

Salcombe Harbour Board – 14 January 2008**SECURITY PATROL****Report of Head of Service Salcombe Harbour****Statutory Powers: Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954**

Financial Implications: The contract for the provision of the Night Security Patrol cost £35,250 in 2007/08, with revenue raise by the levy of a security charge on all facility holders.

Purpose

To set out the facts surrounding the night security patrol and present a range of options for the future for consideration by the Harbour Board.

This report supports South Hams objective value for money (CP6).

Recommendations

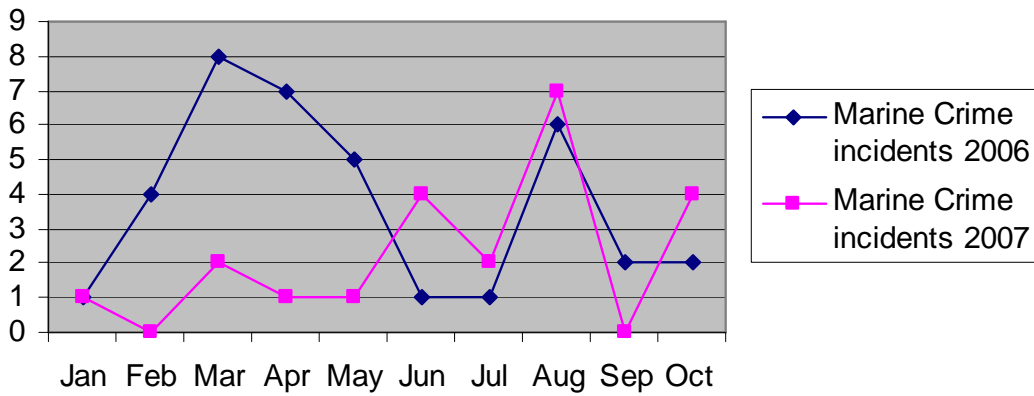
That the Harbour Board selects one of the options for the future of the Night Security Patrol from paragraph 6.

Background

1. In response to an unacceptably high number of incidences of marine crime, the Harbour Board instigated a Night Security Patrol in 1997 (approximately). Following a competitive process of expressions of interest a contract was awarded to Watertight Security for a period of one year in 2004, with an option to extend and continue the contract period by giving not less than three months notice.
2. The current contract has been renewed annually and is currently approaching the end of its fourth year.
3. Overall the Night Security Patrol, judged against crime figures for the last two years, has been successful in contributing to a reduction in reported marine crime¹. The patrol directive from the Harbour Master was amended for 2007. Details of this and operational patrol statistics is at Appendix 1.

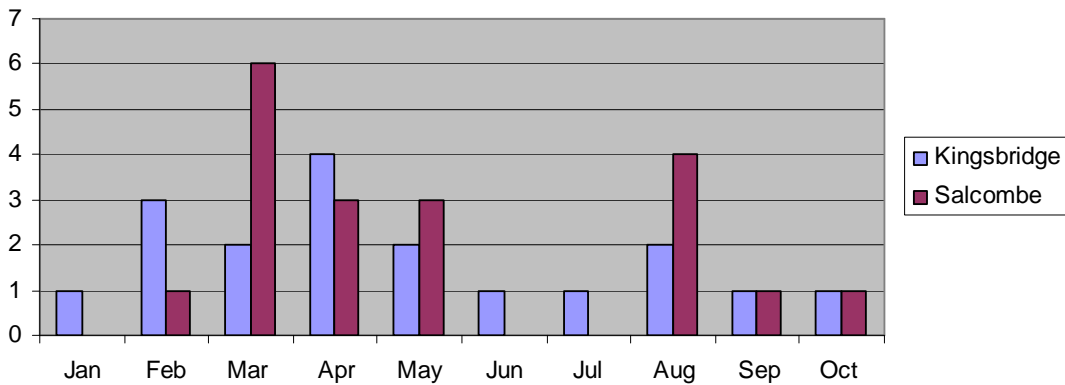
¹ Figures provided by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

