formal drop off point would involve consultations with the Highways Department and Watkin Jones, and parking permits in the future for both ends was muted.

A question of other people, for example taxis, using the space was asked from the floor as it had been stated that initially there would be no formal signage was answered that the Traffic Wardens would be briefed.

Llyr stated that there could be permanent signage **as part of a traffic order**.

Security

Llyr reported that the North pontoons had been jetted to improve the slippery surfaces and on the question of security additional fencing is to be installed along the Dock outside "Table Table" to make it more difficult to jump down onto the pontoons. Contractors have been consulted on this. A question from the floor about prosecuting offenders and it was answered that this was really not possible.

The Council is to review the CCTV coverage around the dock by May and then consider if improvements are needed.

Dredging

Llyr told the meeting about the work that had been done to repair the half tide gate and that agitation pipes had been added to help clear any build-up of sand that was one of the causes of damage. This had cost £20000. He also apologised to berth holders for any inconvenience caused due to the time the entrance could not be used .

When Seiont II was back from Pwhelli, the priority was to attempt to level out the high spots in the dock that had been identified by a hydrographic survey, available for viewing at the meeting.

As far as a long term solution was concerned, he mentioned as Act of 1793 which gave the Harbour Trust the right to dredge, but not to dispose of the spoil, so this direction was of little use.

Discussions had been held with Natural Resources Wales and a long term solution would include discussions with them and CEFAS.

The cutter suction method would need a license but water injection would not. He said that the Council was looking at installing suction pipes in the vicinity of the gates to target high pressure water at the high spots which could work in the vicinity of the gates but was not a long term solution.

Getting consent for cutter suction could take 12 months.

Arrangements have been made to borrow the water injection dredger before the summer from Conwy, who are keen to give it a try in Caernarfon although it is thought that it will only be effective in the vicinity of the gate.

He also mentioned that a sampling survey of the sludge deposits had been done which would save time in applying for consents.

Yearly fees.

A question was asked why the cost of berthing had increased for 2016 after it had been stated in the last meeting that they would not increase until the dredging had been solved, answered by Barry Davies. He said that the Council had a projected income from the Dock and that the actual income was lower, and although there was an increase of 1%, it was less than inflation.

Noise from fans in Records Building.

Members had asked for the noise at night from the fans to be put on the meeting agenda. John O'Sullivan had passed this on to The Council but it was not in Llyr's report. This subject will have to be brought up again.

Not sure if this was discussed at the meeting? (I had a discussion with a few members over lunch). Nevertheless, I have no issue whatsoever with a record being made, but suggest that the matter was not included in the Draft Action Plan on the basis it had been prepared to take account of the priorities as identified within the berth holders' survey.

Presentation by the RNLI.

An interesting presentation was given by Athony Robinson of the RNLI Beaumaris which brought out some interesting figures on lifeboat calls and on the importance of servicing and checking lifejackets. He also talked about their service available to boat owners of having one of their experts visit individuals vessels, and giving a report concerning safety and seaworthiness. They are holding a Lifeboat Fun Day on the 20th of August so come along and give your support.

Lunch was served sponsored by Menai Marine and prepared by Brian Oulton.