

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Kilkeel Harbour Stakeholders Meeting

held on

Friday 26 February 2021 at 2.30pm by Zoom

<u>Present:</u>	As per attached Attendance Sheet
Apologies:	Lynn Gilmore (LG) – NIFHA Board Member David Lindsay (DL) – Project Manager Brian Chambers (BC) – Boy Paul Owner
	Action
1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
RMcC welcomed all to meeting. Apologies as above were recorded.	
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 November 2019 were agreed. AMcC confirmed they were accurate and transparent.	
3. MATTERS ARISING	
Davits Issues over the lifting of gear with the existing Davits. Not easy to change this. There has been no change made to the existing Davits.	
Slipway Booking Events overtook us in 2020 with Covid-19. Amendments were made to the Booking procedure which allows for a quicker turnaround on vessels. No more changes are planned for the moment.	
Chains at Small Slipway DR confirmed that instead of installing chains footlong bars are being put in place. Should be complete by end of March 2021.	
Recording Meeting AMcC asked the question – KQ confirmed the Zoom meeting was not being recorded and made sure the option was turned off.	
4. THANKS	
KQ asked that those present at the meeting pass on our thanks to other stakeholders for their cooperation during the past year. The only way the Authority can run smoothly is with the buy in from fishermen. KQ gave credit to DR for the smooth running of the harbour.	

<p>5 HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY</p> <p>Use of ladders are an ongoing issue in the harbour – there has been 1 accident due to use of a ladder.</p> <p>Alcohol and Boats do not mix.</p> <p>Since the last meeting there have been 3 minor accidents in Kilkeel involving staff.</p>	
<p>6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>In the last 8 years the Environment has moved to central stage and continues to change. The Authority is very conscious of this – our role is good care of the environment and sustainability. We all have work to do on this.</p> <p>In December 2020 we employed an Environmental Officer to progress this.</p> <p>JL has already met with some of the fishermen and will be partially running projects with them. Her role is to promote environmental improvements and will be centred around marine litter, beach cleans and on site waste management.</p> <p>JL updated the meeting on her plans for Fishing for Litter which will be relaunched in May. There will also be a series of 4 Talks on the environment due to start on Sat 13 March 2021 @ 10am. Details will be available on Facebook. Currently JL will be in the office on Mondays but the door is always open.</p> <p>AMcC noted this is a great initiative. He also noted the attendance of SB to this meeting. ANIFPO are in the process of appointing their own Environmental Officer.</p> <p>HMCK gave a brief update to the meeting on litter and the initiative Lidl are taking with removing plastic packaging from their eggs. He noted there is a widespread issue with plastic and packaging.</p> <p>DH reminded the meeting that we have many local blue flag beaches in the area. The beaches are kept clean.</p> <p>SB welcomed JL to her post and offered her support in the future. Fly Tipping is a major problem. End of life equipment being used for a different purpose is a challenge and people love to embrace this. There is an opportunity to think outside the box.</p> <p>TMCK – Whilst the fishermen will bring the rubbish ashore where is this to be placed? This cannot go through the market and, if berthed 2 or 3 boats out, how can this be put ashore?</p> <p>TMCK agreed to speak to JL after this meeting to discuss issues.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the issued in more detail. JL thanked all for their welcome and looked forward to working with everyone in the future. KQ noted we are trying to send out good news messages.</p>	<p>JL</p>

7. **OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Covid-19

Covid-19 is still with us – more people have had the vaccine. The Authority continues to work to try and prevent the spread of the virus. One of our staff members currently has Covid-19 but due to precautions taken in our harbours there was no need for any other staff members to self isolate.

Slipway Bookings

The current process is working well. Vessels are turned around quicker but we have still retained some flexibility.

Dredger

The dredger is having a difficult run at the moment. 3 issues have come to light:

1. Engine Cooling – water is currently sucked in to do this and needs to be changed to a keel cooler.
2. Trim – Change in the size of the Digger Bucket has caused an issue with this.
3. Plates on the bottom of the hull – Recent survey has shown that some need to be replaced.

KQ advised the meeting on the issues in more detail. After a recent survey by MECAL it has been agreed that the vessel will undergo repairs in the Autumn.

The Dredger is back into the water. The alternator failed and the replacement, when it finally arrived – was broken in transit. DR confirmed that the failed alternator is being repaired and should be back in place by close of play today.

The intention is to dredge throughout the summer.

AMcC asked was the trim problem a stability issue? He also noted the significant issue with the sandbank at the entrance to the harbour.

