

Queen's Harbour Master
Plymouth
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QHM 532/7

16 Oct 2007

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2007 IN THE NBHQ
CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present	Representing	User Group
Cdr I Hugo	Queen's Harbour Master Chairman	MOD
Lt Cdr N Trathen RN	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master, Secretary	MOD
Insp G Peters	MDP Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
Sgt P Cawrse	MDP Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
Mr C Moyse	PPSA	Recreation
Mr D Curno	Royal Yachting Association	Recreation
Mr P Patterson	BMIF(SW)	Maritime Commerce
Mr J Hepburn	Maritime Plymouth	Maritime Commerce
Mr C Turner	Tamar Protection Society	Landscape Conservation
Mr M North	Maritime Coastguard Agency	Maritime Rescue
Mr M Kester	PCC Boatmaster	Marine Commerce
Mr R Halliday	Duchy of Cornwall	Fundus Owners
Dr A Linley	Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Research
Mr A Hutchings	Maker with Rame Parish Council	Parish Councils
Cllr M Benson	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Parish Councils
Cllr I Kirk	Calstock Parish Council	Parish Councils
Mr C Davis	Natural England	Environment

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction.	<p>1. Cdr Hugo welcomed those present and asked individuals to introduce themselves and to identify their parent organisation.</p> <p>2. He advised that QHM Office Manager Sandie Last had retired her relief was being recruited. On a similar note Maeve Nightingale has moved on from the TECF Coastal Officer's post to take up a new appointment abroad. Before she left QHM had thanked her for her support and work for the Tamar Estuaries. The new Coastal Officer</p>	

	Kaja Curry would be starting at the end of October.	
2. Apologies for Absence.	1. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Wiseman (Mt Edgcumbe Estates), Mr Muelaner (National Trust), Mr Tyler (Natural England), Mr Read (Marine Archaeology) and Capt Charlesworth (Cattewater HM).	
3. Notes of the previous meeting.	1. The notes of the meeting held 14 June 2007 were accepted.	
4. Matters Arising	<p>1. <u>Phoenix Wharf Landing Stage.</u></p> <p>a. DQHM read an update from Cattewater HM. Dean & Dyball had been awarded the contract to install the new pontoon. Works were due to commence on Commercial Wharf in early Jan aiming for the pontoon to be in place next Spring. Mr Kester explained that the new pontoon would provide a landing stage for commercial passenger craft, a secure area for tendering operations to cruise ships and berthing for Cattewater Harbour Commission vessels.</p> <p>b. DQHM advised that the issue of piling in Sutton Harbour had been passed up to TECF. The CO reported that part of the problem was a shortfall in the number of council enforcement officers. QHM offered to reiterate concerns to PCC at a forthcoming meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Educational Events.</u></p> <p>a. QHM briefed that the work on the diary of events had been on hold during the transition to the new CO.</p> <p>b. Cllr Benson (Bere Ferrers PC) spoke about the Floating Classroom Project. He reported that there was some local community concerns over the proposals and the Parish Council was opposed to the proposed arrangements for the project. He understood that the project was being lead by TVAONB and had been formally launched earlier that week. There were meetings arranged for public consultation 7 – 9 Dec. QHM would task the CO to liaise with TVAONB, local planners and parish council representatives to facilitate the discussion. Final decision on any proposals that require infrastructure to be build lies with West Devon Council Planning Dept.</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>QHM</p> <p>QHM/CO</p>
5. SAC Matters.	<p>1. Mr Davis presented Natural England's report.</p> <p>a. He was currently covering for 4 officers. New personnel were being recruited to fill vacant posts. It was hoped that the new officers would be in post for the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>b. No major planning applications. Minor alterations to pontoons at Jupiter Point and strengthen of cliffs at Bovisand Park.</p> <p>c. NE had responded to DEFRA consultation on the renewal of the maintenance dredge disposal licence for the DPoP. NE seeking progress on the development of a dredging protocol for the port. Cllr Benson enquired about the reported link between the spoil disposal and the diving accident on the Scylla. Mr Davis advised that it was a matter for the Coroner and DCC Police to establish. Mr Hutchings stated that a number of Rame Head residents remained concerned at the effect of continued disposal on marine life in Whitsand Bay.</p>	
<p>6. TECF Management Plan.</p>	<p>1. QHM stated that progress on the various work strands had slowed during the CO transition. He provided a brief update on the four main work strands being undertaken:</p> <p>a. <u>Upper Tamar Management</u>. On going – TVANOB were holding a forum on Management and Governance on 22 Oct. TECF would be represented.</p> <p>b. <u>Dredging Protocols</u>. This was a priority piece of work for the CO to take forward once established in post. Some work was already being progress by individual organisations. There is a need to draw together all the various elements of work.</p> <p>c. <u>Coastal Planning</u>. Work to develop a Supplementary Planning Document had begun, PCC were leading. A workshop was programmed for early Nov, aiming to encourage coherency between the various planning authorities. The CO would attend.</p> <p>d. <u>Marine Conservation Zone</u>. At an early stage of development. The Marine Bill, which was likely to be very complex and attempt to address a wide area of issues, appeared to have slipped down the Government agenda. Mr Davis said he understood that work was continuing on the draft in preparation for presentation next year and legislation the following year. The Bill is likely to create a Marine Management Organisation, however, the location had not been selected. Mr Hepburn added that the requirement for rationalisation of existing structures and legislation had received strong support from all sectors of the marine community.</p>	<p>QHM</p> <p>CO</p> <p>PCC/CO</p>

