

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Kilkeel Harbour Stakeholders Meeting

held on

Friday 29 April 2022 at 2.30pm in Harbour Masters Upstairs Office and by Zoom

<u>Present:</u>	As per attached Attendance Sheet
Apologies:	Lynn Gilmore – NIFHA Board Member Jenny Lau – NIFHA Environmental Officer
	Action
1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES Alan McKeown (AMcK) welcomed all to meeting. Apologies as above were recorded. Letter handed to AMcK prior to the meeting was acknowledged and confirmed would be addressed at a later time. Robert McConnell (RMcC) introduced himself to meeting and noted that another letter received previously will also not be addressed at this meeting.	
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2021 were agreed. AMcC asked if the publishing of minutes on NIFHA website could be on a timelier basis.	BMcC
3. MATTERS ARISING Storm Gate Kevin Quigley (KQ) has investigated this but there is currently no funding available. Funding may become available in future grant programs. Parking in Trading Bays outside of their Trading Hours KQ has spoken to Danielle Rooney who confirmed that this information was provided after the last meeting. Pedestrian Risk around British Legion This will be covered later in the meeting. Arrangements for removing FFL bags KQ will speak to Jenny Lau (JL) to ensure pick up locations are communicated to all fishermen. Trevor McKee (TMcK) noted he has not yet had a conversation with JL on this. KQ will make arrangements for JL to contact him.	KQ
4 THANKS KQ expressed his thanks to the stakeholders for their attention during the past year and noted we are about to move into another difficult period.	

<p>5</p>	<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY</p> <p>Safety is paramount in the harbour. Alcohol may be the cause of breaches to health and safety and NIFHA has a zero tolerance of drinking when on the boats.</p> <p>Use of ladders will always be an issue in the harbour – although the record has been quite good of late.</p> <p>Bollards and Ramps</p> <p>Alan McCulla (AMcC) noted that the recent traffic safety measures are an accident waiting to happen. Especially at the British Legion. Ramps in front of the old Rockall factory caused a Fork Lift Truck from SeaSource to tip its load. Manhole to the side is also breaking. AMcC made a plea to take these issues seriously.</p> <p>KQ advised that he is meeting with Project Engineers on Thursday 5 May 2022 and would welcome anyone who wishes to come along and discuss the matters then.</p> <p>Leslie Girvan (LG) advised of an issue advised of an issue with clear zones either side of a zebra crossing and raised a concern about the impact this would have on parking, and also for fuel lorries when delivering fuel to vessels. KQ will look into this.</p> <p>LG stated there is a safety issue with stepping out to avoid bollards. The solution would be to erect a hand rail and walk way around the corner.</p> <p>AMcC noted the many views and comments made and stated that the Harbour Authority had legal requirements to meet, and that clearly any plan needed to fulfil these whilst respecting the operational needs of the harbour. A separate meeting would be useful to review the plan and agree any remaining changes to be made.</p> <p>AMcC indicated it would be useful to have a meeting to review the plans – and possibly produce a revised plan. The Authority needs to cover its legal responsibilities.</p> <p>LG also queried the distance between ramps – does this meet legal requirements. KQ to check.</p> <p>TMcC asked for a site walk with people who actually use the harbour – before any changes are made. KQ is quite happy to facilitate this and invited all to attend his 10.30am meeting with the engineers on Thursday morning. AMcC asked if there could be more notice given to arranging meetings.</p> <p>KQ acknowledged that the Thursday Engineering Meeting was short notice and will arrange a harbour walk around giving better notice, to agree a final plan.</p>	<p>KQ</p> <p>KQ</p> <p>KQ</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE</p> <p>David Lindsay (DL) talked to the current projects in particular:</p>	

Kilkeel Anode Replacement

The steel piles were replaced a number of years ago and in order to preserve these from corrosion the anodes need to be periodically replaced.

Brian Chambers (BC) commented on the issue of the anodes being placed horizontally on the piles causing a hazard to vessels. AMcC confirmed there was a risk of the anodes being there. DL advised this was a mistake on the contractor's part and was quickly rectified by them at their own cost.

Only 5 anodes were misplaced – a tiny amount in the overall scale of the project.

Kilkeel Fishmarket

Works have commenced on this project. It had been hoped that the Chill Room could be extended but available funding did not permit this.

