





# **Calm Waters 6**

Ceredigion County Council's harbours at Aberaeron, Aberystwyth and New Quay are fantastic resources and attractions in their own right. To ensure *calm waters* at the harbours so they remain safe, enjoyable and attractive for all we are reminding harbour users of a few key things they need to be aware of and do.



#### Please:

- 1. Always be considerate and respectful of all other harbour users and the general public.
- 2. Always be considerate, respectful of and value the local wildlife.
- 3. Make sure that your equipment is well maintained, in good condition and suitable for use. This includes ground tackle, chain, rope, anchors and other mooring devices. These should all be checked regularly.
- 4. Deal with all of your waste legally and responsibly. This includes and extends from spent fishing equipment to waste oil.
- 5. Store all equipment safely and in an appropriate place. This includes tenders, buoys, pots and other fishing equipment.
- 6. Do not cause an obstruction or nuisance either on the wet or dry sides of the harbours. In any emergency, maintaining good access could be critical. Park vehicles in accordance with the arrangements in place and provision made.
- 7. Respond positively to any advice or instruction issued by any of the Harbours' staff.
- 8. Raise any issues, concerns or suggestions you may have with the Harbours' staff at the earliest opportunity. This includes reporting any faults or damage that you may become aware of within the harbours.
- 9. Contact 999 in any kind of emergency.

# The Harbours are managed in accordance with the Ceredigion Harbour Management Policy.

- The Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy,
- Bylaws,
- Nautical Courses and Distances,
- Local Tide Tables,
- The Ceredigion Marine Heritage Coast, Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Pen Llyn and Sarnau SAC,
- Stranded Marine Animals, and Safety

can all be found at: <a href="https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/travel-roads-parking/coast-harbours/">https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/travel-roads-parking/coast-harbours/</a>

Harbour Users should familiarise themselves with this information and ensure that they act in accordance with it at all times. These documents are subject to updates and should therefore be checked regularly.

# **Updates:**

#### (1) Departures & New Joiners

In May 2023 the Harbour Service was delighted to appoint Chay Sanders to the position of Harbour Works Leader. Chay has settled into his new role very well and has thoroughly enjoyed meeting a variety of Harbour Users across the County.

Mervyn Jones Seasonal Harbour Assistant left the service earlier in the year. Mervyn was key member of the team and a familiar face at each of the Harbours. The Harbour Service would like to thank Mervyn for his contributions during his time with us and we would like to wish him all the very best for the future.

Recruitment for two new Seasonal Harbour Assistants is ongoing, we hope that the new team members in in post during April 2024.

# (2) Harbour User Committee Meetings

The next Harbour Users Committee meetings will take place on **21 March 2024** at the following times and will be held virtually on Zoom.

17:30 Aberaeron

18:15 New Quay

19:00 Aberystwyth

While the Committees provide an opportunity to discuss matters there are many ongoing ways that stakeholders can liaise throughout the year with the Harbour Service regarding day-to-day matters which includes in person at the Harbours or via Clic, the Council's contact centre: clic@ceredigion.gov.uk / 01545 570881.

# (3) Port Waste Management Plans (PWMPs)

The Harbour Service is pleased to announce that the MCA has approved the PWMP for the three Harbours. The plan will be implemented on **01 April 2024**, with copies available on the <a href="website">website</a> and at each of the Harbour Offices. Facilities for the disposal of waste which will be available to <a href="leisure users only">leisure users only</a> will include:

- 1) General Waste
- 2) Mixed recycling (including metals, paper, card, plastics)
- 3) Batteries
- 4) Oil filters

Commercial users' waste and any other forms of waste not mentioned above will be rejected and Harbour users will be expected to make their own legally compliant arrangements for the disposal of any such waste.

Further information around arrangements for accessing these facilities will be communicated with leisure morning holders in due course.

# (4) New Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy

The new Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy was approved by Cabinet and came into effect on 01 March 2024. Whilst it is accepted that not all stakeholders will necessarily agree with all elements of the policy, the Harbour Service would like to thank all those who participated in the consultation process and shared their feedback / views.

