

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LITTLEHAMPTON HARBOUR
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION GROUP HELD IN THE LOOK AND SEA
CENTRE ON TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2016**

Present: Philip Bush (LHB) – Chairman
Billy Johnson (Harbour Master)
Brian Flook (AYC and PWC user)
Ivan Warren (RNLI Lifeboat Station)
Sgt John Begley (Sussex Police – Police Port Unit)
Nigel Draffan (Angmering Park Estate)
Mark Taylor (Littlehampton Yacht Club)
Brian Parkin (Littlehampton boat owner)
Gerry McGeehan (Boat Owner/Resident Mariners Quay)
Bill Chapman (Yacht LEIONA)
Joe Gibbs (Osborne of Arun)
Cllr Ian Buckland (LHB)
Robert Boyce (Osborne of Arun Group)
Tristan Waterkeyn (Local resident)
Jonathan Webb (Littlehampton Sea Cadets)
Vernon Parker (Littlehampton Charter Fisherman – OURJOY)
Daniel Parker (Littlehampton Charter Fisherman – OURJOY)
Cllr Colin Cates (ADC)
Cllr Derek Ambler (ADC)
Helen Bryett (Ford Marina)

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from:

Barry Almond (Arun Yacht Club)
Alistair Byford-Bates (Historic Environment Fisheries Liaison Officer)
Cllr Nigel Peters (LHB)
Nigel Anderson (Boat Owner/Resident Mariners Quay)
Chris Headon (PWC user)
Emma Finnamore (Littlehampton Marina)
Wes Smart (Harbour Park)
Roger Elliman (AYAC)

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING and MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 Jul 16 were agreed. The Chairman asked those present that if they have any comments or observations about the content of the Minutes could they notify the Harbour Master as soon as possible.

ITEM 3 – UDATE FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

RNLI Lifeboat Station. Ivan Warren summarised the incidents where Lifeboats had been involved in the last period as follows:

Service calls from 12 July.

1. 12th July Mfv Mayfly broken down requested Shoreham to tow.
2. 12th July 18ft Bayliner broken down towed in.
3. 19th July cabin cruiser take over tow from Selsey Lifeboat .
4. 24th July Dinghy capsized at Ferring righted before arriving.
5. 28th July report windsurfer Bognor shoreline search nothing found.
6. 30th July capsized dinghy Bognor stood down.
7. 7th Aug 22 ft yacht struggling in blustery conditions in entrance took under tow .
8. 9th Aug 14 ft Glaston engine failure towed in.
9. 17th Aug D class missing child east beach. Found ashore.
10. 21st Aug boat sunk in entrance 5 people lifeguards assisting.
11. 21st Aug relaunch to recover boat with CG.
12. 22nd Aug 26 ft sail boat broken awaited tide down towed in.
13. 22nd Aug D class to take off person from yacht whilst waiting tide.
14. 23rd Aug 15ft outboard fouled prop cleared properly escorted in.
15. 23rd Aug 23ft yacht stuck on bar D class lay anchor for tide.
16. 27th Aug D class missing diver support Atlantic and Selsey boats. Diver not found.
17. 29th Aug launched to recover Diver from dive boat taken to boathouse for coroner.
19. 1st Sept 17ft boat Osprey broken down got engine going escorted in.
20. 4th Sept D class assist police with recovery of body.
21. 10th search for missing person both boats nothing found.
22. 12th Sept 20ft wooden boat broken down taking water in towed in.
23. 24th Sept report person in difficulty just west of Butlins person ashore 7 mins to run person had a fit ambulance in attendance.
24. 28th Sept report person in difficulty just west of Bognor pier Selsey ILB launched followed by our request to launch Selsey recovered casualty taken to shore to ambulance return to station.

Police - Special Branch Ports Unit. Sgt John Begley gave an overview of activity within the county and requested that any unusual activity be reported. The HM undertook to act as a local point of contact if needed.

No further updates were received.

