

HARBOUR USERS GROUP MINUTES

Tuesday 30th July 2024 14:00
Falmouth Hotel



**FALMOUTH
HARBOUR**

UK's Atlantic gateway.

Attendees:

David Owens, Chair of HUG	DO
David Nicoll, RNLI and Vice chair of HUG	DN
Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA	SC
Miles Carden, CEO Falmouth Harbour	CEO
Mark Chanter (via Teams)	MC
Chris Davis, RYA	CD
Toby Floyer, Cornwall Ferries Limited	TFI
Tom Furse, HM Coastguard	TF
Richard Gates , Falmouth Town Council	RG
Peter Harvey, Flushing Sailing Club LEAVING AT 15:30	PH
Drystan Jones, Director Port Development Falmouth, FDEC	DJ
Gaye Slater, Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)	GS
Steve Taylor, Falmouth Marine School	ST
Luke Wills, Port Manager & Harbour Master, FDEC	LW

Guests

Jackie George	JG
Jeremy Dunn, Ward Williams Associates	JD
Paul Connolly, LDA Design	PC
Tim Denton, Moffatt and Nichol	TD
Kate Dalsgaard, Cornwall Council	KG

1. Falmouth Harbour (FH) Destination Development Feasibility Study Presentation

a) Falmouth Harbour Introduction - Miles Carden, CEO

- CEO explained that we have formed the Harbour Users Group (HUG) to fulfil our duties for our new Harbour Revision Order (HRO). We have tried to invite members to represent a wide range of stakeholders. FH will both inform and consult with the HUG.
- FH are looking to maximise potential from our marine assets. FH have been awarded £100k of Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) for a feasibility study to achieve this. The study is now at the scoping stage. Detailed discussions with local partners have taken place.

b) Ward Williams Associates Introduction - Jeremy Dunn

- The feasibility study will be completed towards the end of the year when we will present again to the HUG. We are looking at options to involve the town, harbour and docks and following Good Growth principles to ensure projects will be suitable for further funding.. There are lots of ideas which have elicited different reactions from different people so it is important to present to a wide range of interested parties.
- JD, TD and PC ran through their presentation covering points c to f.

- c) Outline the FH Destination Development Feasibility Study and Engagement
- d) Presentation of high-level socio-economic case
- e) Outline of constraints and 'do nothing' options
- f) Presentation of high-level development ideas
- g) Q&A

The Group discussed the proposals and made the following comments:

- Also consulting 121 with close partners such as A&P, Falmouth Marine School, Town Council. Detailed dialog will be ongoing.
- Once options are more defined there will be public consultation.
- Disability access to water is non-existent.
- Careful consideration should be given to reducing moorings especially where there are waiting lists.
- Superyacht visits are high value low volume but could also accommodate larger motor boats, catamarans, FLOW vessels.
- Need to encourage use of black water tank.
- Need to increase available tender berthing for short stay opportunities.
- Flushing Sailing Club provide range of opportunities for socio economic groups. Rising costs directly impact this but inclusivity is an important principle and we should strive for this.
- Access to the water should be one of the biggest priorities.
- The boardwalk idea would get people nearer to the water. This could be done safely but would require funding.
- Important to encourage visitors to come this far down into Cornwall and even to leave their boats behind and explore the land. We would need the right facilities for this. Fuel availability is limited and key.
- Capacity – if we attract too many vessels would we lose elements of what people come here to see.
- JD encouraged everyone to get in touch if they have further queries or feedback.
- MC thanked JD, PC and TD.

2. Welcome and Introduction

- All introduced themselves.

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

- RG proposed and PH seconded DO as chair.
- DO nominated DN as vice chair with RG seconding the proposal.
- Both DO and DN accepted the positions and all were in favour.
- DO commented that he will endeavour to increase the diversity of the HUG.
- SC asked whether any commercial fishing representatives had been invited to join the HUG. DO suggested that as we refine attendees could look at this representation. If agenda items affect commercial fishing we would ensure representatives from that industry would be invited.
- Prior to the HUG, FH convened a Consultative Committee who noted that there are harbour stakeholders in hard to reach groups such as fisherman and paddle boarders as the vast majority are not members of a group or associated body. SC suggested encouraging people that don't belong to a group to input to the HUG by posting queries on the FH website. There is already a facility for this using the info@falmouthharbour.co.uk email.

4. Apologies

Tony Arden, Senior Environment Officer (Water Resources), Environment Agency	TA
Trevor Brookes, Resident Naval Officer – Falmouth	TB
Miles Featherstone, Falmouth Harbour Master	MF
Jonathan Fielding, Falmouth Boat Co	JF
Michelle Hares, Falmouth Gig Club	MH
Tom Karsenburg, Graypen Shipping	TK
Natasha Lippold, Falmouth Boat Co	NL
Chris Turner, Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CT
Caroline Harvey – Deputy Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CH

Absent Without Apologies

John Andrew, St Mawes Sailing Club	JA
Chris Jones, Marine Manager, Cornwall Council	CJ
Nick Lewis, RNLI	NL

5. Declarations of Interest

- None for this inaugural meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- As this is the inaugural meeting of the Harbour Users Group (HUG) there are no minutes to approve.

7. Matters Arising

- It was agreed that the HUG would take on the outstanding Matters Arising from the Consultative Committee.

8. Harbour Users Group Terms of Reference – Annual Approval

- Previously distributed for information.
- The ToRs have been reviewed based on ToRs from other harbours and are compliant for FH's new HRO.
- CEO encouraged all HUG members to read the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).
- MC will not be attending the HUG long term as he will appoint one of our new Commissioners (to be appointed before the end of 2024) as the FH Commissioner member of the HUG.
- The HUG will have a joint meeting with all the FH Commissioners in December.
- DO as chair of the HUG will attend Part 1 of all main Board meetings.

