

# Dart Harbour Communities Group

**Minutes of Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019. At The Royal Castle Hotel,  
Dartmouth**

<b>Present</b>	Mike Pearey (MP) N. Mortimer (NM) Julian Williams (JW) M. Cooper (HM) S. Seeley (SS) L. Maurer (LM) Graham Anderson Ben Piper Becky Fry (BF) P Charlesworth J. Distin (JD) Sue Pudduck (SP) Linda Maby Dr Ben King	Ashprington PC (Chairman) S.Devon AONB Stoke Gabriel Dart Harbourmaster Ashprington PC Kingswear PC Dittisham. Totnes Cornworthy Dartmouth & Kingswear Soc DH Board Rep Secretary Clerk Cornworthy Speaker.
<b>Apologies</b>	Rob Lyons David Wells Tim Bumby James Dodd	Dartmouth TC Dartmouth National Trust DH Board rep

The Chairman welcomed new members to the group.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**Action All – Support to DHCG. On-going:** The Chair would like to remind parishes that they are encouraged to both contribute to the agenda and feedback on activity or outcomes, or just report their thoughts and observations. Without this engagement the group cannot be fully representative, nor can it properly fulfil its role within the Dart Harbour Trust Port organisation. All parishes are encouraged to send a representative to future meetings.

**Action – Reporting Crime (Agenda item 1).** In addition to calling the police, representatives should encourage their groups / parishioners to report water crime directly to DH.

**Action – Boat Stickers (Agenda item 1).** Reps to communicate the importance of having a boat sticker so as unnecessary search and rescue events are avoided if an unmanned dinghy is found adrift.

**Action: Neighbourhood Plans (Agenda item )- Representatives are requested to make sure that their councils are aware of, and make reference to, the Dart Harbour Policies.**

**Item number 2 was brought forward.**

**Speaker Dr Ben King.**

Dr Ben King has recently been recognised as a United Nations accredited teacher of climate change, one of only 80 in the UK. He outlined how he achieved this award. There are on-line courses open to anyone. After successfully completing 4 units to gain the qualification, the teacher and their school, have access to on-line resources. UK schools are currently signing up to [www.educateglobal.org](http://www.educateglobal.org) In Italy, all schools already have a climate change teacher and the aim is to have CC teachers in all 200 UN countries.

He spoke of his experience teaching and collecting data from the pupils regarding their opinions about Climate Change, the importance they attach to Climate Change, and their assessment of their behaviours in relation to Climate Change.

He stressed the importance of delivering the subject using scientific fact rather than opinion. A good source of information is Zac Labe on twitter.

In the discussion that followed, the group considered the predicted rise in water level, -4mm in the River Dart and the concern about more extreme events with more energy in the system. In the Dart, the run-off is also a cause for disquiet. In conclusion ,the group discussed the negative impact of modern life, plastics, flying, building on flood plains, etc.,but they took some comfort from agreeing that science and invention, will also provide the solutions.

Ben's slides are attached to these Minutes.

**Minutes from meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were agreed.**

**Matters Arising**

**SHDC Recycling:**

South Hams still working on their new recycling information policy

**Reporting crime on the Dart. MP**

The Chair reported that the new Team Leader for the Dart Neighbourhood is Sgt. David Cross. There is also a newly set up Councillor/advocate scheme.

<https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/take-part/councillor-advocate-scheme/>

If you need to contact the Dartmouth team directly you are welcome to use this link -  
[Dartmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Dartmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

It is also important to report crimes to DH as they often have the bigger picture. DH have also had advice on preventing maritime crime and the latest gadgets available. This will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

- **Representatives to encourage their residents to report water crime directly to DH.**
- **Reps to communicate the importance of having a boat sticker.**

Ash Die Back.

Parishes should examine the ash trees on a regular basis.

The Woodland Trust has donated 1.000,000 trees to replace those that are lost.

[More info](#)

## Agenda Items

### 1. Report on the River Trip 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

There was a useful discussion on condition of the river on the final straight to Totnes. The river is silting up and could be allowed to revert to a natural state. However, not dredging would impact on the tourist trade that benefits Totnes and the River Boat Company. BP and HM agreed to continue the discussion and investigate all available solutions.

The HM is restricted by the introduction of stricter dredging regulations. Also the disposal of the spoil although there was a suggestion that this could be used to raise the height of the banks. There was a question about the whether the spoil was sand which certainly could be financially advantageous or whether it is

mud. There also the problem of increased run-off and the chemicals that washed into the river.

LM stated that kingswear had an environmentally friendly recipe for weed control.

## 2.

### **Dr Ben King**

#### **3. Dart Sailability**

The group discussed the paper that has been produced by Dart Sailability . The discussion centred around the identified locations for universal access. It was felt that there should be a classification of "0" . JW Dittisham. LM Kingswear reported that the pontoon in Jubilee Creek had a ramp and a pole to aid boarding.

**Were there any more apart from those on the paper?**

**Action. Feedback comments to Sailability (SP)**

#### **4 Parish Items**

Stoke Gabriel : reported that 6 out of 9 Councillors were newly elected and that there was now an employed Clerk in post. They were starting their neighbourhood Planning . There is support for marine commercial activity as well as the land management aspect of a NP. The plan identifies aspirations for the community.

Cornworthy: Now has an Air Ambulance site.