KQ advised that there is a contingency plan to bring in a 2nd dredger in the 2021/22 Business Plan. We have to follow proper procurement rules to obtain this. If we get a good campaign across the summer then we will be OK. The dredger is normally tied up during the winter months.

AMcC – a 2nd dredger is not cheap but does need to be planned months in advance. Asked that is booked now.

RMcC confirmed the Board is treating this issue seriously and KQ has kept the Board well informed.

TMcK noted that his vessel has a large draft and asked if the dredger be working 24/7. KQ confirmed overtime has been approved although there will be no Sunday working.

AMcC asked about the issue of the dredger carrying its full capacity. Previously it carried 180T which has now been reduced to 170T per load. Whilst this is reduced it is not a major issue.

<p>The meeting discussed dredging fully and KQ again confirmed that overtime has been authorised (and not just an hour per day). There will be early starts and late finishing and Saturday working as well.</p> <p>Labelling Fish Boxes</p> <p>The issues around this has gone away at the moment but will come back. The boats already have to label their boxes and it may be possible for them to include the landing location. When KQ gets clarity on this the stakeholders will be updated.</p>	
<p>8. HARBOUR INVESTMENT REVIEW</p> <p>GH – Happy with the plans for Kilkeel in regard to the New Harbour Works</p> <p>NIFHA Board is happy with the proposals for the Harbour Extension. KQ noted the report is in 2 stages. 1st is complete and the 2nd part is in draft form and is with DAERA. Review raised the question that the harbour will be fit for fleet.</p> <p>Ardglass also wants to see improvement in their harbour. Survey needs to be carried out. Grant was approved for and granted. Work will take place subject to tide and weather.</p> <p>KQ confirmed that NIFHA is enthusiastic is seeing new investment in all 3 harbours. KQ has not seen this 2nd report.</p> <p>HMCK noted there have been various plans put forward in the past but it is important to look at what the fishermen want. There are still a number of our fleet that are too big to get into Kilkeel harbour. A new pier would eliminate the need for dredging.</p> <p>KQ discussed the background and the previous grant applications. DAERA turned them down as not economically viable.</p> <p>AMcC – there needs to be more push from NIFHA to push this forward.</p> <p>AMcC spoke at length to the issues around the new harbour plans, no vested interest in the Voyager, and his work over the last 29 years to get investment in Kilkeel Harbour.</p> <p>DH – We must move from the existing model to a more sustainable model.</p> <p>KQ noted that the Authority is doing the best that we can at the moment. It is referred to in our Corporate Plan and our Business Plan.</p> <p>KQ confirmed that he had not seen the 2nd report and noted AMcC’s dissatisfaction with this.</p> <p>KQ confirmed we do not make the decisions. We are as frustrated as everyone else.</p> <p>SB noted that all were frustrated and was content to move on. Failure in politics with having no minister for such a long period of time. We all have the same shared objectives.</p> <p>HW confirmed that the Kilkeel Development helps NIFPO’s members as well. As does the Ardglass survey.</p>	

<p>The survey was initially thought to be very expensive but with new technology this has been made more affordable. There is no hidden agenda or preferential treatment in Ardglass.</p> <p>HMCK asked could more pressure be put on DAERA to get the minister on side to get this project moved on. Could a meeting be arranged?</p> <p>RMCC – we can raise things at our own Board Meetings and can make the decision to write to DAERA. If anyone wishes to write to the Authority we can react to that.</p> <p>TMCK – Moving from the bottom berth as it is hard to lie with the swell. Would it be possible for a storm gate to be put on the River?</p> <p>KQ noted that this has come up before. KQ will speak to our engineers after a discussion with RMCC to investigate putting a gate in.</p>	<p>KQ</p>
<p>9. CAPITAL & MINOR WORKS</p> <p>Normally the update would be given by DI but due to issues in Portavogie he has sent his apologies. KQ talked to the current projects. In particular:</p> <p><u>Bait Stores</u></p> <p>The new bait stores have been completed in Ardglass and Portavogie</p> <p><u>Portavogie Ice Plant</u></p> <p>The plant has been replaced with the same plant as Kilkeel Harbour.</p> <p><u>Harbour Masters Offices</u></p> <p>Kilkeel is well underway and Ardglass is about to commence.</p> <p><u>Portavogie Revetment</u></p> <p>Complete</p> <p><u>Ex Parkgate Factory Site in Portavogie</u></p> <p>Grant is in place for works and will be going to tender shortly.</p> <p><u>Traffic Management</u></p> <p>This is currently with the engineers and is under development. There is a need to separate the public and fishermen. This will go out to consultation prior to any work being carried out.</p> <p>An issue was raised over the use of marked Trading bays outside of their working hours. DR noted that these could be used outside of the traders working hours and will let everyone know this.</p> <p>GH noted that the area and the British Legion was very dangerous and asked if a footpath could be placed on the other side of the road. KQ will be in the harbour next week and will take a walk around with DR and investigate if anything could be sorted on a temporary basis.</p> <p>TMCK – Kilkeel is a commercial port with large pieces of equipment needed to be placed on boats. Provision need to be made to allow this.</p>	<p>DR</p> <p>KQ/DR</p>

