

PAPER B

Newport Harbour - Senior Harbour Master Report – 1 June to 31 August 2019

Visitor Numbers	June: 211	July: 236	August: 291
Permeant berths	Newport Harbour	Regular users: 13	Live-aboard: 4
	Folly	Pontoon: 90	Swing: 62

Staff

- The Harbour Master last day was held Friday 2 August 2019; this followed him being on long term sick.
- Business case being prepared for proposed changes to the harbour staffing structure; this will aim to ensure that the harbour is staffed around high tides, meet the requirements of the PMSC.
- The Council Chief Executive visited the harbour on the 27.08.19.

Works

- With the Harbour Master's long term sick and subsequent retirement the collection of the berthing fees has been undertaken by the harbour staff, with the continued support of the One Card team.
- The Navigational Risk Assessment review continues to be conducted by Marico, SHM visited their offices in June.
- The Sea Street bridge was opened to vehicle traffic on the 01.06.19, although it was closed again on the 26.06.19 to apply a nonslip surface. It has remained open from the 28.06.19; upon the opening of the bridge the middle harbour barrier was closed as this allows access to parking from both entrances to the harbour. Sadly, a barrier is required, to stop the harbour becoming a rat run.
- An abandoned boat at Whitegates was removed on the 28.06.19 (this was included in the last official notice).
- A meeting was held to explore the capital dredging options for Newport harbour on the 27.06.19.
- On 10.07.19 netting was supplied and fitted to the aggregate yard fence, this is to help reduce the transmission of dust outside of the site and affecting adjacent berth holders
- The hand crane area was kept clear for most of June due to the Festival's requirements, however, the Harbour staff operated the crane six times to lift customer vessels in the three-month period.

Events

- The Isle of Wight Festival 2019 was held at Seaclose park between 13 -16 June. The first vehicle arrived, as part of the set up at the harbour on the 03.06.19 and the last departed on the 21.06.19. This year the harbour rented part of the harbour for storage for a company involved in the festival.
- On 22.06.19 the Armed Forces Day was held at the harbour. The area available was restricted due to the date's proximity to the Festival and the site strip out still taking place.
- Newport Harbour Master Plan was presented to Newport Harbour User Group by Regeneration on 05.07.19

Property

- The harbour shower and toilet block have been refurbished.
- The external harbours toilets remain locked due to maintenance issues with the hand wash units which are not cost effective to rectify and are not insured to be used, making them not available for events.
- Following the removal of the unauthorised users the locks for the access gates on Black House Quay were changed; the pedestrian gate locking bolt was also repaired

- Since the removal/departure of the unauthorised vessels at Backhouse Quay the site was cleared of all rubbish and vegetation obstructing the walkway by Amey and the harbour staff respectively. During this work it was discovered that the standpipe was damaged and had bene running into the septic tank. The standpipe was repaired and contractors were employed to empty the tank at the first available date.
- Following changes to the operation of nearby council staff car park the harbour's car parks use has increased with harbour south often becoming full. This has resulted in an increase in parking along the quay. This was investigated by SHM and the Parking Operations Manager with the need for additional signage being identified and ordered. Further changes in the operation of nearby staff car park were made and the problem has reduced following these.