The four main changes to the Policy are as follows:

- 1) Mooring transfers will no longer be permitted in relation to leisure moorings...
- 2) Inheritance of moorings will no longer be permitted for leisure users..
- 3) Car Parking Permits will no longer be issued to mooring holders. Arrangements related to the separate pier reserved parking arrangements for the allocated New Quay commercial users remain unchanged.
- 4) Waiting list caps have been removed, as such leisure and commercial waiting lists are open to new applicants.
- 5) Waiting list fees payable will no longer be a deposit that is applied as credit to the mooring fee due on allocation of a mooring.

All harbour users are advised to familiarise themselves with the new Policy which, can be found be found either on the website, via the following link:

ceredigion-harbours-management-policy.pdf

Or copies can be viewed at the Harbour Offices during opening hours.

# (5) Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme

Ceredigion County Council are pleased to confirm that the Coastal Defence Scheme Works have now commenced. The Harbour Service will continue to update all Aberaeron Harbour Users as and when necessary.

Monthly updates on scheme are available through the Council's website which can be found via the following link:

Coastal Defence - Ceredigion County Council

Any questions or enquiries relating to the scheme can be addressed to the following:

Gwen Clements – Public Liaison Officer

Telephone: 07585 633799

Email: aberaeron.plo@bam.com

# (6) Harbour Works and Maintenance

Following recent inspections, several ladders in Aberystwyth and Aberaeron harbours have been identified as requiring repair. In some cases, it has been necessary to close ladders and signs have been erected identifying which ladders are not in use. We are currently undertaking a procurement exercise to engage a contract to undertake the required repairs with a view to and hope to fix re-opening all of these affected ladders at the earliest opportunity.



Example of in use ladder sign at Aberaeron Harbour.

In the meantime, Harbour Users must not use these ladders and are advised to make use of other ladders and / or use other safe methods to access their vessels.

We are currently engaging with contractors to install signage warning members of the public and harbour users of the risks associated with accessing working harbours. The work to install signs has commenced and this work will continue into the spring.



Example of in use sign at New Quay.

Further planned work includes a survey on the pontoon in Aberystwyth which will be carried out in the spring. This is in addition to the regular inspections on other harbour infrastructure such as life rings and Aids to Navigation have continued over the winter to ensure that the harbours continue to be as safe as practicable for all its users.

Over the winter the Harbour Service has cleared up a build-up of waste from the harbour side at Aberystwyth Harbour. We would like to thank the Harbour Users who assisted with the clearing. Harbour Users are reminded that build ups such as these will not be tolerated. All waste must be disposed of in accordance with the PWMP which will be published in due course.





Before

The Harbour Service also had a clear up of weeds, leaves and debris from around the harbour. The Harbour Service will be taking steps to tackle dog fouling at Aberystwyth Harbour, spray paint and stencils will be used at key locations ahead of the coming summer season.





Before





Before After

Cracks on the pier at New Quay Harbour have been filled and we are looking to continue this work into the Spring.







After

#### (7) Health and Safety – Everyone's Responsibility

Harbours are working and shared use environments. The Harbour Service always looks to support and facilitate their safe use as far as it is reasonable and practicable to do so. Health and Safety is everyone's responsibility and as such we thank all stakeholders for their positive proactive approach and attitude towards maintaining the harbours as safe and enjoyable places to use and visit.

With this in mind, we would like to remind Harbour Users that ladders should be free from any attachments such as ropes, chains or any other mooring devices/apparatus at all times. The ladders are not designated or designed for this purpose and such attachments restrict access / use of the ladders, introduce trip and other hazards to other harbour users and can also damage the integrity of the ladder. In addition,

ladders should not be used as a means to secure / moor any vessel, even on a temporary basis.

Any items that you may have attached to ladders on the harbour estate must be removed and stored or disposed of appropriately. Should items remain attached to ladders, the Harbour Service will look to remove and ultimately dispose of any items found as part of regular and ad hoc inspections.

