

Salcombe Harbour Board – 26 January 2009**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 .

Purpose

To update Members on the progress made against a number of operational projects 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.

Duchy of Cornwall Lease Negotiations

1. Negotiations are progressing as approved by Harbour Board on 20 March 2007 (SH44/06). Heads of Terms for Agreement were agreed in August 2007. A draft lease was received from the Duchy of Cornwall's solicitors on 25 February which was commented upon on 17 March 2008. The lease has been with the Duchy Solicitors since the early summer for finalizing. .

Revision of Bye-laws

2. In response to stakeholder feedback that excessive speed and the consequent wash was adversely affecting their enjoyment of the estuary, and to reduce the risk of serious injury resulting from a collision or capsizing, the Harbour Board agreed on 12 November 2007 (SH 40/07) to work towards reducing the speed limit within the harbour to six knots. Feedback from informal consultation through the winter 2007 Newsletter highlighted the objections to this proposal, particularly from boat owners at Kingsbridge, for a blanket reduction to six knots. Therefore a revised proposal was forwarded to the DfT on 2 January 2008 which retains the eight knot speed limit with a six knot zone from the Marine Hotel to the Salt Stone and within the Kingsbridge Basin. Public consultation was completed and the Board recommended the modification bye-law to the Council on 2 June 2008 (SH06/08). The Modification Bye-laws were signed by the Department for Transport and South Hams District Council on 22 December 2008.

Pontoons

3. The replacement Visitors' Pontoon in the Bag approved by the Harbour Board on 2 June 2008 (SH07/08) was completed in November 2008.
4. The public consultation for the replacement Batson Pontoons, approved by the Harbour Board on 2 June 2008 (SH07/08) with financial provision approved on 22 September 2008 (SH28/08) is well underway. Public meetings will be held at Kingsbridge on 28 January and Salcombe on 29 January before consultation closes on 15 February 2009. A Report will be brought to the Board on 31 March 2009.
5. The test piling for Winters Pontoons was successfully completed in November 2008 and as a result, it is anticipated that the pontoons will be piled before the start of the 2009 season.

Afloat Provisioning

6. The Harbour Board approved the development of an afloat provisioning service on 6 June 2007 (SH 9/07). Following a competitive tendering process the Board have granted the Salcombe Fishmongers a concession to provide a grocery delivery service from Easter 2008 for an initial period of two years. This service was not a success and the improved service to visiting yachts envisaged by the introduction of this service was not achieved. The opening of an additional grocery shop in the town has eased the problem of shopping for visiting yachts. The service has been terminated and the consent withdrawn. It is not proposed to re-visit this initiative for at least two years.

Scallop Ranching

7. The Harbour Board approved a Scallop Ranching trial on 12 November 2007 (SH41/07). Subsequent to this approval the operator requesting the trial has ceased scallop fishing and therefore the trial was not started and is unlikely to be. Due to changes in the fundus lease arrangements, the Duchy of Cornwall have taken responsibility for managing the several fishery and therefore any future requests of this nature will revert directly to the Duchy of Cornwall and Devon Sea Fisheries. The Duchy of Cornwall will consult with the Harbour Board on Navigational issues prior to making any decisions that may affect other users of the Estuary.

Winter Storage Arrangements – Creek Car Park

8. The Harbour Board recognised the problems with the winter storage arrangements and recommended to the Council that they seek expressions of interest to operate all aspects of the winter storage arrangements on 10 July 2007 (SH19/07) and on 14 January 2008 (SH53/07). To date no progress has been made.

Strategic Risk Assessment

Opportunity	Issues / Obstacles	Benefits
The Harbour Authority is striving to deliver an improving service to harbour users.	There are a number of issues which have been underway for a long period; this report is an opportunity to report progress, successes and failures.	A better service in a safe environment for estuary users.

Conclusion

9. There are a 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
26 January 2009

Background Documents:

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