

Salcombe Harbour Board - 19 October 2004

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

Municipal Ports Review

2. A Salcombe Harbour Board working party convened to prepare a response to the Municipal Ports Review questionnaire for consideration by the Council met on 16 July 2004. The working parties completed questionnaire was considered by Council and an amended version was received by the DfT, before the agreed timetable.
3. Members of the Board have received a copy of the finalised questionnaire and a copy has been posted on the Council's Website.
4. The latest news of the review has been received from the British Ports Association by all Municipal Ports engaged in this exercise. The DfT are presently analysing the returned questionnaires and are on course to make recommendations later in the year.
5. The Harbour Master may be in a better position to report back to the Board any further information following the BPA Annual Conference that is being held in early October.

Port Marine Safety Code – Safety Management System

6. The annual review of the Salcombe Harbour Safety Management system in accordance with the Port Marine Safety Code has been

completed by the Harbour Master with Peter Nicholson Consultants, the Board's Designated Person. A letter has been received acknowledging that the Board remains compliant with the code.

7. There were two key safety issues that were recognised in last year's safety management report:-

- The Fairway

It was recognised that the Fairway that operates in the main part of the harbour during Salcombe Yacht Club racing needed improving. A number of meetings were held prior to the racing season with the committee of SYC to seek those improvements by consultation. The new fairway configuration proved successful for both parties during the summer season, especially Regatta weeks.

- Fuel Barge

A detailed risk assessment of the fuel barge operation has been completed by the owner in consultation with the Harbour Master. Many of the controls have been incorporated in a new licence issued by Devon County Council.

8. The priority for the forthcoming year will be management issues surrounding of the public slipway at Batson. Work in this area has been started by the Board member representing the RYA.

Salcombe Harbour Kingsbridge Estuary Byelaws

9. In 1998, the Board undertook a full review of the Salcombe Harbour Kingsbridge Estuary Byelaws and submitted a request to the DfT for certain amendments. The DfT agreed and full and detailed consultation process was undertaken by the Department. The next stage was for the revised set of byelaws to be returned to the Council for consideration before a local consultation exercise. To date the byelaws have never re-appeared out of the DfT and despite numerous requests by the Harbour Master the review process remains dormant. The Harbour Master on the Board's behalf has taken this matter up with the DfT and has canvassed support from the British Ports Association.

Web Site

10. As part of the Council's commitment to e-government and with the creation of a new customer service unit, work is now progressing at pace with a new Salcombe Harbour Web Site. The site will not only provide better access to a whole range of harbour information, but will also enable customers to download applications forms and to provide links to other Council services.

Waste Oil Tank Bund

11. During the Harbour Inspection, Members were shown at first hand the new waste oil tank bund located in the Council's Trailer Park. The tank was re-located from the Fish Quay on the advice of the Environment Agency following new legislation controlling the storage of fuels.
12. The funding for this project was paid for by contribution from three service areas including the Board through the Revenue Reserve Account at a cost of £3,500.00.

CCTV System

13. To improve the Board and Council's commitment to security on and around the Harbour, the Harbour Master in consultation with the Chairman of the Board took the initiative to have installed a CCTV system to cover Whitestrand pontoon, Normandy pontoon and the Batson Channel. The monitoring and recording system is installed in the Harbour Office. The equipment and installation cost a total of £3,200.00 and was paid for from the Revenue Reserve Account.

Environmental Issues

14. The MCO will provide a verbal update of interesting environmental initiatives on going around the estuary.

S E Tooke
Harbour Master

Salcombe Harbour Board
19 October 2004

N Mortimer
Marine Conservation Officer

Background Documents

None