

Bideford Harbour Master Report - TTEF Forum 15th April 2024

Shipping

- A very quiet quarter with no shipping movements at all in the Estuary.
- Work continues to try to re-generate commercial shipping activity in Bideford - with 4 active inquiries in progress.
- Ports in the entire SW report low levels shipping activity – but recovery is forecast in next 2 quarters.

Fountains

- Efforts to revive the Bideford Tidal Fountains continue. All the pump chambers have been drained, cleared of debris and we think we know what will be required to repair the fountains.
- Have invited quotes for the repair work.
- Intention is:
To try and have the fountains functioning ready for MS Waverley port call on 31st May 2024
To try and make the Bideford Waterfront somewhere people want to come and visit (not avoid).
Ideas for funding streams / repair work / technical volunteers to assist welcomed!

Port Marine Safety Code

- New edition of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) imminent.
- Major change to the Code will require compliance by “shipyards, jetties, non-statutory harbours and ‘other’ marine installations” that are not presently covered by the Code.
For Taw & Torridge this will mean – H&W, RMs at Instow, Yelland, Barnstaple + Appledore
Port of Bideford is offering assistance to those that ask for it.

Harbour Users Group

- Bideford is establishing a Harbour Users Group (HUG).
- Not a public meeting - nominated representatives only.
- First meeting is scheduled for 1030 22nd May 2024 and an invite for a TTEF nomination was sent to Tony last week.
- The HUG is entirely advisory but should act as a vehicle for Stakeholders to voice their opinions on issues affecting the port.
- The first meeting will be chaired by the HM but as soon as possible, the HUG will elect its own chair.
- Feedback from the quarterly HUG meetings will be a standing agenda item for the Harbour Board.

Crow Pool Moorings

- H&W have applied for licence to lay 2 x commercial moorings in Crow Pool.
- This will allow a vessel to lay over while waiting tides, for sea trials and shelter – economic benefits are self-evident.
- Buoys will be lit and will have radar reflectors, Hydrographic office informed.
- Vessels will always be fore and aft moored – minor impact to navigation.
- No bunkering or discharges permitted while at buoys.
- Many vessels were moored here in 20th Century.
- Feedback from TTEF welcomed.