<p>7. MDP Marine Policing Strategy.</p>	<p>1. QHM introduced Insp Peters who had recently taken command of the Ministry of Defence Police Marine Unit at Devonport. Insp Peters provided an update on marine policing policy. The MDP superintend the implementation of the Port Order on behalf of QHM. Following review there has been a slight shift in the policing strategy with continued education but where appropriate warnings and prosecution. A yachtsman was recently fined £1000 for failing to comply with a direction from a police officer and navigating without care and caution. The change in emphasis would be highlighted in a forthcoming press release on compliance afloat. Mr Hepburn offered to include any article in the Maritime Plymouth Newsletter. Mr Curno asked if it would be possible to give presentations to local sailing clubs. MDP would be happy to give presentations subject to staff availability. Requests should be made to Insp Peters MDP MU</p> <p>2. QHM commented that the regulations were there to affect both safety on the water and security of MOD vessels and assets. There was a need for the public to understand that there has been a fundamental change in the security climate over the past few years. Cllr Benson inferred that historically the Navy has been draconian in the execution of jurisdiction. QHM challenged this assertion stating that he was unaware of any evidence of the MoD exceeding their remit.</p> <p>3. The current status of legalisation and alcohol testing for recreational vessels was briefly discussed.</p>	<p>MDP</p> <p>RYA/MDP</p>
<p>8. Review of Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order.</p>	<p>1. The legal staffing of the revision was nearing completion and it was anticipated that the draft changes would be available for public consultation in early Dec.</p>	<p>QHM</p>
<p>9. Maritime Plymouth.</p>	<p>1. Mr Hepburn gave details of current Maritime Plymouth initiatives including helping with the development of marine skills training in the area and promoting training organisations. He advised that Maritime Plymouth had assisted in Plymouth's successful bid to host the start of next year's TRANSAT race. Copies of the latest editions of the 'Little Blue Book' (directory of marine businesses) and the Plymouth Maritime Guide were handed out. The latest edition of the bi-monthly newsletter was available; those wishing to receive a copy should pass e-mail addresses to him. It was hoped that the new CO would be able to resume the TECF input once she was in post.</p>	<p>CO</p>

	<p>2. Visit Plymouth were scoping the option for a bid to establish a Business Improvement District for the waterfront to generate/support tourism related business. By the very nature of location there should be a marine focus.</p>	
10. Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership	<p>1. Dr Linley gave an informative update on the recent developments within the Marine Sciences Partnership (PMSP). The marine research organisations based in Plymouth enjoyed an international reputation and the aim was to build on this and to double the amount of research within a generation. One important aspect of the partnership is the sharing of data and relationship development to achieve greater collaboration on projects and being able to offer a broad spectrum of research capabilities.</p>	
11. Major Maritime Events 2008.	<p>1. Lt Cdr Trathen gave notice of the following events currently planned for 2008:</p> <p>11 May TRANSAT start 21 – 22 June Round Britain & Ireland Powerboat Race 27 July – 3 August Port of Plymouth Regatta & Classic Boat Rally</p>	
11. Any Other Business.	<p>1. <u>Sutton Harbour Area Action Plan</u>. Mr Hepburn had noted a requirement in the plan for ... “appropriate contributions towards managing off-site recreational impacts within the SAC & SPA”. Mr Davis explained that NE had introduced the condition with a view to longer-term management of the ever increasing pressures on the ecosystems of the SAC through population increase and greater recreational activity.</p> <p>2. <u>Diving Safety</u>. Mr Hepburn reported that he had been approached by a local dive club concerned at diver safety being put a risk by other recreational water users. They suggested that this may be partly due to a lack of understanding of each other’s procedures and constrains. It was suggested that a meeting of the various water users may foster a better understanding between the various recreational activities. QHM welcomed the initiative, stating that safety was central to the effective management of activities afloat and any thing that promoted education and understanding between water users would be supported. Maritime Plymouth offered to assist in co-ordinating a forum/meeting.</p>	<p>Maritime Plymouth/CO/ DQHM</p>

