

# Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Kilkeel Harbour Stakeholders Meeting

held on

***Friday 1 September 2023 at 2.30pm in Fishermen's Mission Office, Kilkeel***

<b><u>Present:</u></b> <b><u>NIFHA</u></b>	Kevin Quigley (KQ) – NIFHA CEO David Knott (DK) – NIFHA Interim Chair David Lindsay (DL) – NIFHA Project Manager Jen Maxwell (JM) – NIFHA Environmental Officer Belinda McCaughey (BMCC) – NIFHA Accounts Administrator
<b>Stakeholders</b>	Brian Chambers (BC) – ANIFPO Alan Nugent (AN) – ANIFPO David Campbell (DC) – Owner of Antares Trevor Graham (TG) – Trevor Graham & Sons Ltd Ronnie Graham (RG) – Trevor Graham & Sons Ltd
<b>EHO</b>	Adrian Fitzsimons (AF)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Danielle Rooney (DR) – Kilkeel Harbour Master Kate Burns – NIFHA Board Member Lynn Gilmore – NIFHA Board Member Harry Wick – NIFHA Board Member
	<b>Action</b>
1. <b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>  KQ welcomed all to meeting. Apologies as above were recorded.  DK introduced himself as Interim Chair of the Authority and advised the meeting that a Permanent Chair should be appointed later in the year.	
2. <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2022 were agreed.	
3. <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  <b>Minutes of previous Meetings</b>  KQ confirmed we will endeavour to provide minutes of meetings as soon as we can.  <b>Pick up locations for removing FFL bags</b>  KQ confirmed this has been resolved and communicated to all fishermen.  <b>Traffic Management (Zebra Crossings)</b>  KQ confirmed that after additional consultation the locations were finally agreed.	

<p><b>Fishmarket blocked with scaffolding</b></p> <p>This was addressed and cleared.</p> <p><b>Bins Overflowing at holiday times</b></p> <p>A new Waste Management System has been introduced and is working well. Our thanks go to the fishermen who are adhering to the new rules and procedures.</p>	
<p>4     <b>THANKS</b></p> <p>KQ congratulated all the staff at Kilkeel for the winning of the Fishing News Small Port of the Year 2023 with the biggest vote ever. KQ thanked everyone who had voted for Kilkeel.</p> <p>We have welcomed DR back to work and despite some challenging issues operations are being successfully managed.</p>	
<p>5     <b>HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY</b></p> <p>Level of Accidents has decreased in the harbour and we appreciate the co-operation of the stakeholders.</p>	
<p>6.    <b>HEALTH AND SAFETY - SLIPWAY</b></p> <p>Immediately prior to the meeting TG spoke to KQ and informed him of the need to have a full time person on the Slipway. KQ noted that this was included in NIFHA’s current Business Plan, however this has not yet been approved by DAERA.</p> <p>There was an incident on the Slipway earlier in the year which drew the attention of both HSE and MCA. Outcome of this will be the introduction of a T-Card system to enable all persons onboard vessels using the slipway to be accounted for in the event of an incident.</p> <p>Attention was also drawn to Hot Working. The procedure must change – with the requirement for a formal Permit to Work to be issued prior to work being carried out and a 3<sup>rd</sup> person will have to be present in the role of an observer/fire warden should anything happen. This will obviously have a cost implication to the contractors.</p> <p>The current means of access to the boats on the slipway has been deemed unsafe by MCA/HSE and needs to be reviewed. A key challenge here is that many vessels now have high rails around them. An Engineer and H&amp;S expert has been engaged to review this next week.</p> <p>KQ noted we are in a unique situation with 3 slipways so close to each other. It will be a challenge to find a practical solution, however we must lower the risk to as low as reasonably practical (ALARP). Substantial discussion followed on methods used in other fishing ports.</p>	
<p>7.    <b>CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE</b></p>	

DL advised the meeting that the last funding round (EMFF) closed in March 2023. It had been running for 4-5 years with a total of £5.6M spent; £2M of this was in Kilkeel.

The replacement for this is MFF which requires approved funding to be spent within the year of approval. MFF only opened last year and the value to NIFHA was £340k. The scheme has not yet opened this year and when it does open money must be spent by 31 March 2024.

It is currently unclear how we will move projects forward under the new rules.

NIFHA can currently only plan projects which are less than £300k and can be delivered before 31 March 2024. CPD slows any procurement down.

DAERA are working behind the scenes to help NIFHA resolve this issue. When we are offered the grant funding we make best efforts to ensure that the money is effectively invested in essential projects in a timely manner.

This year NIFHA have 4 projects underway:

- Portavogie Pier Tip Repair
- Ardglass Enhancement to Crew facilities at the fishmarket
- Ardglass & Kilkeel Quay Edge Protections
- Ardglass Solar Panels

These must be completed by December 2023.

### **Project Selection**

NIFHA take the lead from Port Users as to what they want and need. The list is substantial. We consult with the Harbour Masters and prioritise the list. What gets done depends on grant funding being made available. The NIFHA Board also regularly review the list of 'pipeline' projects.

There is significant pressure to reduce carbon emissions from the ports, the Board consider this to be a priority for inclusion in future projects and have set a target of reaching 'Net Zero' by 2050 in line with government priorities.

### **Potential Projects for Kilkeel**

Phase 2 of the Fishmarket – meetings will be organised to determine what is needed.

Slipway Winch and Cradles Refurbishment. These are now 20 years old and although a recent inspection determined they are in reasonable condition they will still need to be refurbished soon.

Lifeboat station – there is a small void forming at the quay junction which needs to be repaired, plated and filled with concrete.