#### **Neighbourhood Planning.**

Totnes: there is a reconvened NP group who are working well together and are optimistic about the production of a workable plan.

Dartmouth: PC reported that a decision had been taken to produce a NP but so far no meetings had taken place. It is possible that the survey data previously collected has been mislaid. Kingswear are meeting with Dartmouth in January to help start the planning process.

Kingswear: Have reached the consultation stage.

The representatives of Cornworthy, Ashprington and Dittisham agreed to investigate the potential of producing a joint NP.

**Action.** Reps to take this back to the Parish Councils. GA to lead.

The Harbour Master reiterated the importance of looking beyond land issues and linking Neighbourhood Plans with the marine Planning in order to provide robust evidence when required

He offered to share data and advice that has already be compiled by DH to make the task easier for all.

**Action HM to provide the Dart Harbour standardised contribution to neighbourhood Planning..**

**Action: Neighbourhood Plans - Representatives are requested to make sure that their councils are aware of, and make reference to, the Dart Harbour Policies.**

Received and attached , Annexe x

### **Wildlife and Habitat**

There have been several reports of interesting wildlife in the Dart Harbour area. Several sightings of seals, kingfishers and even monk jack deer and otters were reported.

### **Anti-social behaviour.**

It was reported that 4x4's had driven along Bow Creek and had damaged the stepping stones. There was discussion whether this was the responsibility of the Highways or of Dart harbour.? Various solutions were suggested.

**Action Sourcing boulders. Establishing responsibility. MP BF**

## **5. Science/Environmental Projects**

Following the last meeting, several projects had been submitted to UoP but because of time constraints on staff, none had been taken forward. The group felt it was important to get some base line data on water quality, river soil and measurements of bank heights etc. A solution to staff shortages might be providing support for experiments already happening. This will be followed up with Prof Tom Hutchings. MP

It was also considered important that the DH looked at energy saving strategies such as water source heat pumps. LED lighting, thermal insulation at Hoodown.

**Action MP HM**

## **6. Dart Harbour Update: Dartmouth Slipway, Mooring Policy, MCZ.**

### **Dartmouth Slipway.**

The meeting were shown draft plans for Dartmouth slipway. The HM pointed out there was still considerable detail to be finalised. The construction of the slip would affect the deep water pontoon DA and it would require modification.

There are funding issues. The existing slipway is not fit for purpose but it is free and introducing charges might cause resentment in the community. If charges are introduced, S.Hams would want a cut. The new slip would require traffic management and there would need to be parking for trailers and cars available. There are no changing facilities however, it would provide an excellent base for running regattas. Long term it might require DH to manage, clean and eventually replace so on-going funding could be an issue for DH. HM stated that there was a lot to address but he would take his concerns forward and meet with the Slipway Committee.

**Action. HM to meet with Slipway Group.**

### **Moorings Policy.**

JD reported that the production of the Moorings policy was slightly behind the time table and the Board now had no available time till January. In previous versions, the river had been categorised in sections in the appendix, Dartmouth to Totnes. This will now be incorporated into the main policy. Since the initial production of Moorings Policies, there have been three versions. JD is now considering reverting to the format that was used in version 2.

The draft document should be out for consultation in early spring. JD is happy to talk to Councils after it is produced and he stressed the importance of being part of the decision making about the future use and appearance of the river.

**Action; Reps to ensure their Councils know that the document will be out for consultation in the Spring.**

### **MCZ.**

Clarification about the conditions governing the up-river MCZ are still unavailable -probably because of BREXIT.

### **Various**

The HM reported that there were fewer instances of speeding and 10 people had received final warning letters.

There were also fewer pollution events but those that occurred had tended to be bigger.

The DHA will also deal with floating trees and any sightings should be reported to the Harbour Office

Premier Marinas had carried out a scoping exercise regarding Universal Access. The HM had restricted the size of vessel allowed as far as Galpton down to 30 m. This is unlikely to affect any fishing boat.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Dartmouth on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Anybody wishing to attend must book in.

### **7.AoNB Report**

NM is still seeking volunteers for the Pacific Oyster project.

Dart Estuary Forum is to be held Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Totnes Boating Assoc.

Interpretation boards have been put up at Dittisham.

**There was something about stopping water going through the system on high water but I don't know where ??**

### **8 AoB**

#### **Expenses**

Held till next meeting

LM reported that she is now the Rep on the AoNB for all the Parishes.

An invitation was extended to all to the Devon Maritime Forum who are hosting the SW Coastal Change Conference 26<sup>th</sup> November UoP Coxsidge GA.

### **9 date and venue of Next Meeting**

**For Information:**

To contact any Parish/Town Clerk on river issues, full contact details are available on <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/contactyourparishclerk>

**Minutes of this meeting are held on <https://www.darthurbarbour.org/about-dart-harbour/port-management/stakeholder-groups/>**

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**The Govt Environmental Incident Hotline number 0800 807060**

**HM annex to go in.  
Ben's slides.**

Happy to help with drafting a early section of marine related policies but think these are pretty clear already in Marine Plans ( see extract mapped to DH strategy above and page 13 of the plan at the link). Using the marine plan is useful as I use this to support my consultation input and it would be useful to know of any local variance. Without neighbourhood plans I am left with reliance upon the marine plan and our strategic plan to support any arguments.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/726867/South\\_Marine\\_Plan\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/726867/South_Marine_Plan_2018.pdf)

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