The current funding round ends this year – all work must be completed by 30 September 2022. In order to use the funding allocated we needed to remove the extension to the Chill. Hopefully funding will be available for this at a later date. Other options are available but not within the current timescale. Exterior roof is being replaced to maintain the building – this will have an insulated interior ceiling.

AMcC queried the black roof on the fishmarket. DL noted there is to be an insulated ceiling and that this has worked well in Portavogie. Made from fibre cement which will not corrode like a tin roof.

LG noted an issue at the moment with the fishmarket half blocked with scaffolding and trailers parked in bays blocking access to the remaining half. This will be addressed.

AMcC wished to record the cleanliness of the Fishmarket and praised Fred Milligan (an employee of NIFHA) for his attention to this.

Dredger

TMcK asked when would the dredger be back in operation? KQ noted works began in November 2021. Currently waiting on the stability book and will return to operation after successful sea trials.

AMcC asked about the Dredger Licence and if it would be available. DL confirmed licence will be available for when the dredger is ready to be back in service.

AMcC also noted that we may not have the staff to operate the vessel. Pay at minimum wage will not attract staff and it will not be operated properly. KQ advised that wage increases are set by Central Government and we are trying to improve these – business cases have to be submitted. AMcC stated there is a lack of understanding within DAERA of the work in Kilkeel Harbour.

KQ noted his concern and confirmed he is addressing the issue.

Bobby McBride (BMcB) declared to the meeting that staff in the past were ex fishermen who knew the harbour works – current staff do not have this experience.

KQ

<p>AMcK noted that NIFHA are reviewing Pay – Public Sector is different than the Private Sector. AMcK also noted that KQ has the backing of the Board to improve Pay. This is hard work within government.</p> <p>AMcC gave a list of items an under 10m vessel needed to take into consideration before being able to go to sea; Availability of Ice, ramps around harbour, ability to land their catch, and parking of their car.</p> <p><u>Ice Plant</u></p> <p>KQ acknowledged the issues with the Ice Plant and being unable to supply Ice automatically. BMcB asked could we not allow our staff to work after hours and pay overtime? KQ intimated that our staff may not be willing to do this.</p> <p>BMcB raised the fact that supplying Ice during office hours does not work in a tidal harbour. All other harbours are 24/7 – with someone always available to address your issues.</p> <p>Could the issues with the Automatic Ice delivery be addressed by a local engineer? DL advised this is specialized plant and any changes would nullify the warranty.</p> <p>Another issue regarding bins overflowing over holiday periods. Staff had told Port Users that they would not be paid for coming in to remove rubbish. This needs to be addressed.</p> <p>AMcC referred back to the opening address at the start of the meeting. Out of one challenging period and into another.</p>	<p>KQ</p>
<p>7. CAPITAL WORKS POTENTIAL PROJECTS</p> <p>Under EMFF Measure 43 – we were awarded just under £3m to complete 12 projects. As more monies became available the total amount awarded increased to c. £6M – over 25 projects.</p> <p>New funding schemes are in place now. MFF fund – but monies awarded must be spent in year. Procurement causes us problems with this as we are required to use the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) for all capital projects. Minimum timescale for tender works is 6 months which would leave us under 6 months to complete a project. Also the maximum in any one year is £300k per project.</p> <p>The UK Seafood fund – for infrastructure- has a closing date of 24 May 2022 and applications need to have an approved business case ready to go. Awards range between £250k and £5M. All initial costs are borne by the applicant and may be up to £100k. DAERA are seeking mechanisms for us to be able to use these funds.</p> <p>An absence of funding does not mean an absence of need. David Knott (DK) asked about speculative planning but DL advised that planning are so burdened down with work that they will not do this.</p>	

