

Meeting Notes

Sutton Harbour Lock Gates Project Meeting of the Berth Holder Working Group

Time: 6pm

Date: 21th September 2022

Venue: Sutton Harbour Group boardroom and remote attendance via Teams

Present: Philip Beinhaker (Sutton Harbour Group), Corey Beinhaker (Sutton Harbour Group), Mark Brimacombe (Sutton Harbour Group), Mark Veale (Sutton Harbour Group), David Harker (Environment Agency), Neil Trimnell (Kier), Richard Taffs (TMS Ltd); Jason Clark (DCA PR); Dave Uren (on behalf small commercial MCA coded boats within the marina) and elected berth holder representatives Chris Deane, Adrian Bishop, David Evans, Nigel Green, Chris Heath, Natalie Kenyon and Richard Trafford.

Summary of Points and Actions from Meeting

1. Proposed Agenda was presented as basis of discussion.
2. Guiding principles that were agreed:
 - a. Agreed that there are multiple user groups within harbour with competing sets of interests
 - b. Agreed that works by the EA on the lock gates are necessary
 - c. Agreed that the objective of these sessions is to identify the optimal manner in which to conduct the works, while minimising the impact to collective set of users within the harbour
 - d. Agreed that all information discussed and shared at all stakeholder sessions, including meeting notes, would be shared across stakeholder groups to enable full and complete transparency between groups and foster understanding of exchanges and information
3. Agreed that 4 to 5 sessions would be scheduled for the berth holder working group at a pace of one a month with the aim of agreeing a broad timetable for the works before the end of the year. Subsequent workshops would drill down into the detail of various implications arising from the works, including managing harbour access (timetabling around free-flow and the works programme) and other issues to be identified through the discussions.
4. **Session topic - Timetable of the works**
 - a. David Harker informed the meeting that the Environment Agency is modelling different scenarios for carrying out the necessary works and how the overall timetable could be reduced. This includes looking at how extending working hours or increasing resources (eg number of dive teams) might reduce the duration of works. Corey Beinhaker said the intention is to provide all working groups with information and analysis of different scenarios in advance of the next meeting.

- b. David Harker said the lock gates are currently undergoing six-weekly dive inspections and interim remedial works when required. He agreed to provide a timetable of dates for these dive inspections to berth holders.
- c. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the optimum timing for the works from the perspective of berth holders, noting that spring and summer are peak periods for leisure activity with Easter being the traditional start of the season for many.
- d. The outcome of the first fishing industry working group meeting, which suggested splitting the works into two tranches in the Spring of 2023 and 2024, was presented to the meeting.
- e. The consensus view among the berth holder group was:
 - i. Agreement with suggestion to split works into two tranches to avoid a single, longer period of disruption to all harbour users
 - ii. Expressed preference for both tranches to occur during a single berthing season, rather than split across two consecutive seasons
 - iii. Suggestion that the first tranche to occur from March to mid-May (latest) 2023, with full access over Easter weekend
 - iv. Second tranche to occur from September (as late as possible) to beginning of November 2023
 - v. That the berth holder group consult with other berth holders in advance of the next meeting
- f. Action items:
 - i. SHG to provide analysis of berth-holder movements through the lock as part of consideration as to stated preference for time of year for the works to take place
 - ii. EA and contractors to complete analysis of construction schedule in advance of next meeting with fishers and berth-holders, including ways of contracting the schedule as noted above, as basis of finalizing the discussion on timing of the works
 - iii. SHG/EA to circulate all material from the two meetings to the two Stakeholder Working groups.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for week commencing 24 October 2022, on a date to be agreed. The next meeting of the fishing industry working group will also take place during this week. The objective is for this next set of meetings to agree a broad timetable for the works.

22nd September 2022