

Meeting Notes

Sutton Harbour Lock Gates Project

Meeting of the Fishing Industry Working Group

Time: 6pm

Date: 12th September 2022

Venue: PTA Auction Room

Present: Philip Beinhaker (Sutton Harbour Group), Corey Beinhaker (Sutton Harbour Group), David Harker (Environment Agency), Adam Higson (Environment Agency), Neil Trimmell (Kier), Jason Berry, (Plymouth Fishing and Seafood Association), Rich Taffs (TMS Maritime), Nick Eggar (Plymouth Fisheries), Joe Ransley (Plymouth Fisheries), Allison Pessell (PTA), John Casey (DCA), Teri Portman, Jo Rawley (SHC), Nick Eagar (SHC), John Casey (SHG, DCA), Darren Andrews (Fisher), Brian Tapper (Boar Owner).

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 were to identify the optimal manner in which to conduct the works, while minimizing the impact to collective set of users within the harbour
 - d. Agreed that all information discussed and shared at all stakeholder sessions, 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 fishing industry working group at a pace of 1 a month
 - a. Each session would focus on a different topic relating to the project and mitigation. Suggested list of topics may evolve as a result of discussions, but were likely to include:
 1. Process procedure and timing of the works (the topic for today's meeting)
 2. Alternative landing and berthing arrangements
 3. Meeting regulatory requirements
 4. Additional costs
4. Recommendation by Teri Portman for SHG to engage a fishing industry expert to work directly with SHG and EA as part of team, possessing requisite experience in port operations and with experience to appropriately risk assess alternative landing site ideas prior to presentation for consideration, in order to facilitate a more efficient process in developing and analysing proposals.

- a. SHG agrees with recommendation and to follow up.
- b. Suggestion of names to follow both from PFSA and SHG.

5. Session topic - Timetable of the works

- a. David Harker informed the meeting that EA performing review and analysis on various options for carrying out the lock gates project, with the aim being to show the impact of each on timetabling and duration of the project.
- b. A wide-ranging discussion took place on the options for methodology and timing of the works, with input from attendees with interests spanning fishing boat owners/operators, fish market, harbour operations, wholesale, SHG, EA and project construction/diving team.
- c. Consensus among fishing industry representatives present that preferred option was:
 - i. To split the works into two tranches (better two shorter spans of interruption than one longer span);
 - ii. Each tranche to be app. 8 weeks – EA and contractors examining ways to contract schedule
- d. On timing it was considered that a reasonable compromise bearing in mind the multiple user groups, though not optimal for the fishing industry would be,
 - i. First tranche to occur April-May 2023
 - ii. Second tranche to occur April-May 2024 . It was suggested by the EA & SHG that this might possibly be brought forward to - March – April 2024

6. Next meeting

A more flexible approach to future meeting days/times was suggested by fishing industry representatives which they felt might lead to greater attendance from fishers.

SHG to suggest possible future meeting dates (e.g. meeting to take place w/c XXX, subject to weather conditions, etc) with final date to be set nearer the actual date time, taking into account weather and how this might affect availability in the context of likely fishing operations.