In the discussion, Gerry McGeehan asked if harbour users could be provided with a list of crimes that have occurred in and around the river – a question he had posed at a previous meeting. Cllr Ian Buckland advised that he had contacted the police and due to a reduction in police manning it would be difficult for them to send a representative. Cllr Ian Buckland further stated that following his discussions with the police it was not possible for them to provide a list of crimes. It was noted that some thefts of fuel tanks from the Arun YC had been reported recently.

Gerry McGeehan noted that during the preceding weeks a number of boats had been interfered with on two separate occasions along the pontoon frontage at Mariners Quay. Further to this he reported that at least one boat had been removed from the harbour as a direct result of the "crime issues" and pointed to the possibility that others could follow and the subsequent impact the removal of boats might have on the harbour.

Cllr Buckland advised that if members of the public wished to engage with the local policing team regarding specific issues the JEAC meeting to be held at the Woodlands Centre in Nov 16 would be the best forum to do so.

ITEM 4 –ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT REPORTS REVIEW

The HM summarised the following accidents or incidents since the last meeting from 09 of 2016 to 014 of 2016, and gave wider consideration to the 12 '2016 summer season' incidents recorded. (Under the Group ToRs the October meeting should include a general safety evaluation.)

Date	ID Code		Accident Category	Name
17/09/2016	LHP4080INV	I	Other personnel or public safety item	014 of 2016 - Yachts Crew Caught in Mooring Line
01/09/2016	LHP4079REP	I	Diving Injury	013 of 2016 - Death of Diver from HUNTRESS IV
21/08/2016	LHP4078REP	I	Sinking and capsizing	012 of 2016 - Motorboat Capsize
08/08/2016	LHP4076REP	I	Collision ship – ship	010 of 2016 - Yacht / Final Answer
06/08/2016	LHP4077REP	I	Other personnel or public safety item	011 of 2016 - Landrover slipway
30/07/2016	LHP4075REP	I	Impact with Structure	009 of 2016 - Jetski Collision Marina
12/06/2016	LHP4074ACT	I	Diving Injury	008 of 2016 - Diving MediVac
27/05/2016	LHP4071ACT	I	Ranging	005 of 2016 - Speeding Rib at Arundel
27/05/2016	LHP4073CLO	I	Collision ship – ship	007 of 2016 - Berthing Incident Final A + Adelaide
10/05/2016	LHP4070CLO	N	Collision ship – ship	004 of 2016 - Lynander CQS in Narrows
06/05/2016	LHP4069ACT	I	Impact with Structure	003 of 2016 - Runaway Jetski

15/04/2016	LHP4072CLO	I	Collision ship – ship	006 of 2016 - Berthing Incident Adelaide + Final A
24/01/2016	LHP4068ACT	I	Impact with Structure	002 of 2016 - Heavy Berthing of BEN VARREY
08/01/2016	LHP4067ACT	I	Other crisis management	001 of 2016 - Collapse of Arundel Quayside Wall
23/12/2015	LHP4065CLO	I	Sinking and capsizing	019 of 2015 - Sunken Vessel
17/12/2015	LHP4066ACT	I	Other crisis management	020 of 2015 - Collapse of AYC Dinghy Pen Wall
26/11/2015	LHP4064CLO	I	Marine Pollution (Minor)	018 of 2015 - Oil Spill Outfall
12/11/2015	LHP4062ACT	N	Other personnel or public safety item	016 of 2015 - Lifeboat Called to Stranded Dog
08/10/2015	LHP4060INV	I	Slip, trip, fall same level	015 of 2015 - Injury using gangway

Number of Accidents listed = 19

The HM further categorised the 12 ‘summer season’ incidents:

- 1 x Capsize;
- 2 x PWC incidents;
- 2 x Diving;
- 1 x CQS;
- 1 x speeding;
- 4 x Berthing (small craft);
- 1 x Slipway incident.

The most serious incidents identified were the death of a diver, motorboat capsized (resulting in a number of people in the water by the entrance to the harbour) and the PWC incidents. The HM noted that there was little that could be done to further control diving or leisure boat activity within the harbour but that regulation of PWCs would be covered at a separate agenda item.

