

## CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Present: A. Parker (Chair), Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan Council), S. Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd), K. Sherratt (Natural Resources Wales) and M. Thomas (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

Also present: A. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association) A. Michael (Penarth Headland Link Charity), D. Hall (Cardiff Harbour Authority), A. Vye-Parminter (Cardiff Harbour Authority), A. Williamson (Recycling & Neighbourhood Services Team, Cardiff Council) and M.R. Wilson (Vale of Glamorgan Council)

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from F. Abbott (Natural Resources Wales), C. Atherton (Chair of Waterfront Partners), C. Dimond (Vice-Chair, Cardiff Flood Action Committee), Councillor N. Humphrey (Penarth Town Council), R. Irranca-Davies (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales), C. Michael (RPSB), Councillor M. Michael, (Cardiff Cabinet Member for Environment) and Mr. P. Stone (Canoe Wales).

(b) Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December, 2021 –

There being no comments, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Navigational Safety and Progress Report – Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA)-

Andrew Vye-Parminter representing Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) updated the Committee on the following:

### Navigation

- The Outer Harbour and Approach Channel Dredging was completed successfully in February, with the final dredging campaign of the current Marine Licence to be completed in August / Autumn time. His colleague, David Hall, who also was in attendance, would be involved in the application for the new licence shortly.
- Regarding the recent storms which hit Wales in quick succession, the Cardiff Bay area was impacted relatively lightly with most infrastructure unaffected. However, the Barrage North Water Bus stop did suffer damage to floats and deck boards but was an on call and infrequently used stop.

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Repairs would be carried out over the coming months and the other stops were not affected by the storms.

- The storms also impacted the rivers, with approximately 60 to 70 tonnes of debris / rubbish in the litter boom on the Taff. The Harbour Authority would be clearing this up over the next few weeks and then look at cleaning up other pockets of debris in due course.
- An old, upturned car that had ended up in the Taff due to storms and high flows had now been removed, after resources had become available and in order to prevent further calls to emergency services from concerned members of the public about this vehicle.

### **General**

- The boardwalk in front of the Senedd had deteriorated and was now being replaced due to safety reasons. The wooden joists beneath the deck boards had been found to be rotten, with the work to replace these taking place over the next 12 weeks. Both the Chair and Stuart Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd) commented on the shorter lifespan of timber currently used, compared to the timber used on older forms of construction.

David Hall (CHA) subsequently provided the Committee with an update on the other activities undertaken by, or involving, the CHA:

### **Environment -**

- Although Avian Flu had not yet been recorded at Cardiff Bay, it was present at Roath Park and in the Vale of Glamorgan. Warning signs had been put up on the Wetlands Reserve to discourage the public from feeding the birds there, as well as suspending school trips to the location. The Chair asked if the reserve could be closed altogether at this time, with the response being that CHA were taking their lead from public health expert advice, which did not suggest full closure at this time.
- The aeration system was coming to the end of its life and CHA were working with the Water Research Institute at Cardiff University on looking at potentially modifying the system and would then discuss the options with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The Chair asked about the pipe system for this, the CHA representatives explained that the system was quite old but was cleaned out regularly. More heavy-duty work on this network of pipes was more challenging, with any lifting of the pipes potentially triggering corrosion and would be costly. On the query concerning the use of aeration during summertime, it was explained that oxygen was not produced during hot conditions, with aeration only moving around oxygen already in the system. The oxygen barge would be kept, but the system overall needed to be updated and streamlined.
- CHA, along with other stakeholders, were currently involved with the City Nature Challenge from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. This global citizen science collaboration encouraged people across South Wales to record urban wildlife. The school with the greatest number of pupils participating would win a free pond dipping day at the Wetlands.

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### **Barrage**

- All sluices were back in operation after maintenance. An electrical supply issue had been identified in February which had impacted on sluice operations but had been quickly resolved and fixed.
- Lock 1 maintenance was ongoing with the removal of the outer gate lower pin for modification and works to repair issues with the outer gate top pin.
- The Fish Pass maintenance was almost complete after works to drill an access hole through the structure were successful. Further dive operations to repair one of the inlet gates were planned in March. Anthony Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association) asked about the volume of fish going through the Fish Pass, and he was advised that this would be addressed via the following update from Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- Stuart Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd) referred to the positive coverage of the barrage and related events by Wales Online and asked if CHA were working on an events programme he could advertise through his organisation to their customers. It was explained that several events were in the pipeline now following the 'pause' on events caused by COVID-19 and the calendar of events was currently being drafted. It was also confirmed that the Aqua Park would be back on at the Bay.

