

29th May 2006

Meeting of Research & Management Team
(Vision remit)

Present – K. Burchell, E. Hill, G. Lawson, J. McMinn

General – Discussion began re. revised remit and direction of future meetings, intended outcomes etc.

Outcome – 1. Decided that team should try to arrange a meeting with reps. of Elie harbour trust with to make comparisons with the present situation and any future plans which they may have

2. Team should assemble a “wish list” of future harbour developments on a short, medium and long-term basis. As in previous discussions, any possibility should be included, in the knowledge that some would probably never be feasible. They should be in the public domain, however, in case circumstances and funding possibilities change.

Short term – a) Harbour revenue should be increased where possible e.g creating extra dinghy parking spaces, utilising the central area of the dinghy park. Some car parking, on a paying basis, could be provided on the esplanade for commercial harbour users. Alternatively dinghies presently on the harbour wall could be given spaces in the dinghy park and those spaces become car parking strictly for commercial boat operators. Annual fees for such would be a possibility.

b) Charges for fishermen should be at a commercial rate as per other harbours.

c) Fishing from NB harbour could be encouraged. If so, improvement grants would become available to the harbour trust.

d) Hard standing areas for boat repair and maintenance could be allocated, perhaps on a winter basis. (Various areas for this were discussed).

e) A high priority should be given to developing the old swimming pool changing rooms for water sports facilities e.g. coin operated showers and changing rooms.

f) The smaller cubicles could be rented to individuals e.g. canoe/dinghy owners as stores/workspaces.

g) Existing toilet facilities should be upgraded and new ones provided (around the shower/changing facilities referred to above).

All the above are easily achievable in the short or near term! Careful discussion and planning would, of course be necessary.

Medium term – a) The existing (fish) slip way could be extended to beach level. This might require curved, fan or dog leg configuration.

b) Perhaps more useful would be a widening of the lifeboat slip way (or an entirely separate one) from the white railings to allow for general use without compromising lifeboat access.

c) Harbour pontoons as per already existing plans would be generally attractive and useful. Funding might have to be on grant, rather than commercial, basis if prohibitively increased harbour dues are to be avoided in the interests of the general community.

Long term – Various configurations of breakwater were discussed. There are possibilities ranging from quite simple extensions of rocks at the harbour mouth in a westerly direction, with some height and width to protect the harbour mouth and reduce the effect of swells within the harbour, or much larger projects.

- a) Simple protective barrier as above.**
- b) A concrete type barrier from the end of the Platcocks in a westerly direction, or using rocky reef from Platcock end, as a foundation, in a northerly direction turning in a dogleg to the west to give more anchorage space for larger vessels.**
- c) A breakwater from Daisy Island at the end of the Leithies in a westerly direction to provide a large protected anchorage. This would require a road from the Jacob's Ladder car park to this structure or pier. (Clearly this is unlikely to be completed by tomorrow!).**
- d) A discussion also took place regarding the re-opening of the old pool as a harbour extension. This project has indeed previously been suggested on at least two separate occasions. The question regarding spoil from the old pool is relatively easily dealt with by using such rubble to in-fill the area behind the old swimming pool on similar lines to the rocks placed over the sea wall to protect the seabird centre. Dinghy parking would have to be addressed, e.g. the use of the rest of the esplanade. (Once again this is unlikely to find its way into the short-term category!)**

The team were well aware of the enormous implications and knock-on effects of all the long term suggestions. All these things should exist as start points for any future discussions should funding and grants become available and open for "bids".

Date of next meeting Mon. 19th June

Meeting ended 9.45pm.