

# Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Portavogie Stakeholder Advisory Forum Meeting

held on

**Friday 24 February 2023 at 2.30pm**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	
<b>Stakeholders:</b>	Harold Edmonds (HE) – Rosemary Ann Ian Kelly (IK) – NIFPO Sam Mawhinney (SM) – Denholm Fishselling
<b>NIFHA:</b>	David Knott (DK) – NIFHA Board Member & Chair of Meeting Kevin Quigley (KQ) – CEO Colin Nixon (CN) – Harbour Operative Harry Wick (HW) – NIFHA Board Member Jenny Lau (JL) – Environmental Officer Lynn Gilmore (LG) – Board Member Neil Warnock (NW) – Harbour Master Belinda McCaughey (BMCC)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Alan McKeown (AMCK) – NIFHA Board Member Kate Burns (KB) – NIFHA Board Member Davey Hill (DH) – NIFHA Board Member David Lindsay – NIFHA Project Manager
	<b>Action</b>
1. <b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>	
DK welcomed all to meeting and apologies as above were recorded.	
2. <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2022 by Zoom were approved.	
3. <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.	
4. <b>OPERATIONAL MATTERS</b>	
Slipway – Slipway rails project has now completed..	
Ice Plant – Temperamental, not a 24/7 service. KQ thanked the stakeholders for their patience – we do our best to keep the plant working.	
Fish Market Berthing – this has settled down. There have been no issues for a while now. It is important to keep the fishmarket clear for vessels to land.	

<p>Dismantling Vessels – Planning permission is taking a long time. The tender to design the anchor to pull the vessel out of the water was awarded 2 months ago. Currently being manufactured and should be on site by March. The roadway will be widened when the anchor is installed.</p> <p>The old Waste Management Facility Licence needed to be revoked and a new one issued by NIEA.</p> <p>Method statement has been approved for the Aquarius and the Boy Cameron.</p> <p>These all have to be in place before planning permission can be granted. Hope to have in place before the end of March. Sound Barriers are ready to go.</p> <p>Once facility is operational a tender will have to be issued for breaking up the vessels.</p> <p>KQ noted that there will only be resources to dismantle 3-4 boats per year. Enterprise in Kilkeel will be dismantled within the next few weeks.</p> <p>Net Racking – This has been removed and will be replaced with bays over the next few months.</p> <p>KQ complimented the team in Portavogie for all their hard work and gave credit to the cooperation received from the fishermen.</p> <p>Parkgate Compounds are ready for occupancy. Leases for the sheds will follow shortly.</p> <p>SM advised on an issue with broken kerbs outside Units 1-4 Princess Anne Road. He is replacing some within his Unit. NW will look at this with SM</p>	<p>NW</p> <p>NW</p>
<p>5. <b>HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY</b></p> <p>Portavogie record on safety is excellent. This is thanks both to our staff and the fishermen.</p> <p>SM advised the meeting that there was currently an issue around spotlights on boats within the harbour blinding people at the entrance of the harbour.</p> <p>When the generator on the vessels starts up the lights on the vessel turn on and stay on until the generator stops.</p> <p>KQ confirmed this will be investigated. NW will initially advise the fishermen of the issue by sending out a group text.</p>	<p>NW/ KQ</p>
<p>6. <b>THE ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>JL spoke to this section. 3T of waste has been removed under the FFL scheme from Portavogie alone. FFL is not designed for galley waste.</p> <p>There were 6 beach cleans during the last year with a total of 385Kg of litter removed.</p> <p>Net Recycling – Project just completed - 2T of net was sent to a company in England to make into trainers. There is still no long term solution to recycle nets.</p>	

<p>Meeting discussed recycling and products which could be created out of the recycled materials. Any ideas should be forwarded to JL.</p> <p>LG asked would it be possible to make a NI product which could be used by the fishermen e.g.: a buoy? IK advised that the PO are not aware of any NI companies who do this.</p> <p>HE stated that he knows of a Scottish man who is turning nets into flowerpots.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the fishermen to ensure that net cuttings are collected and not left to be swept in the harbours.</p> <p>Waste collection improvement project is underway in Kilkeel. The future plan is to roll this out to both Portavogie and Ardglass.</p> <p>Water Fountain is to be installed in the garden at the entrance to the Harbour.</p> <p>KQ suggested that Care for the Environment should be part of the training that fishermen get before they go to sea.</p> <p>DK encouraged ideas from all – these are very welcome. Taking care of the Environment is a good news story – particularly in Portavogie.</p>	<p>JL</p>
<p>7. <b>CAPITAL WORKS</b></p> <p>In the absence of DL KQ updated the meeting on the current Capital works. In particular</p> <p><b>Slipway Rails Project</b> – This project has been completed successfully..</p> <p><b>Traffic Management Project</b> – completed.</p> <p><b>Parkgate Site</b> – Only the water connection is still outstanding.</p> <p><b><u>POTENTIAL CAPITAL WORKS</u></b></p> <p><b>Bridge Quay Repairs</b> – Grants scheme should open in June and preparations are well underway to ensure we will be ready to submit the tender for these works.</p> <p><b>Slipway Winch and Cradle Enhancement</b> – Grant applied for under the Seafood Fund administered by DEFRA. This is an innovative move. Cradle will have vertical arms (similar to Kilkeel), solar panels, and be armour plated to enable dismantling of vessels. Winch will be replaced as well. It will be May before we will discover whether our Grant Application has been approved.</p> <p>The proposed new cradle will take smaller vessels and longer, deeper boats. We also need a long term solution for dismantling vessels.</p> <p><b>Power Point Replacements</b> – this is complex and depends on future requirements of the vessels. Net Carbon Zero needs to be considered. Not a simple swap on a like for like basis.</p> <p><b>Blast Freezer</b> – for inshore vessels to land product. This is not likely in the foreseeable future. The meeting queried how this decision was made. KQ confirmed it had not been totally ruled out but at the moment there are more urgent matters to be addressed.</p>	

<p><b>Navital Site</b> – This is an eyesore. Parkgate site is a welcome addition and filling up well.</p> <p>IK noted that vessels are starting to take ground in the harbour – it may be time to dredge.</p> <p>KQ confirmed that samples taken in the Inner Harbour show levels of TBT meaning a licence to dredge and dump at sea may not be forthcoming. We are currently working on a licence for the Outer Harbour.</p> <p><b>Small Boat Lift</b> – Consultation took place with stakeholders – currently 17 smaller vessels – hard to justify a small boat lift at this time.</p> <p>KQ advised that there is a scoring matrix with a policy set by NIFHA Board which determines which projects will proceed. This has just been updated and will be brought to the June Board Meeting for approval.</p> <p>HW stated he would like better communication with stakeholders over the prioritisation of Projects and information on why certain projects are not being taken forward. KQ will address this.</p> <p><b>Suggestions</b> – KQ invited suggestions from the meeting.</p> <p>HE stated that there was not enough Power Boxes in the harbour and asked would it be possible to create extensions at each of the boxes. NW advised that existing cabling is only for plugs. The infrastructure would need to be replaced to install extensions.</p>	KQ
<p>8. <b>EQUALITY</b></p> <p>It is important to acknowledge that we should treat each other with respect.</p> <p>The Authority is committed to treating everyone equally.</p> <p>Good relationships are important to everyone within NIFHA.</p>	
<p>9. <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>KQ thanked everyone for their attendance. We welcome feedback. We are all working to a common goal.</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.55pm.</p>	