

Salcombe Harbour Board – 2 June 2008**TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES****Report of Head of Service Salcombe Harbour****Statutory Powers: Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954**

Financial Implications: There are no new financial implications related to the issues raised within this report other than the revised manning arrangements for the forthcoming season. The additional overtime payments for this will be met from the current overtime budget.

Purpose

To update Members on the progress made against a number of operational issues within Salcombe Harbour. This report supports South Hams objectives: Retention of the District's Character (CP3), an accessible Council (CP5) and value for money (CP6).

Recommendation

That the Harbour Board RESOLVES to note the content of this report.

Security Patrol

1. Following a competitive tendering process, a new Night Security Contractor has been appointed from 1 May 2008.
2. The Board also agreed (SH50/07) to encourage the development and extension of the Boat Watch scheme to complement the Harbour Authority and security patrols. Approval has now been received from the Harbour's insurance company to allow volunteers to operate a harbour launch and, as a result, volunteers are being sought to mount occasional daylight patrols to complement the activity of the Harbour Staff throughout the forthcoming season.

Dredging of Batson Creek

3. Work is progressing in cooperation with the RNLI to prepare an invitation to tender for the dredging of Batson Creek.
4. The target date for completion of the dredging work remains December 2008.

Harbour Support to Regattas

5. To date the only request for assistance this year is has been received from Frogmore, who have asked for a pontoon during their regatta in August.

6. It is anticipated that a multitude of other requests will be received, which the Harbour Staff will attempt to accommodate. Requests for assistance are invariably for temporary pontoons and or the barge as a platform for firework displays. It will not be the intention to charge the full commercial rate in supporting these events; however an administrative charge to cover staff costs will be levied.

7. The Salcombe Regatta Committee held a meeting on 15 April 2008 to discuss a display by the Red Arrows as part of the Town Regatta activities. This meeting was attended by representatives from Devon County Council, The Devon and Cornwall Police, The Devon and Somerset Fire Service and representatives of the local Parishes. Although there had been no consultation, the Regatta Committee have booked the Red Arrows to perform over Salcombe on 9 August 2008 at 17:30. There was a general uneasiness amongst some of the meeting attendees over the ability of Salcombe and East Portlemouth to accommodate the numbers of visitors that could be attracted by a display by the Red Arrows. From the Harbour's perspective, during regatta weeks the harbour is already operating at capacity and any additional visitors will seriously stretch both infrastructure and services offered to resident and visiting vessels. This could be potentially damaging to the harbour's reputation. However, as this activity appears to be a fait accompli, the Harbour Authority will need to risk assess the event and put measures in place to mitigate the risks to vessels and crews.

8. Measures under consideration include:
 - Maximum available staff on duty
 - A designated anchorage area between 1200 and 1900
 - Emergency overflow berthing measures in the Bag in the event of inclement weather

Strategic Risk Assessment

Opportunity	Issues / Obstacles	Benefits
The Harbour Authority is striving to deliver an improving service to harbour users.	The Harbour Board, through its contact with harbour Community Forums has identified a number of improvements which can benefit both resident and visiting yachtsmen and improve the reputation of Salcombe Harbour.	A better service in a safe environment for estuary users.

Conclusion

9. There are a large number of actions currently being progressed which, it is hoped, demonstrates the Harbour Board and Harbour Team's commitment to providing a first class service to the users of Salcombe/Kingsbridge Estuary.

Ian Gibson
Head of Service Salcombe Harbour

Salcombe Harbour Board
2 June 2008

Background Documents:

Strategic Business Plan 2007-2011, 1st Edition dated 2 August 2007.