

Report to: **Salcombe Harbour Board**

Date: **13 July 2015**

Title: **Matters of topical interest**

Portfolio Area:

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **N/A**

Date next steps can be taken: **N/A**  
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)

Author: **A Parnell** Role: **Harbour Master**

Contact: **01548 843791**

---

#### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Harbour Board Note the report

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1) This report updates the Harbour Board on issues of topical interest which do not merit a separate report in their own right.

#### **2. Egremont**

- 1) Egremont trustees have undertaken a number of fund-raising activities although there are still no firm dates for either its refurbishment or longer-term activities. The trustees have been invited to submit

#### **3. Wi-Fi Spark contract**

- 1) Wi-Fi is currently provided within the harbour by Wi-Fi Spark, but take up is low. The primary cause for this is believed to be the poor coverage across the moorings and also the availability of free wi-fi ashore. Moreover, the current infrastructure is now several years old and obsolete. Last year the service generated just £108 profit and initial analysis indicates that this was mostly generated from the access point on Egremont.

- 2) Wi-Fi Spark have been commissioned to conduct a site survey to better understand the extent of the present coverage, and to provide cost estimates for both replacing and extending coverage. Informal discussions indicate that costs could exceed £16,000 to ensure even average wi-fi coverage of the Visitors' moorings; the cost and complexity being exacerbated by the dearth of electrical and telephone connectivity around the estuary.
- 3) As both 4G and faster broadband are expected to be deployed around the estuary in the next 18 months, replacement of the existing infrastructure is not seen as cost-effective. Usage will continue to be monitored and if its usage continues to decline then alternatives, including withdrawing provision of a wi-fi service, may be proposed to a future Board meeting.

#### **4. Strategy and marketing workshops**

- 1) At the last Harbour Board workshop it was agreed to convene further workshops examining future strategy and marketing. It is proposed that these take place in September.

#### **5. Update on dredging programme**

- 1) EcoSpan have been contracted to conduct a survey of the harbour to determine where, and in what volumes, dredging will be required this winter as part of the quinquennial dredging cycle. They will also take samples to confirm that the dredging spoil is classified as non-hazardous. If, as expected, that is the case, then the licencing requirements for dredging are greatly simplified.

#### **6. Proposed customer satisfaction questionnaire**

- 1) To augment the electronic customer feedback system available in the Harbour Office, it is intended to conduct a one-shot questionnaire to all customer email addresses. Not only will this increase the sample size, it should also remove the 'self selection' bias of the present system.

#### **7. Installation of raft pontoons**

- 1) Several Harbour Board members have raised concerns about the 2 raft pontoon systems in the harbour. Although allowed under the present Moorings Policy, some members are concerned that they might proliferate. This is deemed unlikely because of their cost, but in any event the Moorings Policy could be amended to limit their number in the same way that houseboat numbers are restricted. Five (5) is the proposed cap.

#### **8. Ocean Valour 2015 update**

- 1) The 2-man team currently rowing from New York to Salcombe passed the half-way point on 25 June and are expected to make landfall late July. Once the date is more accurately known, the organisers would like to use part of Whitestrand car park to stage a reception, which is likely to attract high media coverage and is a 'good news' story for both Salcombe and the estuary.

## 9. Proposed Way Forward

1) Maintain current levels of safety and service output.

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	N	The Pier & Harbour (Salcombe) Order Act 1954
Financial	N	There are no new (ie unbudgeted) financial implications as a result of this report
Risk	N	There is a risk that, without regular updates, the Harbour Board's decision making process is sub-optimal. This risk is mitigated to ALARP by these reports
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		None
Safeguarding		None
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No adverse effects
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No adverse effects
Other implications		

## Supporting Information

### Appendices:

None

### Background Papers:

none

## Approval and clearance of report

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	<b>No</b>
SLT Rep briefed	<b>Yes</b>
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	<b>No</b>
Data protection issues considered	<b>Yes</b>
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	

