

**SCARBOROUGH HARBOUR FISHING TASK GROUP**

**NOTES OF A PRIVATE, INFORMAL MEETING WITH BRIDLINGTON HARBOUR  
COMMISSIONERS**

**– 14 MARCH 2018**

**Present:**

Members of the Task Group:

Cllr Mark Vesey (Chair)

Cllr Paul Cross

Cllr Janet Jefferson

Bridlington Harbour Commissioners:

Margaret Hyland, Chief Executive

Andy Wheeler, Fisheries and Coastal Business Adviser, East Riding Council

Chris Wright, Chair

**Bridlington Harbour's current provision for catching and processing sectors**

- England's largest shellfish port
- Fishing infrastructure similar in scale, type, age and state of repair to Scarborough
- Boat hoist (for vessels up to 75 tonnes) is well-used but not financially self-sustaining. However, vessels come from Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool etc and this generates business for the port and for local contractors. The hoist is also a visitor attraction
- Restriction on HGV movement along the pier structure
- No charges for pot and gear storage but regular tidy ups
- Trust keeps close contact with fishermen on all issues and assesses economic impact of any policy
- Dredging and maintenance backlog plus new services, electric and water supplies, to install
- Trust owns harbour seabed, bought from Crown Estate, means no charges for extra fixings
- Part of harbour was filled in for new parking and boat lift / sheds

## **Bridlington Harbour's plans for future provision for catching and processing sectors**

- Space limitations but looking to increase the size of the shellfish holding area by 50%
- Investment plans based on a 10% growth in berth demand on fishing side
- Provision for a lobster research / hatching facility is being developed in conjunction with Hull University

## **How does the Harbour add value to the local catching and processing sectors e.g. promotion and marketing?**

- Events such as the Coble Festival
- Maritime Heritage Trail
- Harbour website with videos about work and leisure
- Harbour fishing industry and marine boat yard is of great interest to tourists and school groups. Guided tours for schools
- New toilets and shops to keep people in harbour. Toilets a loss leader
- Unfortunately, no seafood kiosks (unlike Scarborough)
- Attempts have been made to brand shellfish e.g. with Youngs seafoods selling Yorkshire lobster through Asda and Morrisons but it did not come to fruition – quality assurance is tricky at all times of the year
- Foreign shellfish markets are governed by quality, whilst domestic market is governed by price. If prohibitive tariffs post- Brexit lead to more focus on the domestic market, then would be competing with cheaper imports e.g. from Canada
- EMMF Grants available for fishing gear for new species e.g. whelks but locked into three years. Mr Wheeler provides funding advice and support