In the discussion, Nigel Draffan asked if there were any common denominators in the accidents. The Harbour Master advised that there were no common threads.

ITEM 5 – CONSERVANCY ACTIVITY

The HM provided an update on conservancy activity issues.

Dredging

Dredge Baseline Document now approved by the Board. (Separate agenda item)

Aids to Navigation/Charting

Trinity House inspection took place 3 Aug 16. No LHB pick-ups to report. Southern water buoy remains unlit, but Southern water contractor notified. Cllr Ian Buckland asked if the LHB could assist with the reinstatement of the unlit buoy. He was informed that assistance had been offered but not taken up. He was further informed that the buoy was located outside of the LHB area of responsibility.

Environmental Protection.

Oil spill equipment and staff deployed at incident 09/16 at the Marina and POLREP submitted to HMCG. The HM also advised that OSRL were interested in exercising river booms in the Wick Quay reach and undertook to pass on details now that Mr Boyce had taken on the freehold for the area.

Maintenance Activity.

The HM outlined the various maintenance activity that had taken place during the period, including: unscheduled crane lift arranged for Marina, tide gauge replaced at entrance (East Bcn), repairs to east Pier were ongoing, removal of walkway railing panel for EA access to Harbour Office tide gauge. HM also reported that Mackley Construction Ltd were due to mobilise at the West Works to conduct repairs to horizontal waling timbers later in mid Nov 16.

ITEM 6 – PLANT AND EQUIPMENT EXPECTED.

The HM advised that the only LHB plans to mobilise plant and equipment in the period Oct 16 - Jan 17 would be the Mackley repairs to the West Works. Two mini-cranes were likely to be used and stakeholders were advised to contact Mackley direct if they wished to discuss projects that might utilise these. No other organisations were planning to mobilise equipment but the HM advised that the EA would be conducting shingle recycling on the West Beach during October.

The HM further advised that the shingle bank had not grown sufficiently to engage EA to clear but would monitor the situation over the winter. Nigel Draffan asked if APE could be kept informed as and when this might occur.

ITEM 7 – COMMUNICATIONS

Local Notices to Mariners. The following extant LNtMs published this year were highlighted by the HM (5 x standing and 6 x extant 2016 Notices):

Name	Date	Review Date	Status
No. 06 of 2016 - Seasonal Race Marks	11/03/2016	01/10/2016	Active
No. 07 of 2016 - Unlit AtN Off Littlehampton	11/03/2016	11/03/2017	Active
No. 1 of 2016 - Notices in Force	07/01/2016	07/01/2017	Active
No. 13 of 2016 - Marina Fuel Berth Open	12/08/2016	01/01/2017	Active
No. 2 of 2011 - Safety Advice	07/01/2011	01/01/2017	Active
No. 4 of 2016 - Arundel Quayside Wall Collapse – Update	21/01/2016	21/01/2017	Active
No. 4 of 2004 - Shoal Bank in Harbour Entrance	07/04/2004	01/01/2017	Active
No. 5 of 2013 - Controlling Depth at Entrance	13/02/2013	01/01/2017	Active
No. 5 of 2014 - Jetskis and Personal Watercraft	05/06/2014	01/01/2017	Active
No. 8 of 2010 - Automatic Bilge Pumps	15/10/2010	01/01/2017	Active
No. 8 of 2016 - Publication of Littlehampton General Directions	06/05/2016	01/01/2017	Active

With regard to LNtM 6 of 16, the HM asked when the AYC would recover the race marks. Brian Flook agreed to investigate and advise the HM.

ITEM 8 – LITTLEHAMPTON USERS GROUP

Following an item raised at the last meeting, the Chairman asked the group if further consideration had been given to the formation of a Harbour Users Group. A wide ranging discussion ensued taking in the pros and cons of a forming User Group with a wider attendance (and perhaps frequency), not chaired by the LHB and using this group to feed into a smaller Stakeholder Group chaired by the LHB and attended by outside organisations with representation from the User Group.