	<p>3. <u>Scallop Farm</u>. Mr Curno (RYA) enquired if the new scallop farm had been set up in Jennycliffe Bay. DQ stated that 4 buoys had been laid close inshore. Mr Halliday added that the fundus had been leased for a trial period and asked that anyone hearing of problems with the operation inform the Duchy.</p> <p>4. <u>New mooring North of Calstock</u>. Cllr Benson asked about new moorings that had been laid north of Calstock. DQ advised that a licence to lay 6 additional moorings in this area had been granted in 2005.</p> <p>5. <u>Duchy of Cornwall</u>. Mr Halliday advised that the Duchy had supported a recent trial off West Mud of a subsea mooring for a tidal generator. He added that the generator was designed for a site elsewhere and there were currently no plans to harness tidal power within the SAC. He also asked for any information on the owner of the hulk at Reynold's Trot. Mr Kester & DQ offered to brief him on completion of the meeting.</p> <p>6. <u>Public Access</u>. Mr Turner stated that he believed that Caradon District Council were considering introducing charges for the use of the public slipways at Saltash as one of a number of measures to resolve associated congestion and parking problems. The efficacy of the policy was discussed.</p> <p>7. <u>Diving Area</u>. DQ advised the meeting of the intention to remove the dive training areas off the Breakwater Fort and Raveness Beacon from Admiralty Charts. The areas had historically been used by the Bovisand Diving Centre which ceased trading several years ago. Mr Turner suggested that these areas were not very suitable for recreational diving due to the considerable amount of debris on the seabed. DQ would consult local dive reps and JSDC before instructing the Hydrographic Office to remove the areas.</p>	<p>Mr Kester/ DQHM</p> <p>DQHM</p>								
<p>12. Dates of Meetings.</p>	<p>1. Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td><u>TECF</u> (all am)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 February 08</td> <td>15 November 07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 June 08</td> <td>13 March 08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 October 08</td> <td>17 July 08</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u> (all am)	14 February 08	15 November 07	12 June 08	13 March 08	16 October 08	17 July 08	
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PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE (PPMLC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Preamble

1. The evolution of water management within the frame of the Dockyard Port of Plymouth and the designation of the Tamar Estuaries as a Special Area of Conservation under the European Habitats Directive saw a need for wider civil participation. At a statutory level this is met by the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) but representation is equally needed from the broader base of estuarine users. The role of the existing Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee was modified to meet that representational requirement. The aim is to optimise social, economic and environmental benefits through the promotion of sustainable use, development and management of the important common asset that is the Tamar Estuaries. The PPMLC, is an advisory body to the TECF¹ and forms an integral element in the estuarine management process.

THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE (PPMLC)

Primary Purpose

2. To advise TECF on factors affecting the management of the Tamar Estuaries.

Secondary Purposes

3. (a) To exchange information, represent ideas and proposals for discussion between the constituent interest groups, thus improving co-ordination and understanding between the different port users and interest groups within the Dockyard Port of Plymouth and the seaward extent of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site ².

(b) To assist in the formulation and execution of the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan.

Composition and Election

4 (a) The PPMLC shall comprise of the QHM, DQHM, TECF Coastal Officer and a number of spokespersons from the following interest groups:

Recreation	(5)	Landscape Conservation	(2)
Maritime Commerce	(3)	Fundus Owners/Managers	(2)
Moorings	(2)	Maritime Archaeology	(1)
Crime Abatement	(1)	Research	(1)
Navigation & Rescue	(1)	Town/Parish Councils	(3)
Fisheries	(1)	Education	(1)

¹ The Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum presently comprises of the Queen's Harbour Master, Caradon District Council, Cornwall County Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, West Devon Borough Council, Associated British Ports, Cattewater Harbour Commissioners, Sutton Harbour Company, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, Environment Agency, Natural England, Tamar Valley AONB, South West Water.

² As defined in the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 1999 and the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan Figure 2.

(b) The number of spokespersons per interest group shall be amended only by majority agreement by the PPMLC.

(c) The nomination of the spokesperson(s) shall be a matter for the respective interest group and should be forwarded to the QHM at least two months prior to the meeting.

Organisational Matters

5. (a) Minutes of the meetings of the PPMLC will be produced and distributed to the committee members. Individual members are responsible for further dissemination within the area they represent. A copy of the minutes will be posted on the TECF website.

(b) The PPMLC will meet about three times annually and normally about one month before TECF meetings. Meetings will be chaired by QHM or his representative.

(c) All questions relating to proceedings, dates, times, venues, attendance, membership, servicing, records and other matters of any kind relating to the PPMLC shall be decided by the QHM after consultation with the PPMLC.

(d) Any matters requested to be raised by any member of a specific interest group shall be forwarded at least three weeks in advance of the meeting for inclusion in the agenda.

(e) The constitution of the PPMLC may be amended only after a majority consent has been reached.