

STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR PETER POPPLE CABINET MEMBER FOR HARBOURS & LAND

HARBOURS

INTRODUCTION

Since my last statement to Council the new governance arrangements at Whitby Harbour are being embedded and I am grateful to my fellow members on the Pilot Harbour Board for their endeavours in my temporary absence.

As Cabinet Member for Harbours I wrote to the EU Commissioner for Fisheries registering my concerns about the current fisheries policy and placing on record my views on the drastic effects it has placed on the fishing industry in our community. I have received an encouraging response from the Commissioner that changes are likely to be proposed which hopefully will benefit local fishermen. That said, there are signs that regrettably such changes may be too late for some of our harbour users. In general, landings remain depressed onto both Scarborough and Whitby markets.

Wind Farm Opportunities

A Scarborough Borough Council multi agency Project Board has been formed to pursue the potential opportunities that may arise for the Borough, including at Whitby and Scarborough Harbours, associated with the Dogger Bank and Western Most Rough offshore wind farms.

This Board is tasked, inter alia, with engaging with the renewable energy industry, promoting our harbours and surrounding area including the service facilities that can be provided to the offshore wind farm developers and their operational and maintenance contractors.

Dredging

The dredging system has just completed its most prolonged period of external dredging contracts.

This has been a great success and has provided excellent revenue into harbour budgets whilst offsetting our own dredging requirements.

SCARBOROUGH HARBOUR

Vincent/Lighthouse Pier Collapse

On Christmas Eve a significant collapse of the Lighthouse Pier surface occurred resulting in a large cavity being created that necessitated the closure of the area to the general public until repairs could be affected.

The repairs have recently been completed and further ground investigation has taken place to ascertain the condition of pier around the area of collapse. At the time of reporting I am optimistic that further voids are unlikely and the public access can be reinstated very soon.

West Pier

Phase one of the West Pier improvements has now been completed including relocation of some existing tenants, alterations to and provision of new facilities to the fish market, the demolition of one of the bait shed blocks and ground surfacing works. A new area of temporary car parking has been provided the income from which forms a pivotal part of the business case.

Further consultation with local businesses, grant aid funding agencies has started as part of the next proposed phase of improvements which, if successful, will deliver further benefits to the harbour users and the Council.

WHITBY HARBOUR

Pilot Whitby Harbour Board

As chair of the recently constituted Pilot Harbour Board at Whitby I can confirm that board has conducted two public meetings and is heavily engaged in several projects and initiatives regarding improvements to the harbour.

As part of the new governance arrangements at the harbour restructuring of the harbour consultative process has been achieved at Whitby (and Scarborough) with a more robust, transparent and proactive approach having been adopted.

Whitby Swing Bridge

Negotiations continue with NYCC to reach agreement on the future management of the bridge maintenance and operating procedures, it is hoped that a new agreement can be presented to the Pilot Harbour Board in the near future.

FILEY COBLE LANDING

Apart from the undertaking of general maintenance works there is little to report from Filey Coble Landing. The Council continues to liaise with Filey Town Council and other stakeholders as necessary.

LAND

Allotments

Officers have been working with colleagues within the Parks & Countryside Service to identify land within Scarborough for the possible use of allotments to satisfy the current demand and reduce waiting lists.

St Nicholas Cliff Lift

In accordance with the decision of Cabinet the St Nicholas Cliff Lift is being marketed by competitive tender inviting interest from potential lift operators or for possible alternative commercial uses, subject to the grant of planning consent. Newspaper and internet advertising has been undertaken and the closing date for tenders is 21 February 2011.

Dean Road Depot

A conditional contract for sale to Tesco Stores Plc has been agreed and a planning application has been received. The arrangement for alternative depot facilities should be completed shortly.

Capital Receipts/Revenue Income

The increase in revenue income so far this financial year is £202,977 and a total of £213,984 capital receipts have been received.

The Estates team continues to be involved in many major projects that the Council is progressing, the results of which will be reported to Members in the fullness of time.