ACTION: Address the representation of groups such as fishermen or paddleboarders within the HUG Terms of Reference (ToR).

9. HM Harbour Operations Update

- MF has resigned and left the organisation to travel. Ifor Pedley will step up as Harbour Master from the 1st August. He will attend the HUG meetings going forward. A new deputy HM will be recruited.

10. Harbour Directions

- None to consider at the moment,.
- Air display during Falmouth Week is a regular event that sits within current Harbour Directions.

11. **Regulatory, Safety and Incidents – under Port Marine Safety Code**

- Incident report will be presented at the next meeting.
- We will also report annually on our PMSC performance.

12. **Environmental and Sustainability Matters**

- FH will invite Vicki Spooner, EQSM at FH, to give regular updates to the HUG.
- Zenow project for electric rib – there is a delay with the supply of the vessel which will be with us next spring. Electrification for 2 berths in the marina will be installed in September.
- We have SPF to install HVO fuel which the new pilot boat will use. We will be able to supply a small amount of HVO to customers.
- There is also a retail opportunity for AdBlue although demand is low.
- FH have installed Arc blocks at Church Street car park along with interpretation boards. This is for environment purposes and to stop anti-social mooring of boats against the wall.
- FH have a sustainably plan which is a public document available on our website.
- CD commented that robotic race marks will be used for Falmouth Sailing Week.

13. **Stakeholder Matters, Feedback and Events**

- FH will hold their annual meeting at the Maritime Museum in October. This day is themed around ideas, presentations from FH team members and guest speakers.
- FH's annual review document is delayed, mainly due to limited external auditing services. CEO intends to reduce this timeline significantly in future years.
- All HUG members will receive an invitation to the annual meeting and FH will take the opportunity to Introduce the HUG during the event.
- FH's portal for customer feedback is due to go live imminently.
- The Consultative Committee's Good Governance Report, which this group should now monitor, will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

14. **HRO Update**

- This has already been consulted upon and extensive Q&A and other documents are available on the website.
- The HRO introduces powers of general direction which are modern papers to keep our harbour safe.
- During the consultation we received an initial 14 responses and have been working through these over the last few months. Some have been resolved and others are being reviewed.
- CEO is disappointed with the length of time to get the HRO to this stage. Once we resolve the final issues the HRO will then be laid before parliament. The change of government has further delayed this. The process is likely to take 4 years with some ports waiting 5-7 years. Issues are with MMO resources and FH have complained about the length of this process. One year after the initial consultation the MMO then said there are another 4 responses which we were not declared at the time.
- The new MP is aware of these delays.
- Any changes to local orders will be presented to the HUG for their consideration.
- By laws will not be repealed but powers of general direction will replace them over time.
- The HUG is the main consultation group for the HRO and related issues.

15. Harbour Infrastructure Projects

- The new pilot 16m vessel is in the final stages of build at Holyhead in Wales. There have been some delays but this still falls within our set contingency.
- The vessel will arrive at the beginning of September subject to sea trials.
- LK Mitchell will leave the harbour during the 1st week of September.
- Bunkering is at expected levels.
- Cruise visits increase year on year. We have only had one cancelled due to weather conditions. FH work with A&P on these visits.
- HYM is leaving and will be replaced by Tristan Rowe as Head of Commercial Operations. Tristan starts on 1st August.

16. Member Items – to be sent to the CEO 14 days prior to the date of the meeting

- None as this is the inaugural meeting.
- Members should send items to CEO and copy in DO.
- RYA have a project to increase the number of junior sailors. CEO would love to be involved.
- The members discussed various issues that could be raised during this section.
- There can be conflicts between events as so many are organised by different clubs. PoFSA and its members are getting together in the Autumn to plan events.
- There is an events calendar now on Falmouth Harbour's website - [Events - Falmouth Harbour, Cornwall](#).
- DJ commented that as the neighbouring statutory harbour authority they have their own Port Users Group (PUG). To give clarity on where issues lie it was agreed that LW and DO attend both PUG and HUG.
- As DJ represents FDEC, and will protect the statutory rights of FDEC, this may lead to some challenging conversations.
- DJ also wanted to make the HUG aware that FDEC have raised an objection to the HRO and this is being discussed.
- Cornwall Council HUG/PUG – following the meeting Chris Jones clarified with the following extract from Cornwall Council's SMS@.

1.16 – Stakeholders

The Cornwall Harbours Harbour Revision Order 2023 requires that Cornwall Council establishes one or more advisory bodies which the Council must (except in an emergency) consult on all matters substantially affecting the management, maintenance, improvement, conservation, protection or regulation of the harbours and their navigation. It must make arrangements for every such advisory body to meet not less than twice a year.

1.16.1 Harbour Stakeholder Groups

Each harbour is encouraged to form a Stakeholder/User Group and Written Terms of Reference. These groups should not meet less than twice per year.

1.16.2 Combined Cornwall Harbours User Group

A combined Stakeholder Group provides an opportunity for all Stakeholder Group Chairs to meet twice annually with the Maritime Management Team. Up to 5 members of this group can hold a non-voting position on Cornwall Harbours Board.

17. Urgent Matters for Consideration (should be notified to Chair prior to meeting)

- None.

Dates of 2024 Meetings

Tuesday 19th November 2024

Friday 13th December 2024 Joint Meeting with Board at 13:00

Meetings start at 14:00 unless indicated otherwise.