

Salcombe Harbour Board, 18th April 2005**TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES****Report of the Salcombe Harbour Master**

Statutory Powers: The Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954

Financial Implications: None

Purpose

1. This report informs Members of any interesting current or future issues that may affect the Salcombe Harbour Board or Salcombe Harbour Kingsbridge Estuary.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the report.

The Issues**Website**

2. The new Salcombe Harbour website went live in February as part of the Council's main website. Users can either access it via The South Hams Website or they can access it directly by visiting <http://www.salcombeharbour.co.uk>. Members are encouraged to visit the site in order to familiarise themselves with all the new options that include the ability to download any number of forms that are required in order to apply for any harbour facility. Members may be interested to note that the website was designed internally by harbour staff.

Hand-held Credit Card Machines

3. With the assistance of the Council's ICT Service, harbour staff will be able to collect income afloat by credit card, with the use of new hand-held machines that operate a swipe or chip and pin system. It is anticipated that this will provide a more effective service to the customer and that reflects the customer market.

Municipal Ports Review

4. A meeting between the BPA Municipal Ports Working Party, DFT and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that was scheduled for mid-March 2005 was cancelled due to the awaited report on the review of Municipal Ports being still under consideration by the ODPM's office. The Harbour Master will continue to update the Board on any progress once it is known.

Boat Parking

5. A second meeting between the Chairman of the Salcombe Harbour Board and the Chairman of the Council's Business Board with responsibility for boat

parking, has been arranged for 25th April 2005 to discuss how both services can further align to provide the customer with a more seamless service.

6. Members will be interested to note that the range of improvements that the Board recommended to the Council have now gone ahead and besides those that were discussed at the last Board, the Harbour Master is delighted to inform the Board that the Boat Park CCTV system has been upgraded to a digital system and two new cameras have been mounted to cover both the public slipway and the fish quay.

Lincombe Boatyard

7. All the necessary permissions for the works to proceed at Lincombe Boatyard for the dredging of the channel and the reclamation for a new hardstanding and slipway, have now been agreed. The project is scheduled to proceed this autumn and if this is the case, then the Board may wish to use the opportunity of having large machinery in the harbour to undertake any projects that the Board may think are necessary. These may be considered further at the Harbour inspection that is scheduled for 12th July 2005.

Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Environmental Management Plan Review

8. The reviewed Plan is now ready to be printed and the intention is to formally present the Plan to the estuary community at a Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum event in the near future. As suggested previously, the Local Nature Reserve byelaws will be formally advertised at that same event.
9. The Estuary Plan is a local environmental plan for the adoption by the local estuary community - of which the Harbour Authority and District Council alike are obviously key partners. The Marine Conservation Officer's role within this is to encourage and enable the local community to actively adopt the Plan and to encourage and coordinate the roles and work of the relevant responsible authorities and organisations.

Sewage Incidents

10. South West Water has been working on the North Sands pumping station, replacing pumps within a wet well because of broken couplings. In order to drain down the wet well to do the work, the valve in the main sewer located at Sunnycliffe has had to be closed periodically. This causes back pressure in the sewer and some leakage problems have been reported in the vicinity of the Ferry Inn. The Environment Agency has attended and is pushing SWW for an early conclusion to the problems on the foreshore below .

Estuary Survey and Research Projects

11. Although the estuaries have always held an attraction for academic research projects, a special effort was made last year to attract further numbers of research projects that could prove to be useful to the conservation management or understanding of the estuaries. Although not all students have followed through on their initial expression of interest, the number of projects being presently undertaken is at an all time high. These include; (NB these are not the formal titles of the projects)

- a. BSc – Investigation into the invasion and appropriate management control of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge and Avon estuaries by the common cord grass *Spartina anglica*.
- b. MSc – Project to investigate the desires, content and design of an ‘on-the-water’ general information leaflet for the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary.
- c. MSc – Two projects investigating the environmental impact of boats and their moorings on seabed habitats and communities (particularly the eelgrass beds) within the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary and possible mitigation proposals.
- d. MSc – Two projects investigating the ‘uniqueness’ of the habitats and natural communities of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary.
- e. MSc – Investigating the environmental impact of boat maintenance activities within the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary.

Oil Booming Plans

12. The Environment Agency has been working on the preparation of an Oil Booming Plan for the western side of the estuary which was due for completion by April 2005.

Underwater Film Project

13. Weather permitting, filming will start again shortly – although some very good filming took place last year, it was severely hampered by the series of storms in the late summer leading to poor underwater visibility.

Sustainable Moorings

14. Further to previous reports to the Board concerning Seaflex moorings and their environmentally sustainable use, a Seaflex representative has visited Salcombe Harbour and met with Harbour staff to discuss the potential of using Seaflex for pontoon and swinging moorings. Not only does the Seaflex system appear to have significant environmental advantages it also provides longevity and reduced maintenance advantages over the more traditional block and chain mooring arrangement

N Mortimer
Marine Conservation Officer

Salcombe Harbour Board
18th April 2005

S E Tooke
Harbour Master

Background Documents

None