Quay Edge Vehicle protection – needed in all three harbours to prevent vehicles going over the edge of the quay. Clear access to boats is important and this will require input from port users .

<p>Slipway Rails renewal – In Portavogie they were well worn at the bottom ends. This is an enormous project and will result in the slipway being closed for a significant period of time – took 3.5 months in Portavogie for 1 slip so could take 9 months for all 3 in Kilkeel.</p> <p>A new Cradle is being installed in Portavogie with a completion date of March 2025. Once this is up and working Kilkeel issues will be addressed.</p> <p>DC asked could a drying out berth be created at the top of the harbour during this period of closure. DL noted that as an interim this may be possible but not on a permanent basis.</p> <p>KQ confirmed that potential for a permanent drying out berth would not be possible but on a temporary basis it is certainly an option. This will be included in our initial plans.</p> <p>DL confirmed the need for consultation meetings with stakeholders.</p> <p>This project will be expensive and separate funding provision will need to be made available by DAERA in 2-4 years time.</p>	<p>DL</p>
<p>Access gate to the harbour needs to be reinstated – requested by both HSE and stakeholders.</p> <p>Access to Electricity and Water – these utilities are affected by the push towards Net Zero. We need to improve the infrastructure and how we source and distribute electricity to reduce diesel engines being used in the harbours. With 50-60 boats in the harbour we will need more Power points. Infrastructure will need to be changed. This is major work.</p> <p>KQ confirmed there will be engagement and consultation on the proposed projects.</p> <p>A list of potential projects will be made available to the PO's before Christmas and then a Public Meeting will be arranged with stakeholders.</p> <p>DK advised that sometimes we have to prioritise the list at short notice to take maximum advantage of opportunities as they arise.</p>	<p>KQ / DL</p>
<p><b>8. HARBOUR EXTENSION UPDATE</b></p> <p>Harbour Investment Update – We have supported the work to prepare for appointment of the Integrated Consultants Team and the next step in the process is funding for the Environmental and Technical Studies. This is waiting on ministerial approval and has been waiting for at least 1 year. DAERA are driving this and updating us as and when necessary. The NIFHA Board are fully behind this project and take every opportunity to stress the importance of this to the fishing ports when engaging with DAERA.</p> <p>DL asked the stakeholders if they had any other suggestions or ideas to please let us know either directly to him, KQ or the Harbour Master.</p>	
<p><b>9. DREDGING</b></p> <p>Licence has been received for the Inner Harbour but is only valid for 2 years and not the normal 3 years as in the past.</p>	

<p>Dredging took place in Ardglass and Portavogie over the last few months and is now underway in Kilkeel.</p>	
<p>10. <b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p>JM spoke to the new Waste Management system in Kilkeel.</p> <p>The Waste Compound contains Recycling Bins and JM advised that Black Bin bags should not be used. We are looking at sourcing Clear Bags.</p> <p>FFL day was held in Kilkeel in July to promote the scheme.</p> <p>Beach Cleans are due to take place within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>DC asked if these dated could be added by DR to the Harbour Message Service.</p> <p>Carbon Net Zero will be a challenge to achieve by 2050. Research and planning will need to take place over the next couple of years. DAERA has been tasked with leading Net Zero in Northern Ireland and as such should be a support to us in our plans.</p> <p>Decommissioning of the Enterprise took place during the last year.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>DR</p>
<p>11. <b>OPERATIONAL ISSUES</b></p> <p>KQ confirmed that planning permission has been granted to dismantle vessels in Portavogie. The aim is to remove 2 vessels before Christmas.</p> <p>There are some Risky vessels in Kilkeel Harbour. The current list of these has been updated and KQ is meeting with DAERA later in the month to discuss the way forward. There are priority vessels in all three harbours. Vessels can only be taken to Portavogie if they are fit to travel. John Kearney has a facility on his site to decommission vessels.</p> <p>KQ noted the requirement to follow a designated legal process to take ownership of abandoned vessels prior to decommissioning them.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the cost implications for vessel decommissioning.</p> <p>DL confirmed that the new slipway proposed for Portavogie would be heavy duty enough to dismantle a vessel without causing damage to it.</p> <p>KQ has advised DAERA that legislation need to be put in place to stop vessels from just being abandoned.</p> <p>Fishmarket Chill – Currently out of operation due to a gas leak. Bins of ice have been left in the market as an interim solution.</p> <p>AF informed the meeting that the chill is not being used correctly. KQ confirmed this will be addressed.</p> <p>This is a challenging time for the Authority. We are no longer able to entirely self fund our operations; Electricity costs have risen steeply and we are facing financial constraints as never before.</p> <p>Ice Supply – issues with the plant during the summer was due to parts not being available – these parts were ordered in November 2022 and only arrived</p>	<p>KQ / DR</p>

<p>in June 2023. KQ apologised for not being able to provide Ice and thanked everyone for their co-operation during this period.</p>	
<p>12. <b>EQUALITY</b></p> <p>This matters to everyone. Good relations are an essential part of the Harbour Authority. We work with the Fishermen’s Missions when we can.</p>	
<p>13. <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>DC commended the Authority in keeping the entrance to the harbour dredged – Depth at pier has never been so good. KQ advised that NIFHA plans to continue dredging Kilkeel through until December, weather permitting.</p> <p>KQ commended the current crew of the Dredger who are working extremely well as a team.</p> <p>DK thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and re-iterated that suggestions for improvement and ideas for potential projects should be forwarded to either DR, DL or KQ.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 4pm.</p>	