

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)
Meeting 6th February 2025 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

Present

Nick Marks	(NM)	RNLI Rep (Chair)
Lee Roper	(LR)	Power Boat Club Rep (Vice Chair)
Peter Fosh	(PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Sally Holman	(SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Catherine Kinnersley	(CK)	Gig Club Sub
Karen Durham Diggins	(KDD)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Adrian Best	(AB)	Marine Police
Mat Styles	(MS)	Fishermen Rep
Rob King	(RK)	Boatmen/Charters Rep
Will Reed	(WR)	Harbour Traders Sub
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Sam Harding	(SHA)	Assistant Harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	(RH)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
<p>NM – Welcomed Adrian Best to the group.</p> <p>Round the room introductions were given.</p>	
2. Apologies	
<p>David Brown – Non-commercial Moorings</p> <p>Jo Law – Sea School Trust</p> <p>Becky McGowan – Harbours Admin</p> <p>It was noted that no one from LR Town Council was in attendance despite NM recently making a specific request.</p>	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
<p>No comments on previous minutes.</p>	
4. Harbour Consultative Group Vice Chair application	
<p>NM 3-year tenure as Chair comes to an end in March 2025. NM notified the Group that he intends to stand down as Chair at the next meeting, however he will remain on the group as the RNLI Rep.</p>	<p>EC to send out Nomination Form to members ahead of the next meeting.</p>
5. Representatives and Substitutes	
<p>Positions of the representatives and substitutes confirmed.</p> <p>Positions of the representatives and substitutes confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peter O'Connell - Non-Boating Water Activities Sub - Murray Saunders - RNLI Sub <p>Still to confirm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boatman/Charters Sub - Commercial Fisherman Sub 	
6. Marine Police Update	
<p>AB introduced himself and advised that Jamie Thornton had been moved back to Response. AB is now responsible for Ringstead through to Lyme from a marine crime aspect. AB has spoken to Amanada Anderson about</p>	<p>NM asked for AB to contact him regarding</p>

<p>Harbour Watch. There are currently 803 members registered for Harbour Watch across the whole county, although records show that only 6 of these people are in Lyme Regis. Membership of Harbour Watch is very heavy weighted in the east of the County, around the Christchurch/Poole area.</p> <p>Adrian and Amanda happy to attend events, and all members of the HCG are keen to proactively drive sign ups, and to organise an event pre-season.</p> <p>AB advised that new funding was allowing them to have two new vessels, which will enable them to come by water to West Dorset more often.</p> <p>AB asked members to be aware of suspicious persons re outboard theft, ref persons that were stopped in Kent with outboards in vehicle that were stolen from Portland to be used in people trafficking.</p>	<p>availability of Police for Harbour Watch event dates. Ideal target date would be early April, during school holidays, but before Easter.</p>
7. Harbours Advisory Group Committee Chair's Updates	
<p>RH reported that Ken Buchan is leaving Dorset Council at the end of April. Ken is well known by members and the group agreed that Ken had been a good friend and supporter of Lyme Regis and will be missed.</p> <p>The advert is now live for two new non-elected members of the Harbours Advisory Committee. Closing date is 12th February, and we hope to appoint quickly. RH & NM encouraged members to consider if they were interested in applying.</p>	
8. Harbour Master Update	
<p>JR – Provided some statistics of Harbour usage in comparison from March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Season Tickets 30% decrease. -Visiting craft 40% decrease -Boat Lifting remained the same -Parking 2% decrease -Shop decreased by 28% -Permanent mooring waiting list currently holds 13 -Commercial waiting list currently holds 11 -Mooring occupancy is currently at 65.5% private and 74.2% commercial. <p>Waiting list offers have gone out, currently waiting responses.</p> <p>NM asked if JR was concerned about vacancy figures. JR said that while the picture was not as he would wish, it comes off the back of two bad weather summer seasons, and more and more people giving up boats as they are not using them.</p> <p>Members reported that the ongoing increase in cost of living is a factor, and that local car parking charges were of great concern and was affecting visitor numbers to the Town. Members acknowledged that while permits were available for locals, they do not benefit visitors.</p> <p>No further update on HRO, we are still waiting to hear from Government on sign off. Once the HRO is in place, work will begin immediately to form a set of General Directions.</p> <p>The new Harbour building is almost complete, just awaiting sign off now after a couple of defects have been resolved. The mezzanine floor will be added in the next financial year.</p> <p>JR reported on dredging plans and investigating Water Injection Dredging. Members raised concerns that the plume from this would have a serious negative impact on the local reef systems. EC said that we were engaging with Natural England on this and organising surveys to collect baseline data. Modelling will also take place to predict the path of the sediment plume and</p>	