It was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the above report be noted.

#### (d) Natural Resources Wales Update –

An update was provided to the Committee which highlighted the following areas of interest:

#### **Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels**

There had been no recent notifications from Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) regarding low DO levels within the Bay. Furthermore, CHA had not reported any other issues.

#### **Pollution incidents and investigations**

As reported previously, intermittent pollution had been discharging into Cardiff Bay from an outfall located near the Watermark Building, Ferry Road. Analysis of the discharge found that it was containing leachate, very likely coming from the former Ferry Road landfill.

Cardiff Council, the owners of the landfill, continued to enact measures to address the source and pathway of the leachate, as set out in an action plan agreed with NRW.

Since the last update NRW had undertaken a site visit to assess the progress of actions assigned to Cardiff Council through a Compliance Assessment Report. It was noted that since NRW's last visit, Pumping Station T1 had a new automation

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system fitted to improve the previously manually operated pump. Additional sampling points were selected along the surface water drains which ran parallel to the back of Cardiff Retail Park, allowing a further series of chemical analyses to be undertaken. Investigation work was underway to identify how the surface water drainage system connected with the landfill, with the view to disconnect the two systems. Following a survey of the surface water pipe running from the Aldi car park to the landfill site, the contractor confirmed the existence of what they believed to be the concrete bung at the end of the leachate collector pipe. This was believed to be part of the old foul system now designated as the surface water system. Cardiff Council had also submitted a Hydro-geological Risk Assessment (HRA) which was currently being reviewed by the NRW Geoscience team.

No additional pollution events had been reported.

### **Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station**

There was an ongoing, watching brief on this area and NRW had received a Marine Licence application from EDF in March 2021 for the disposal of sediment at Cardiff Grounds. The licence decision process was on pause due to EDF not providing NRW with further documentation as requested, therefore the position remained the same as at the last meeting. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) was currently undertaking a judicial review of its licences for sediment disposal relating to the power station and it was understood the outcome of this could dictate whether EDF resumed the licence renewal with NRW or whether they looked elsewhere by contesting the outcome of the review and to seek permission to deposit sediment at Portishead Disposal Grounds.

### **The Barrage fishpass**

As had been reported previously, NRW had downloaded data from its Barrage fishpass monitoring equipment on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August (Week 33) in order to establish the recorded numbers of fish passing through by that date. Soon after that date, the monitoring equipment unfortunately broke down, which led to the quick installation of a back-up system for the remainder of the migration season. Following the analysis of all the monitoring, the estimated total numbers of fish passing through the Barrage over the whole season were 6 sea trout and 209 Atlantic salmon.

The fishpass was shut down by CHA on 6<sup>th</sup> January for its annual maintenance work. NRW would be also taking advantage of the closure of the pass to install replacement automated fish monitoring equipment. All maintenance work would be completed and the fishpass reopened by the end of this month, ahead of the new migration season.

In addition, Kelly Sherratt, the NRW representative, stated she would provide a further update to the Committee on overall fish numbers going through the fishpass as soon as they became available.

It was subsequently

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AGREED – T H A T the above report be noted.

(e) Any Other Business –

The Chair asked Alun Michael, the representative from the Penarth Headland Link Charity, if there were any further updates regarding the link; he replied that there had been further positive engagement between the charity and Welsh Government (WG) since the last update, with ongoing discussions also with Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils as well as the Cardiff Harbour Authority. The current indication was that WG would help to fund the next stage of work to prepare for the construction of the link. Despite the uncertainty caused by Brexit, the war in the Ukraine and rising costs, WG was still keen for this project to progress.

Members were also reminded if they had any queries or issues that they wished to raise, they should contact the Clerk who would place these on future agendas.

(f) Date of Next Meeting –

The Clerk would contact all Members regarding the arrangements for the next meeting due to be held in June 2022.