Comparison of Marine Crime Incidents 2006 to 2007

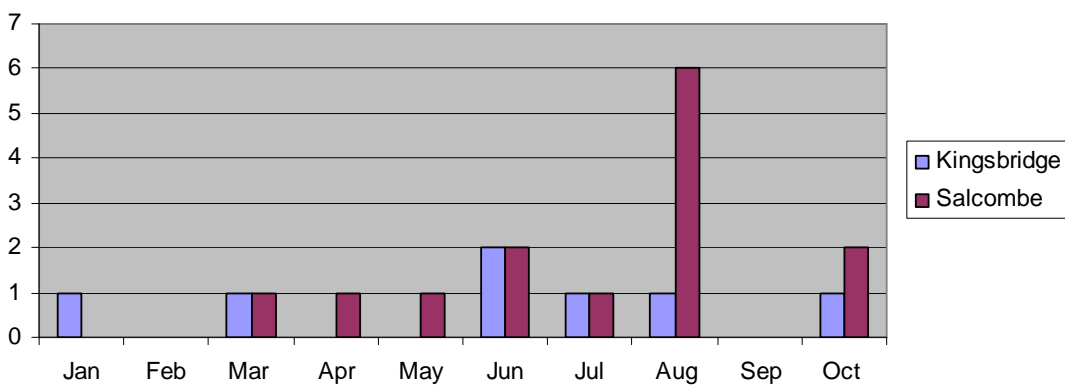


4. There are other factors which have affected the level of marine crime; one of these has been the introduction of the Boat Watch scheme by the Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club, which clearly has had a positive impact on reducing the numbers of reported marine crimes at the Kingsbridge end of the Estuary.

Marine Crime Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary 2006



Marine Crime Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary 2007



5. The positive contribution to the reduction of marine crime at Kingsbridge has highlighted the issue that some members of the Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club are reluctant to pay the security charge² to finance the Security Patrol. The security levy is charged to all mooring holders within the Estuary. This strategy of total inclusion is considered the only fair way to raise the finance to provide this service.

Way Ahead

6. There are several options for the future delivery of a security patrol to augment the patrol activities of the Harbour Staff and Boat Watch scheme, these are:

- a. Give three months notice to the current security contractor for the cessation of the service and not provide a dedicated security patrol.

Advantages

- Reduction in charges levied on boat owners

Disadvantages

- Risk of marine crime returning to unacceptable levels

- b. Extend the contract for a further year, conducting a market testing exercise in September 2008 for delivery of the service from April 2009 onwards.

Advantages

- Continuity of service
- Best use of corporate knowledge
- Time to test market

Disadvantages

- Nine month delay in market testing

- c. Conducting a market testing exercise in January 2008 for delivery of the service from as soon as possible in 2008.

Advantages

- Immediate market testing

Disadvantages

- Shortage of time to implement any new arrangements before start of financial year (contract year)
- Current contract would have to be extended for short period (three months notice required)
- Potential disruption at the start of the season

² 2008/09 Crime Prevention Charges for Deep water mooring £37.27, Foreshore mooring £18.63.

- d. Encourage the development and extension of the Boat Watch scheme to complement the Harbour Authority and security patrols.

Advantages

- Increased presence provides increased deterrence
- Local involvement in voluntary patrol activity engenders greater community engagement
- Potential further reduction in crime levels

Disadvantages

- none

7. The preferred option is option B, extending the current contract for a further year, conducting a market testing exercise with the newly appointed Procurement Officer in September 2008, so that adequate notice may be given for any change in contract arrangements from April 2009. Option D is seen as complimentary to the activities of both the Harbour Authority Staff and the Security Patrol.

Risk Assessment

Risk / Opportunity	Issues / Obstacles	Benefits
Market testing for expressions of interest,	The issue is the timing of the market testing. For a change in April the process should start in September of the previous year.	Market testing will ensure value for money from the Security Patrol Contract.
Marine crime increases to unacceptable levels.	Cessation of the Night Security Patrol could send the wrong message to potential thieves. The current low levels of crime have taken considerable effort to achieve and could be lost very quickly.	Continuation of the security patrol will provide a level of deterrence with a presence within the estuary during the silent hours when Harbour Staff do not have a physical presence.
Extend the Boat Watch scheme beyond the Northern end of the Estuary	Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club have embraced the issue of tackling marine crime with a high visibility patrol, this initiative should be encouraged in other parts of the Estuary.	Stakeholder engagement leading to reduced crime and improved general security throughout the Estuary

Conclusion

8. There is a real benefit to boat owners in the form of increased security for a relatively small financial investment at the individual level. Crime figures for 2007 are encouraging but complacency could be potentially disastrous.
9. There is a requirement to market test the provision of the Security Patrol in order to ensure best value for money, however time is considered too short to do this satisfactorily prior to the 2008 season. A more considered and measured approach would be to extend the current contract for a further year and advertise for expressions of interest in September 2008 to provide the service from April 2009.

Ian Gibson
Head of Service Salcombe Harbour

Salcombe Harbour Board
14 January 2008

Background Documents:

Agreement for provision of Night Security patrol dated 12 October 2004.

Agreement for provision of Night Security patrol dated 7 July 2005.

Agreement for provision of Night Security patrol dated 22 March 2007.

Appendix:

1. Night Security Patrol Statistics for 2007 (Exempt Document)