<p>evaluate where sediment would settle. EC said the final decision on this has not yet been made; we are working through the process to ensure we are not causing damage to the environment. However, with the potential gains from a lower cost option like WID, it is something we are duty bound to investigate.</p>	
9. Phase 5 update	
<p>EC reported of 2024 progress and planned progress in 2025. Members reported that they are very concerned that nothing has happened seemingly in three years. Even though they keep raising the same concerns, nothing appears to change.</p> <p>Members are requesting that further action be taken in escalating their concerns. Officers recommended that a formal question be posed at the next HAC.</p>	<p>NM will liaise with members to frame a question regarding Phase 5 to be included in the next HAC agenda. Question to be emailed to Josh Kennedy.</p>
10. User Rep Reports	
<p><u>SAILING CLUB</u></p> <p><i>Firefly Nationals Championships (16–22 August 2025)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions with the Harbour. • Expected participation: 60–70 two-man dinghies. • Slipway use will be managed to minimise disruption; Harbour staff to control the gate. • Event Chair: David Beer; Event Secretary: Sally Holman. <p><i>LRSC Regatta (2–3 August 2025)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in the planning stage. • Youth Regatta (12 July 2025) • One-day event for club youth members across all training groups. <p><i>Club Programme 2025</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft to be approved by LRSC Ltd Committee on 20 January. • Programme to be published on the website. • Winter racing continues. • Regular club racing to be held on Sundays. • Youth training scheduled for Saturdays and Tuesday evenings. <p><i>Youth Training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race group resumes 1 February. • Seamanship Skills: Saturdays from 1 April, Tuesdays from Easter. <p><i>Beach Dinghy Park</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRSC's allocated area remains unchanged. • Dinghy spaces allocated for the summer season from 1 April. <p><i>Phase 5 Works</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting an update from HM on funding and confirmation of winter 2025 start date. <p><i>LRSC Ltd AGM (26 October 2024)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Commodore: Andy Robinson. • Vice Commodore: Allan Tyler. 	

- Sailing Secretary (Cruising): Dan Alsop.
- Flag Captain, Youth Coordinator, and Harbour Liaison: Sally Holman.
- Andy Robinson has been introduced to James.
- Full details available on the LRSC Ltd website.

Requests and Queries to HCG

- Update on dredging: dates and areas.
JR updated earlier on dredging.
- Intended date for pontoon deployment.
JR said Easter Holidays
- Emergency vehicle access to Monmouth Beach now roped off;
clarification on public footpath changes requested.
EC & JR explained about the SSSI, and that NE had requested that the area be completely fenced off so it could be evaluated how the environment would recover with no activity, not even walkers, moving through the area.
- Cruiser Lift-In (bilge keelers): requested for 28 March (tide favourable), with lift-keelers following. Dan Alsop to coordinate.

NON-BOATING WATER ACTIVITIES

Next years' dates:

- Lyme Splash Water Polo 9/10th August 2025
- Lyme Splash Swim 14th September 2025

RNLI

Lifeboat Service Calls (2024)

- Total launches: 34 (down from 55 in 2023).

Breakdown of incidents:

- Persons in difficulty ashore – 11
- Persons in the water – 5
- Vulnerable/missing persons – 9
- Yachts/dinghies – 1
- Motor vessels – 1
- Kayaks, SUPs, surfers – 3
- Paragliders – 1
- Navigational hazards/debris/assisting other services – 3

Lifeguard Activity (2024)

- Responded to 122 incidents (like 2023).
- Lyme Regis ranked 25th busiest beach (out of 242).
- 9th highest for casualty care incidents.

RNLI 200th Anniversary Celebrations (2024)

- Lyme Regis featured in TV, radio, press, and social media.
- Crew members Murray Saunders and Jon Broome interviewed on BBC Good Morning.
- Footage from the Christmas Day 2023 rescue featured in RNLI's 2024 fundraising advert.
- Lyme Regis RNLI's own 200th anniversary to be celebrated in 2026.

Upcoming Events (2025)

- Blessing of the Boats: Sunday, 25 May.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifeboat Week: Saturday, 26 July – Friday, 1 August. 	
11. Any other business	
<p>Question raised by MS about what is being done to control dogs around the fishing areas.?</p> <p>Also, who is liable about ropes on quay? JR said initially it is the vessel owner; however Harbour can move if causing an obstruction or hazard.</p> <p>RK asked when the new JCB is coming? JR said that a temporary replacement was coming on Thursday.</p> <p>MG invited everyone to come to the Open Day on Saturday 3rd May (11am until 4pm) at the Boatbuilding Academy.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st May 2025</p> <p>Meeting concluded at 19:50</p>	<p>JR to chase up EHO for their position on dog fouling.</p> <p>EC to investigate whether the Cobb is included in the existing Dorset Council PSPO for fouling.</p>