Actions

- Council staff accompanied by police issued Harbour Master directions to the unauthorised boats at Blackhouse Quay on 10.07.0.2019, the notice stated the vessels and items must be removed from Newport harbour Jurisdiction by 31.07.2019. On the 31.07.2019 Council staff accompanied again by the police revisited Blackhouse quay, on their arrival two boats departed, one was under tow of the other. The remaining vessels/items were lifted and transported to a secure council depot, this was completed by 01.08.19. The two departed vessels exited Newport Harbour's jurisdiction into Cowes harbour Commission Jurisdiction. On the instruction of Cowes Harbour Master, the boats were then taken under tow, following the towing vessels steering failing; they were towed to Island Harbours waiting pontoon (which is inside Newport Harbour's jurisdiction). It is not clear why the boats were towed to this location or under what act, powers or general directions Cowes harbours master made these instructions. After fixing the steering on the towing vessel it departed on the 01.08.19. The other was lifted and transported to secure council depot on the 28.08.19; this was with the cooperation of Island Harbour.
- The process for the disposal of the unauthorised boats removed form Blackhouse Quay and other abandoned vessels has commenced, official notices will be issued at the beginning of September 2019 in the County Press.
- There have been reports of antisocial behaviour by non-berth holder or visitors. This behaviour includes smashing bottles, walking along the visitor pontoon and trying to jump in the river, many took place late at night.
- The owner of a vessel that was previously removed from the harbour informed the harbour staff on two occasions that his vessel will be returning to Newport harbour; he was told this would not be permitted.

Inspection results

Inspections of Navigation Aids

Periodic inspections have been carried out of the channel and navigation aids, some of which were conducted from land. All navigation aids are in place, their colour, and characteristics are as required by IALA recommendations. The inspections were undertaken 18 times in the three-month period.

- The tide board opposite the harbour office was cleaned twice
- The short transit light pole was repainted by harbour staff
- The marker pole at the Folly slipway was repaired by harbour staff

Inspections of the channel

Periodic visual inspections have been carried out of the channel some of which were carried out from the land. The depth within the channel has not been reported below the depths advertised. These inspections were carried out 18 times in the three-month period.

Inspections of quays, steps, pontoons, gangway, piles and cleats

Periodic inspections have been carried out and found to be in position and in good order. The inspections were carried out 22 times in the three-month period.

- A sunk Folly Swing mooring buoy (no boat attached) was recovered and the buoy replaced.

Inspections of lights, electric distribution points and water standpipes

Periodic inspections have been carried out on the lights, electric point and water standpipes. The inspections were carried out 22 times in the three-month period.

- Two water leaks were discovered and repaired by the harbour staff.

Inspections of lifebelts, fire extinguishers

Inspections were carried out and all lifebelts, fire extinguishers and safety ladders were found to be in position and in good order. These inspections were carried 18 times in the three-month period.

Slipways Inspection

The slipways have been inspected and are in good repair.

The Folly Slipway was cleaned three times, the Sea close Slipway was cleaned twice over the three-month period.

Harbour Launch, vehicle and other tools

The launch raw water-cooling system impeller failed, this was noticed by harbour staff and returned to its Newport berth (after checking the water intake strainer). The impeller was replaced, any debris was removed, this was carried out the same day by a mechanic.

The harbour's Land Rover failed its MOT and it was felt it was uneconomic to carry out the required repairs; although at approximately 30 years old it has served the harbour well. The harbour has been supplied with a replacement Ford Ranger Pickup which is well suited for the harbour needs.

Incident and Emergencies

Collisions, Fire or Explosion, Vessels Grounding, Loss of Vessel Stability, Pollution

- None recorded

Dangerous Occurrences / Near Misses.

- None recorded

Reportable Accidents

- A member of council staff fell/tripped on the harbour quay, this was due to a raised bit of resin. The raised resin was removed by the harbour staff. (12.07.2019)
- The harbour received a report that a visitor fell on the visitor pontoon, this was believed to be due to a raised board. The harbour staff re-secured the board and inspected the rest of the pontoon.
- The harbour received information that a man was recovered from the harbour mud by the quay opposite the Riverside Centre, Police, Fire and Coastguard attended. The police confirmed the man's entry in to the River Medina was not due to a trip or fall. He was not a berth holder.

Defects Affecting Marine Safety

- None recorded

Additional Information

- Senior Harbour Master attended:
 - The UK Harbour Master Association General Meeting.
 - Shaping Newport Forum Event
- One of the commercial vessels departed Newport harbour for another port on the 10.07.19.

Jonathan Brand, Senior Harbour Master