

CHIFA

Please find a brief note of the main points of our discussions regarding Crail Harbour on 20/01/21: - Attendees - Bernie McConnell (BM), Gordon Lockhart (GL), Colin Morrison, Dennis Gowans, Nicholas Williamson (NW), John Kinninmonth, Allan Anderson (AA)

1. Summary of 2020 Maintenance Items - NW provided a summary of maintenance works carried out at Crail in 2020 and this included: -concrete repairs to beach access ramp (east), stonework repair to base of harbour wall, replaced all shackles on fencing round harbour, installed two fence posts at one of the new ladders, full dredge (circa 1300m³ removed), & general tidy up commenced (maintenance spend circa £35k),
2. Provisional Maintenance Plan for 2021 - NW provided an indication of the maintenance works being considered for 2021 and this included: - check & top up wooden wedges on outside face of South Pier (rope access team), tar patches in various areas, relining parking bays, fix loose fence post, consideration of removal of pilot ladder, begin planning for replacement of 3no. davits on west pier,
3. Provisional Maintenance Plans for 2022 and beyond: - NW provided an indication of longer term maintenance plans being considered and this included: - ongoing ladder replacements (as required), ongoing davit replacements (as required), navigation light maintenance (as required), harbour dredging (as required, but try to get a regular cycle planned), ongoing stonework maintenance (as required), and make safe / refurbish / remove old crane and storm booms (requires detailed consultation exercise),
4. The Use & Need for the Existing Pilot Ladder was discussed - AA to consult as many harbour users as possible over the next 4 - 6 weeks to elicit opinion on whether the ladder is used or not, and whether it should be retained, removed, or removed and replaced with a steel ladder,
5. The Need for Regular Slipway Cleaning was discussed - AA is to consult the rowing club regarding their views as they were not represented at the meeting. However, it was agreed that NW would arrange for the Fife Council Facilities Management Team to come and pressure wash the slip 3 - 4 times during 2021 (starting in March) as a trial and the results of this can be reviewed in early 2022,
6. Harbour Parking Issues were discussed - it was recognised that harbour parking is a long running issue. Some broad ideas were discussed, such as improving the signage on Shoregate, remarking up the parking bays and possibly enhancing the markings with "Harbour Users Only" or similar, writing to local residents and holiday lets re. harbour parking. NW / JK to investigate these and progress some improvements,
7. The list of actions / aspirations compiled by CHIFA was reviewed and each item was briefly discussed. The actions resulting from this were: -
 - NW to provide BM a CAD plan of the harbour to assist with their compilation of bids, making plans, etc.,
8. - NW agreed that AA would review any large seaweed accumulations in the summer months with a view to potential removal, however NW stressed that the Harbours Budget was extremely limited and the standing council policy is to leave natural processes alone as far as possible following the lead of the FCCT who stopped routine seaweed clearances many years ago in response to the environmental damage these potentially caused,-
9. - BM advised that they were seeking an electricity and water supply point on the side of the old Harbour Masters Office building when this is redeveloped by the Community Trust and asked if FC Harbours had any objections to this. NW advised that as far as the Harbours Team were concerned the building was no longer in our portfolio and we would be supportive of additional facilities that benefit the harbours users,
10. - BM noted that some lighting was out at the harbour last week, and AA advised that this had been fixed when electricians attended on 18/01,
11. - The provision of new davits was discussed, and BM reiterated the preference for electric quayside davits and it was also noted that new davits could do with being slightly higher than the existing ones to assist landing fish boxes, etc. NW noted it was highly unlikely that FC would be able to afford electric davits in place of manual ones not just due to the davit cost but also the cost of providing a suitable electricity supply and then the ongoing maintenance and electricity costs. In researching new davits though NW committed to liaising with CHIFA and the other Fisherman regarding a proposed new davit system before any decisions are made,

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12. - BM noted that the guide poles on the slip were poorly attached and could do with being improved for boats to lie alongside. NW acknowledged that founding of the guide poles were not ideal, and undertook to investigate a solution during 2021 with a view to implementing in 2022,
13. - BM noted that new bins were likely to be being deployed around the harbour as part of a discussion between the Community Council and FC Communities Service. NW noted that the public bins were managed by others in FC, but that we would be happy to accommodate improvements to public waste provision at the harbour,
14. - BM / GL noted they were researching ideas for a visitor centre / lobster hatchery at the harbour, and will keep FC updated on any progress,
15. - NW noted that he will see what happened to the Fisheries Development Group in FC which used to be led by Economic Development as this may be a potential pathway to assisting with funding.

It was agreed to meet again in 6 months.

Regards, Nicholas

Consultant Engineer
Flooding, Shoreline, & Harbours
Fife Council
Assets, Transportation and Environment
Bankhead Central
Bankhead Park
Glenrothes
KY7 6GH