

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 3rd November 2025 Haddon House 18:00

Present

Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Ben Harvey	(BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	Residents Rep
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-boating water activities rep (HCG Chair)
David Boyland	(DB)	Non-commercial mooring rep sub
Cllr Rob Hughes	(RH)	Dorset council harbours advisory committee chair
Simon Miles	(SM)	Commercial passenger carrying vessels rep
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Non-commercial mooring rep
Jonathon Bourbon	(JB)	Town Council
Rodger Guppy	(RG)	Sea angling club sub
Keston Bracey	(KB)	Harbour Traders sub
Debbs Urch	(DU)	Gig club rep
Jason Mathews	(JM)	Gig club rep
Sam Hanbury	(SH)	Harbour Traders rep
Border Force	(BF)	Boarder force home office field officer
Amanda Anderson	(AA)	Resilient Communities Coordinator
Andy Turtle	(AT)	Citizens in Policing Manager

1. Welcome & introductions				Action
EB – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room introductions were given.				
KB - New attendee; will enquire about becoming Harbour Trader Representative (sub).				
2. Apologies				
Becky McGowan – Harbour Admin Officer				
Jane Hallet - Non-Boating Water Activities Sub				
3. Minutes of the previous meeting				
No comments				
4. Outstanding actions from previous meetings				
ID	Action	Assigned	Date of completion	EC RH EB
5.	Seek advice from DC data protection	EC		
5.	Feedback requests			
7.	Letter to MP from HGC re Marine Licencing	EC – EB	On going	
9.	Contact Fishermen’s Reo	EB	On going	
10.	Create action tracker and add to next Agenda.	BM	22/09/2025	
12.	Investigate weather data (EC to invite parking rep to come to next meeting RH to talk to Cllr regarding parking EB to submit question to next meeting)	EB	Not possible due to not getting parking data 3/11/2025	
14.	Meet to discuss dog signage (Meeting held to discuss signage.	EB - JR	On going	

	Current signs deemed inadequate; still under WDDC responsibility and need updating AT - Mentioned that a possible year-round dog ban is being discussed at the Community Forum meeting)			JR
18.	Talk to angling centre re crabbing code RG - Suggested idea: hiring crab lines. Not practical due to high numbers buying nets in summer. Lines can get stuck and cut. Proposed: Signs on bins with "Crabbing Code," Litter Free Dorset is running Weymouth signage initiatives. SM - Highlighted problem, plastic packaging from nets and bait. Q - Could dedicated "crabbing bins" be introduced?	RG	On going	
18.	Speak with Wildlife Trust re crab line bins	EB		
5. Representatives and Substitutes				
Commercial Fisherman Sub to be appointed – Will speak to fishermen again				JR
Harbour Traders Rep to be appointed – Possible KB to work alongside SH				
Residents Sub to be confirmed, Sue Pollock to continue from Community Forum?				
Town Council sub to be appointed				
EB to contact Canoe club representatives as they have not attended recent meetings.				EB
6. Harbours Advisory Committee Chair's updates				
It has been a quiet time over the summer. No meetings were held in August or September and I was away during the September Advisory Committee.				
The Harbour Revision Order is scheduled to be laid before Parliament on 15 December. If successful, the order will be enforced from January 2026.				
7. Marine Police update & Harbour Watch				
No new updates. Challenges: Summer was demanding with high pressure on the team. Resource Impact: Marine officers were diverted to assist with general policing in Weymouth, Bournemouth, and Poole. Team is now back on marine duties and working to catch up.				
Harbour Watch - Poole Harbour Conference Poole has agreed to host a conference in 2027. Action: Set up a planning group and include other relevant organizations to make it a larger collaborative event.				
Training for Harbour Staff, explore the possibility of training harbour staff to hold enforcement powers if required.				
EB - Raised concerns about youths driving around the bay and suggested police intervention to deter young drivers. AT – Advised reporting all incidents, the more reports, the more patrols. Police response is limited due to lack of local reporting.				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use Dorset Police website for reporting intelligence or crimes. ○ Include detailed info (e.g., registration numbers). ○ For emergencies, always call 999. <p>Creating a speed watch group was suggested, if there are volunteers available.</p> <p>EB - To discuss further with interested parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seeking volunteers to assist with Harbour Watch and related activities. 	EB
8. Border Force	
<p>Introduced discussion on border breaches involving hard hull problems and small boats and highlighted an issue of pleasure crafts being used to bring in illegal immigrants.</p> <p>Project Kraken has now transitioned to Border Watch. Posters will be displayed to encourage reporting of unusual or suspicious activity. If there is a crime in progress always report via 999.</p> <p>Latest concern: “At-sea drop-offs” where drugs are dropped overboard and collected by others on this side.</p> <p>JR – to circulate links.</p> <p>Harbour Watch contact form Dorset Police</p> <p>Report suspicious behaviour on the coast or at sea: Project Kraken - GOV.UK</p>	JR
9. Harbour Masters update	
<p>The summer season has been positive overall, with similar results reported by neighbouring harbours.</p> <p><u>HRO</u> - With enforcement by January 2026, general directions are to replace “by laws”, much faster (approximately 6 weeks) and will be specific to Bridport or Lyme Regis. These directions will be specific to Bridport or Lyme Regis, resulting in easier enforcement and more efficient harbour operations. This update will bring enforcement processes up to modern standards.</p> <p><u>Harbour works</u></p> <p>Black Hut: Scheduled for removal and rebuild after Christmas, following approved plans.</p> <p>Timber piling starts today over the duration of 10 days, we are hoping to complete as much as possible within the timeframe, working on the Northern wall of the East Basin (Fishermen’s Corner).</p> <p>Flare disposal is going well, 400+ flares have been taken in.</p> <p>Fuel service at lyme Regis is going well, a recent poll received good feedback, so we are looking at starting a fuel service in Bridport too.</p> <p>Dredging - Discussion on dredging methods prior to cutter suction dredging. Licensing: Bridport holds a dredging licence but not a disposal licence. Disposal licence costs approx. £150k annually for outer harbour only.</p>	