The general consensus was that while the existing Stakeholder Group (which took in both stakeholders and wider users) functioned well (and was not overwhelmed by attendees) there would be little need for a further layer of bureaucracy. It was noted by the HM though that already the Stakeholder Group accepted a wider attendance than its ToRs (through a policy of accepting any attendee interested), and that both the current system and a revised system had merits.

During the discussion the topic of Public Questions at Board Meetings was raised with a clear indication from the Stakeholders that the agenda item should be moved to the start of the meeting. The Chairman advised that this would be consistent with the wording contained in the LHB Constitution and would give the proposal some consideration.

ITEM 9 – MANAGEMENT OF JETSKIS

The HM discussed an appropriate response to incidents over the summer involving PWCs with jammed throttles that could well have resulted in much more serious pollution, injury and even fatalities.

He proposed to return to a system where PWCs using the harbour would be required to obtain annual HDs, provide details of insurance and training as well as receive a safety brief prior to going afloat. He also gave consideration to preventing PWCs transiting up river (beyond the A259) without prior permission from the HM.

Brian Flook highlighted that the incidents involving jammed throttles were both involving a particular older model of craft. He did not wish to see all PWCs characterised as dangerous or reckless due to a very small minority and the HM agreed with this.

He also highlighted that new craft are fitted with a 'No wake' mode, and that while craft were obviously designed for high speeds in open water, that this mode could easily be used for transiting in the confines of the river.

Re training he advised the group that most new PWCs were sold as a package that included training. The HM encouraged any harbour user to seek appropriate training.

The discussion also raised the matter of launching PWCs from the public slipway and whether or not someone should be employed to monitor the launching and recovery of these vessels. Those present were advised that this had been tried previously but was not cost-effective.

Robert Boyce highlighted that the Yacht Clubs and Marina in the harbour all took details of insurance prior to entering into mooring agreements and that this documentation could potentially be shared.

In connection with the Powers of General Direction, Robert Boyce asked if there was an associated enforcement policy so that offenders could be prosecuted.

Mr Chapman wished to see a total ban for PWCs in the river.

A consensus that a revised policy requiring annual HDs, proof of insurance and training and a 'with permission only' policy for transiting up river would be a reasonable measure to control a minority of users who had the potential to put others at risk.

Brian Flook noted that it was not just a small minority of PWCs that were involved in reckless behaviour, but that an equivalent number of small speedboats could be witnessed behaving in a similar way. The HM agreed but noted the practical aspect of making General Directions to cover this sort of behaviour would be likely to entail a specific ruling for PWCs while relying on general speeding or seamanship regulations for other small craft.

ITEM 10 – PUBLICATION OF DREDGE BASELINE DOCUMENT

The HM distributed copies of the Dredge Baseline Document now approved by the Board and advised of its availability on the LHB website.

Nigel Draffan (APE) asked for clarification on the definitions of capital and maintenance dredging. The HM advised that further detail was contained within the

document, but broadly navigational dredging could not return an area to a depth lower than it had been in the last 10 years.

ITEM 10a – AOB

(Additional agenda item inserted by the Chairman)

Cllr Cates asked why in his opinion little had been done about the situation involving a commercial fisherman parking on pavement in Pier Road. He was advised by the HM, Chair and Cllr Buckland that considerable time had been spent, by the HM and Cllr Buckland variously, with ADC (as a parking matter rather than one for consideration by the LHB). Cllr Buckland outlined that while he did not condone blocking the pavement by the pedestrian walkway, the fisherman was not in fact breaking any laws and as such all steps that could be taken to resolve the matter had been taken by the LHB and ADC respectively. Cllr Cates added that a complaint he had submitted to the Harbour Board but this had not been responded to. He was advised to forward a copy to the Chairman or Cllr Buckland for consideration.

Helen Bryett (Ford Marina) reiterated the regularity of speeding incidents involving PWCs experienced up river.

ITEM 11 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Provisional date for the next meeting was set as Tuesday 10 Jan 17 and would take place at the normal venue of the AYC.