<p>A question was raised as to CPD and the timescale involved. DL confirmed to the meeting that we have no choice but to use CPD – this is a government direction.</p> <p>AMcC advised that structural inflation has only occurred in the last 6 to 9 months and any issues with EMFF are across the industry.</p> <p>DL advised as to the procurement process. CPD will only take on a project that has confirmed available funding. When going out to tender things change. NEC3 procurement rules state that a contractor must be paid for work done – even if this exceeds the tender costs. Contracts may come in under budget but a lot is dependant of the Risk Allocation.</p> <p>DL explained the process in relation to the Portavogie Slipway refurbishment project.</p>	
<p>8. THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The work of the Environmental Officer is bedded into the Corporate Plan which is currently with DAERA for approval.</p> <p>Over the last year there has been 5.7T of litter removed through organised Beach Cleans.</p> <p>NIFHA would like to see a pickup of the Fishing for Litter (FFL) Scheme and Jenny Lau (JL) is holding a meeting at Neptune’s Larder on 13 May 2022 to promote this.</p> <p>There has been a total of 7 beach cleans in Kilkeel.</p> <p>JL requests that fishermen do not put oily material in the blue bins.</p> <p>A grant was applied for and received to look at alternative uses for the dredged sand from the harbour entrance. This may be able to be taken to the north of the harbour. NIEA Regulations will not allow sand to be taken out of the harbour.</p> <p>AMcC stated that care of the environment is also concerned with carbon emissions. JL was asked to look at replacement for diesel generators on the quay edge. Would electricity supply be a cleaner option. BMcB asked if boats could plug in instead of using generators? DL noted that Plymouth Harbour recently put in 3 electric charging bays at a cost of c.£570k.</p> <p>DK noted that shoreside power is under investigation at Belfast Harbour but infrastructure limitations and excessive cost have limited progress. It is likely however that future funding opportunities will become available through government decarbonisation initiatives that will assist implementation and this is something NIFHA could keep under review.</p> <p>Two mechanical sweepers for Ardglass and Portavogie have been purchased (grant funded) and are working well – especially with net cuttings. There is an intention to apply for grant funding in the future for Kilkeel.</p> <p>It was mentioned that there was a net abandoned outside premises in the harbour (for at least 1 month) and needs to be moved. KQ will action.</p>	<p>KQ</p>

<p>LG asked why this meeting had originally been planned to be on Zoom when Covid-19 was starting to clear. KQ noted that when the initial date of the meeting was organised back in January 2022, Covid-19 was still rife in Kilkeel.</p>	
<p>9. OPERATIONAL ISSUES</p> <p>AMcC asked about the berthing of boats in harbour. An example was given as to a vessel permitted to berth at the fishmarket and when unable to move was given a Breach of Byelaws Notice. Fines seem to be becoming more prevalent.</p> <p>All other operational issues have been addressed throughout the meeting.</p>	
<p>10. HARBOUR INVESTMENT UPDATE</p> <p>KQ and DL are attending a meeting with CPD within the next two weeks in order to appoint an integrated consultancy team to move this to the next stage.</p> <p>Work is still progressing in the background.</p> <p>NIFHA Board are enthusiastic about this Review and give the Executive Team their full support.</p>	
<p>11. EQUALITY</p> <p>The Authority tries to look after its staff to the best of our ability. We are trying to do our best and would ask stakeholders to be courteous to all our staff.</p>	
<p>12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>AMcK thanked everyone for coming today. As a Board we have been discussing ways to improve communication – both in frequency and structure of meetings. We would encourage any suggestions from our stakeholders as to how we could improve this going forward.</p> <p>RMcC also thanked all for attending, highlighted that the Board do understand there are issues within the harbours and noted today’s meeting was both professional and constructive.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 15.55pm</p>	

Kilkeel Stakeholder Advisory Forum

Attendance Sheet

Friday 29 April 2022

	Name	Vessel / Company / Organisation
1	Alan McKeown (AMcK)	NIFHA Board Member
2	Kevin Quigley (KQ)	NIFHA
3	Belinda McCaughey	NIFHA
4	Robert McConnell (RMcC)	NIFHA Board - Chairman
5	Kate Burns (Zoom)	NIFHA Board Member
6	David Campbell (DC)	
7	Harry Wick (HW)	NIFPO
8	David Lindsay (DL)	NIFHA
9	David Knott (DK)	NIFHA Board Member
10	Gerry Smyth (GS)	
11	Brian Chambers (BC)	ANIFPO
12	Trevor McKee (TMcK)	NIFPO
13	Raymond Patterson (RP)	
14	Leslie Girvan (LG)	Kilkeel Fuels
15	Ian Newell (IN)	Ian Newell Engineering
16	Bobby McBride (BMcB)	Boat Owner, ANIFPO
17	Alan McCulla (AMcC)	ANIFPO
18	Davey Hill (DH)	NIFHA Board Member
19	Andrew Rooney (AR)	Rooney Fish
20	Alan Chambers (AC)	ANIFPO
21	NIFPO (Zoom)	NIFPO