Current Trial: Water injection dredging trial underway, which removes the need for a disposal licence.
Awaiting approval from Natural England and MMO; responses have been slow.
Progress: Vessel on route to carry out trial in east side of harbour and outer harbour entrance. East side chains will be removed for maintenance during the trial. Dredging scheduled on a falling tide.
Harbour Depth Targets: Aim to keep inner harbour drying height below 1.5m.
Current highest peaks: 1.3m.

EC- Surveys have been done on reef and life near the harbour and silt has been tested. There will be on going tests after dredging to measure the impact on the local environment. We have done all the tests plus more to make sure we are doing everything we need too.

JB- How long will this last?

JR - 10 days between Bridport and Lyme Regis, 2 days at Lyme Regis

SM- Are they confident they can remove similar quantity to before.

JR – Yes, they are confident, they can do more than we require, after surveys we will know how successful this is.

Inner pontoon area and steps: Steps need replacing,

Stage 1: Install new railings on the knuckle where the timber boarding is currently located.

Stage 2: Replace the steps and reposition them so they run off the knuckle instead of the footpath.

An access gate will be installed to provide access down to the pontoons and there is a plan to replace the existing pontoon with a black plastic pontoon featuring two fingers. One designated for commercial users. One designated for private users.

JM- Will access will still be open?

JR- They may be closed for a few days during replacement.

10. User Representatives reports

EB- Only submitted reports will receive responses. Reports that are not submitted may not be addressed immediately.

Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels

SM – Will there be more cleats placed on plastic pontoons?

JR - There are cleats at every 5m and eye bolts 1m each side of each cleat.

GB – Suggested there be more as 5m is not enough.

JR – We could possibly put shackles on eye bolts to help.

It was suggested we need more signs - public off pontoons.

Bins: Positive feedback overall. Location options discussed: top of steps or inner harbour. Issue identified along inner harbour.

JR - No feedback yet on additional litter bins, but situation is being monitored, and updates are being shared with the Waste Partnership.

Non-Commercial Moorings

DB - Link sent to harbour users for feedback; 24 responses received. The link includes all comments. Suggest using surveys more often to identify areas for improvement.

EB – Thank you for sending this out. Consider making this an annual survey.

GB – Customer service concerns remain—general feeling that harbour users are not treated as customers.

EC - Survey results would suggest otherwise but there is always room for improvement.

GB – Encourage more greetings and conversations with all users.

<p>EB – Past aggression may have contributed to perceptions. Increased contact, newsletters, etc., should help improve relationships. EB- please use the reps, we are happy to receive emails regarding any issues.</p> <p><u>Gig club</u> Nothing to report at present. Reviewing tide heights—dredging expected to help. A few gigs are out of action due to a car crash while being towed.</p> <p><u>West bay Sea Angling Club</u> One ladder identified as unsafe; positioned too close to the wall. BH - Aware of the issue—repairs will be carried out over the winter.</p>	
<p>11. Q&A's</p>	
<p>12. AOB</p>	
<p>RG – Fish pass at Pymore is silting up and requires maintenance. RG requested some piles to be donated to assist with the work. JR - Need to confirm sizes—may have suitable piles available.</p> <p>Next meeting – provisionally marked for Thursday 2nd of February 2026</p>	