

December 2008

Dear Mooring Holder/Harbour User

During the last year the Harbour Management Committee has considered a number of issues coming from the Municipal Ports Review which we completed in 2007.

In particular they have adopted the following:-

Annual Report
Financial Business Plan
Port Masterplan
Port Business Plan

All these, apart from the Financial Business Plan can be found on our website (www.portoftruro.co.uk) with the exception of the Financial Business Plan – however the Profit and Loss Accounts are there.

As we move towards the 1st April there is work being done on designing a Maritime Section for the new Single Unitary Authority. This Section will fall within Environmental Services, which itself will be within the Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate of the new Council.

The Maritime Section will comprise the following:-

- Ports and Harbours
- Sea Fisheries
- Boat and Boatmen Licensing
- Beach Safety
- Byelaw enforcement for areas outside of ports and harbours made under the Public Health Acts.
- Canals, sea defences and Technical Services

More can be found on the One Cornwall website
www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk

Looking at the different aspects of what we get up to:-

Laid up Shipping

As I write this newsletter we are awaiting a number of vessels that have enquired about lay up berths. I have already taken enquiries which would probably fill all of our available berths but we have only recently had one car carrier in for a short period which then went out again as it had a part cargo to carry.

We have further enquiries from other car carriers, bulk carriers and reefers all wanting a berth and which could be moored up for at least a year. However, there are a number of ports around the world which are also offering this facility such as Singapore, the Norwegian Fjords and more closer to home the Clyde and Southampton. However, there is a limit to the size of vessel that we can take in the Fal so a number of enquiries for the larger ro/ro's, gas carriers, container ships and bulk carriers are turned away.

Commercial Shipping

The import of bulk cement and the export of scrap metal have been the main trades this year with the import of a large transformer by the specialist heavy lift vessel 'Terra Marique'. The 'Terra Marique' is the largest vessel, in terms of sheer size to berth at Truro.

A warehouse on Lighterage Quay has now been leased out to a shipping company called Coastal Bulk which consists of a number of the old Laphorn coasters. This company has been attempting to get more business in and out of the port and hopes to handle goods like fertilizer, animal feed etc. but has, as yet, to utilise its warehouse.

Leisure Moorings

These continue to be well used and more moorings have become 'managed moorings' by the Authority which makes things a lot simpler not only for us but also for the new users coming in to the system. Mooring waiting lists still remain high. The site at the end of Newham will be leased out to A&P Falmouth for a new project, the Truro Boatyard, which will provide facilities for overwintering as well as some boatyard services.

Visitor's moorings are up this year compared to last year and we even saw some large yachts coming upriver which included the 'Adix' and 'Tosca II'.

As part of the new reorganisation we have taken over the responsibility for providing the patrol service for the Helford River. This provides for the enforcement of the seasonal speed limit together with offering safety and environmental advice to users of the river. At this moment we are looking for a vessel to replace the dory that used to be used.

The Harbours Forum (Stakeholder Group) have been advising on changes to the Moorings Policy which will now be undertaken in 2009.

Portscatho and Prince of Wales Pier

Portscatho has had another two visitors moorings laid this year bringing the total to five. In addition two new speed limit buoys have also been laid. The Pier in Falmouth continues to provide for the many different types of tripping

boats, ferries and pleasure craft that operate from it. However, an area of the solid part of the quay has had to be fenced off owing to a large crack appearing in the structure. It is believed that the pier is suffering some settlement here and it will be a question of 'monitoring and reviewing' to see the extent of the problem.

Harbours Forum and Carrick Harbours Board

Some of the reports that have been considered during the year have been :-

- Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation – Recreational Boating Environmental Assessment
- Destination South West (Cruise Initiative)
- Port Marine Safety Code – Amendments and Additions
- Water Quality at King Harry Reach
- Pontoon for Wakeboarding/Waterskiing
- European Maritime CHARTER Project
- Review of Moorings Policy
- Adoption of Dredging Protocol
- Annual Report
- Financial Business Plan
- Provision of Navigation Lights in Penryn Harbour.
- International Catering Waste
- Marine Emergency Plan
- Fire on board vessel in Penryn Harbour
- Pilotage Contract Renewal
- Consultation Responses (Proposed Guidance on Port Master Plans, Draft Marine Navigation Bill, Draft Merchant Shipping (Ship to Ship Transfer) Regulations 2008 and Draft Port Security Regulations)
- Fees and Charges
- Tender Pontoon – Penryn Harbour
- Inspection of Local Aids to Navigation
- Response to MAIB Reports
- Provision of Water Supply and Compliance of Water Fittings.

As can be seen this is quite a varied selection of reports – which are available on the website if needed.

With regard to the stakeholder group, the Harbours Forum, the Chairman Mr John Pedler, would be more than happy to hear from anyone who would like to make a contribution to this group – he can be contacted on Truro (01872) 270955. The Harbours Forum is the stakeholder group that the Board recognises and is made up of 9 members representing fishing, environmental, leisure, commercial, aquaculture and the wider community Truro and Penryn.

Summary

It seems that there are interesting times ahead - with regard to laid up shipping the signs are that there is going to be a very severe downturn with a number of ships seeking berths. Having been here for 21 years I have never had such a large number of enquiries in such a short space of time.

The new single Unitary Authority for Cornwall will come into place in 2009 and there will be a Maritime Section which will encompass all those local authority Ports and Harbours, Sea Fisheries, Beach Safety, Licensing of Boats and Boatmen, Technical Services and Rivers, Canals and Sea Defences. This Maritime Section will be within the Environmental Services Section of the new Authority.

Leisure Moorings are going well and a new Truro Boatyard at Newham hopes to be up and running by the summer of 2009.

We are involved on a national basis with the review of the Port Marine Safety Code and at a later date another review of Municipal Ports. I hope this gives a summary of what we have been and continue to be involved in throughout the last year. On a personal note I very much hope that the new Authority embraces the good things that have been achieved by the Harbours Board and Harbours Forum working together.

Best Wishes and Safe Sailing for 2009

Regards

Andy Brigden