<p>The meeting discussed the issues over traffic management and in particular the parking for staff working for businesses on this road.</p> <p>HMCK asked is this road owned by the Authority? There is an issue over the manhole at the Quay Brae. KQ will check this out next week.</p> <p><u>Gear Stores in Ardglass</u></p> <p>This is at planning permission stage.</p> <p>Future Capital Works</p> <p>KQ discussed future plans:</p> <p>Kilkeel Fishmarket Refurbishment and anode replacement are awaiting Funding approval.</p> <p>EMFF scheme is ending, and we still do not know what is to replace it.</p> <p>Looking forward possibilities for Kilkeel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knuckle Boom crane for loading gear - Slipway Rail replacement <p>Minor Works</p> <p>KQ discussed the current state of play with Minor Works. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ardglass Lighthouse. Repainting will take place with the weather is more appropriate. - Ardglass Dredging. Complete - Market pile at Small Slipway in Kilkeel. This has been installed and DR is seeking information from Irish Lights as to what paint is recommended. - Kilkeel Fishmarket. Tighter standards due to leaving the EU. - Slipway Repairs. Ongoing. - Bait Stores in Ardglass and Portavogie. Complete but funding was only 80% of costs. 	KQ
<p>10. EQUALITY</p> <p>The Authority takes equality very seriously.</p> <p>The Schools Programme will not go ahead this year but hopefully can resume next year.</p>	
<p>11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>KQ asked for questions.</p> <p>AMcC noted that the Board should be aware that there is an international border around all 3 harbours. Paperwork is working so far.</p> <p>Harbours are operational 24/7 and website does provide good information. There are ongoing issues with the Ice Plant and AMcC asked if there was a number that could be available 24/7.</p>	

DR confirmed there was a separate number for Ice Plant Issues which is rotated around staff for weekend cover. Outside of these times DR is happy to answer calls on her mobile.

AMcC commended the Authority for its open and transparency and the publishing of its Committee and Board minutes online.

AMcC noted references to a new Harbour Order within the minutes and issues he had with some of the powers/byelaws.

KQ confirmed the draft order is with DAERA. This is a legislative procedure.

AMcK thanked everyone for their contribution today and noted it was great to see the passion around the table. We need to take stock as to why things progress in the way they do.

AMcC appreciates this and hopes some day to be able to walk down the new pier in Kilkeel within his lifetime. The fishing industry is seen as a Cinderella industry. DAERA have been generous to the fishing industry during Covid-19. Vessels got help but other businesses did not.

RMcC noted the usefulness of the meeting and great to see the passion within the industry. Thanked Harbour Authority Staff for their contributions and noted that NIFHA have the only female Harbour Master in Northern Ireland. Great contribution for International Woman's Day on 9 March 2021.

Meeting ended at 16:55

Kilkeel Stakeholder Advisory Forum

Virtual Attendance Sheet

Friday 26 February 2021

	Name	Vessel / Company / Organisation
1	Harry Wick (HW)	NIFHA Board Member
2	David Knott (DK)	NIFHA Board Member
3	Kevin Quigley (KQ)	NIFHA CEO
4	Belinda McCaughey (BMcC)	NIFHA Accounts Administrator
5	Danielle Rooney (DR)	Kilkeel Harbour Master
6	Alan McKeown (AMcK)	NIFHA Board Member
7	Robert McConnell (RMcC)	NIFHA Chair of the Board
8	Davy Hill (DH)	NIFHA Board Member
9	Alan McCulla (AMcC)	ANIFPO
10	Glyn Hanna (GH)	Newry, Mourne and Down Council
11	Sinead Bradley (SB)	MLA for South Down
12	Trevor McKee (TMcK)	Vessel Owner
13	Harold McKee (HMcK)	Newry, Mourne and Down Council
14	Geoff Hooks (GH)	SeaSource Finance Director
15	Jenny Lau (JL)	NIFHA Environmental Officer
16	Gareth McAtee (GMcA)	