#### (8) Harbours Surgeries

Scheduled surgery style meetings are held at each Harbour, so that harbour users can discuss any issues or concerns with the Harbour Manager (or the Harbour Works Leader in his absence) face to face.

The surgeries will be held at each harbour office except for the months of October and March as follows:

Aberystwyth- Last Tuesday of every month at 14:00

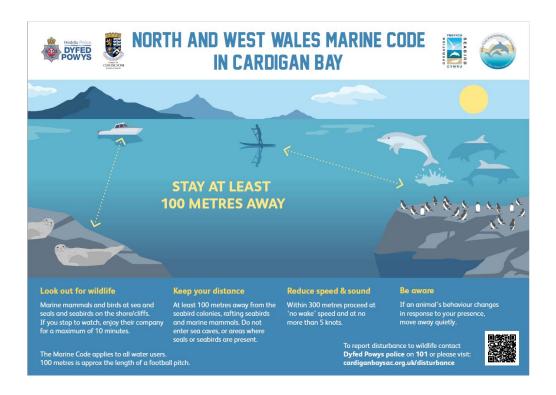
Aberaeron – Last Wednesday of every month 14:00

New Quay – Last Thursday of every month 14:00

Any changes to the schedule will be communicated with Harbour Users.

# (9) Cardigan Bay Code of Conduct

All Harbour Users are reminded that they should be aware of and comply with the North and West Wales Marine Code in Cardigan Bay. A copy of the code can be found below for information. The Council wish to remind all Harbour, boat, and recreational users to always follow the Code.



#### (10) Aids to Navigation and Local Notices to Mariners

All Aids to Navigation (navigational lights, marks and buoys) that are the responsibility of Ceredigion County Council are inspected monthly for defects, in the event of any such defect a Local Notice to Mariners will be issued, and a follow up will also be issued if and when the defect or issue has been resolved.

Harbour Users are asked to inform the Harbour's Team in the event of them becoming aware of or spotting a defect (for example a missing mark or extinguished light). Defects should be reported via the contact details provided in section 13 below.

Local Notices to Mariners are issued by the Authority to inform mariners of any operations or works taking place which may affect the safety of navigation in the vicinity.

As such, all Harbour Users are advised to keep take note and observe all Local Notices to Mariners are also posted outside each harbour office at New Quay, Aberaeron and Aberystwyth. Local Notices to Mariners are available to view on the on the Council's website.

#### (11) Timelines for Applications

All 'Confirmation of Summer and Winter Mooring Requirement' applications must be returned by **the date noted on the renewal documentation sent.** Provided that the application is approved, an invoice will subsequently be sent and, the mooring fee must be paid in full by **the date noted on the invoice.** Failure to comply with either of these requirements will result in the mooring being reallocated in accordance with the Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy.

#### (12) Insurance

Harbour Users are reminded that they are required to always maintain appropriate and valid insurance for their vessels whilst on their mooring or on winter storage facilities. This is outlined in the Confirmation of Summer and Winter Mooring Requirement application forms with mooring holders confirming they will abide by this as part of the application.

#### (13) Incident Reporting System

Harbour Users are reminded of the requirement for them to report any incidents, accidents or near misses within the Harbours to the Harbour Services Team. This will then enable the Council to consider whether there may be a requirement for any action to be taken in response.

You can report an instances to the Harbours Team at the Harbour Offices during their opening hours or via the contact details noted in section 13 below.

#### (14) Tide Tables

Harbour users can access the 2024 on the <u>Discover Ceredigion website</u>, they can also be collected in person at each of the harbour offices.

# (15) Making Contact and Feedback

Please note: The technical services mailbox is no longer in use and is not monitored.

Should you wish to contact the Harbours Service you can do so via:

Email: clic@ceredigion.gov.uk

Phone: 01545 570 881

Post: Ceredigion County Council

Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UE

We always welcome and encourage constructive feedback from stakeholders and we look forward to hearing from you.

#### With thanks,

#### **The Harbours Team**

Owen Morgan MNI, Harbour Manager

Chay Sanders, Harbour Works Leader





