

Ifracombe Harbour Community Forum

Minutes of Communications with HF Members 23/10 – 11/11/20

Dear Harbour Board Members,

Below is a list of harbour related matters I would be grateful to raise as discussion items at the meeting proposed for next Tues 17th Nov.

An email went out to forum members requesting their input raising matters for this meeting but alas only 1 member submitted 1 request which is included.

This, should not be interpreted as everything is 'hunky dory' in and around the harbour as far as members are concerned I'm afraid. It should be considered more a case of everyone having their own battles to fight right now, possibly they are less able to commit the time to input and possibly there maybe a lack of faith in the point of raising matters if in the past matters have not been resolved. This sense of 'what's the point.our voice won't be heard' should be avoided in order to maintain progress, encourage future community collaboration and maintain a vibrant community spirit.

There has been a significant degree of communications around these items which I can expand on if necessary. For now bullet point items with some description works for me!

Item 1. Quay Road Congestion

Anyone who has been down during the summer, w/e's and certain times of day will agree that Quay road has been a nightmare! Traffic snarl ups to & from the pier. No passing places combined with very high levels of pedestrian footfall have resulted in an unpleasant and high risk environment. The impact is less now but it still remains a 'lawless - free for all' area with vehicles parking where they wish. As far as I'm concerned I have not heard of any form of policing going on here and so users (these include Quay businesses) have continued to abuse the system causing traffic chaos. What with the Covid risk and high levels of pedestrian footfall on 1 narrow pavement it has not been at all satisfactory. I would suggest it would be enough to deter visitors from returning which again should be avoided at all costs.

My end; LR - Val Gates (ITC), request for urgent action required.

Due to lack of progress LR considered 'quick - wins'. Contacted DCC & D Highways for urgent review of illegible 'LOADING ONLY' road markings, road lines and pavement post signs to provoke more compliant road users. Enq. Ref. ENQ201364328 (20/10/2020)

DH Assessment completed by 10/11/2020.

DH (Martin Stoddart) reply; '..record completed 29/10. The local highway team do not hold a lining budget. Have taken photos & sent them to the traffic team. I 'believe' these have been added to the defect list.'

LR - DH 11/11/2020; Requested follow up with progress and further request for updates to reassure action being taken.

NB. If actioned, these refreshed road markings might provide some easing with users being more provoked into complying with parking more considerately on pier and leaving area clear for 'Loading Only'. We shall see! This should however be only part of a more comprehensive proposal to improve and ease congestion in this area. With the covid effect this year we have to anticipate busy tourist seasons ahead which is such a vital and significant part of the local economy.

Item 2. Refuse & Recycling Provision

Current lack of provision & deteriorating infrastructure means less recycling going on & risk (evident) of current provision being overwhelmed &/or misused. LR-GCP comms. ongoing but review of existing and funds for new equipment and servicing very needed as a matter of urgency. Ideally more substantial and user friendly infrastructure in place for Easter 2021.

Item 3. Pier Gates Development Proposal

Need to action approved plans as will come with many benefits including;

Perceived as forward thinking, facilitate pedestrian activity and lessen congestion, provide a more pedestrian friendly & Covid-safe environment, provide a community boost due to perception of NDDC being positive as actioning proposals and investment already made.

Item 4. Watersports Centre

Update please

Again, without some form of positive news here again it will be perceived by local community as an extravagant, ill conceived proposal that has already cost significant sums from the public purse I'm afraid.

Item 5. Pier Toilets

LR has offered advisories to Paul Burton (PB), NDDC. Main ambition here is to maintain a quality service, avoid unnecessary expense to the public purse and to reassure visitors of a satisfactory experience. Advisories received positively albeit despite increased service intervals continuing (4/day) nothing else has changed currently. Will maintain comms.

Kind regards,

Lawrence

Item 6. Harbour Risk Assessments

3 Risk Assessments were sent out to the forum members for consideration and input, they were

- i. Cables, Ropes Wires
- ii. Safe Access via Fixed Ladders
- iii. Towing within the Harbours Jurisdiction.

To date no response has been received by the Harbour Master.

Item 7. AOB

No proposal for future meeting circulated as yet