

VALMER Poole Harbour recreation survey results meeting notes
Wednesday 29th January 2014
North Lounge, Passenger Terminal, Port of Poole

Attendees:

45 Attendees including: survey respondents, councillors, local authority officers, Poole Harbour Commissioners representatives, National Governing Body representatives, activity club representatives, NGO/charities/organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, Dorset Wildlife Trust and National Trust), various watersport businesses from around Poole Harbour, VALMER colleagues from Plymouth University and other interested organisations.

Chairman's welcome

Dorset Coast Forum chairman, Bob Huggins, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Presentations:

VALMER project - Ness Smith, VALMER Project Manager, University of Plymouth. Presentation slides available on www.dorsetforyou.com/valmer webpage soon.

Poole Harbour recreation surveys: reporting the results – Alex Brocklesby, Project Officer, Dorset Coast Forum. Presentation slides available here:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=191562&filetype=pdf>

Summary of post-presentation discussion:

- The results will be made fully available in the final report which is due to be published at the end of March 2014.
- The Marine Management Organisation will be sent a copy of the report to include in their South Marine Plan consultation
- The question of whether setting up of a kayak trail around Brownsea Island would be of interest to kayakers using the harbour was included in the questionnaire on suggestion from the National Trust's Canoeing Development Manager. The results will be passed on to scope the level of interest in this suggestion
- The draft Bournemouth and Poole Sports strategy is being written by the consultants Stuart Todd Associates. The VALMER results have fed into the draft strategy which is investigating the need for new facilities to enhance people's enjoyment of non-traditional watersports along Bournemouth and Poole's coastline. Five of the six activities VALMER surveyed will be included in this consultation report: windsurfing, kitesurfing, canoe/kayaking, jetskiing and waterskiing.
- There was a suggestion by Poole Harbour Canoe Club to set up a Poole Harbour recreation forum group, potentially facilitated by the Dorset Coast Forum and supported by Active Dorset (who ensure local clubs are involved in consultation processes). Poole Harbour Commissioners have set up a liaison group 'Harbour safety' for Poole Harbour to address issues, however they understand this group may not be fully represented and are happy to talk to users/groups about any issues they have.
- There was a query asking how it is possible to include the value of people who choose to live locally in order to carry out their activity, their travel cost will

therefore be much lower and they are potentially undervalued. The survey did include a question asking people living locally (within a 10 mile radius) if they live near Poole Harbour in order to carry out their activity. The answer to this question was not included in the presentation as the sample sizes were small and therefore it is hard to place too much significance on the data. The results showed that a lot of local people, especially windsurfers, had chosen to live near Poole Harbour in order to carry out their activity here (either the main reason or a very important reason). These results will be included in the overall report.

- The Royal Yachting Association have recently carried out a similar economic survey with the sailing community and the report will be available in spring 2014.

Summary of feedback from attendees at the meeting:

- 31 feedback forms received
- The majority of attendees (75%) thought the results would be very useful in raising awareness amongst the public and the decision makers regarding the condition and value of the harbour
- The majority of attendees (87%) thought the results would be useful in supporting management decisions and informing policies

‘How could the results be used in your business/organisation?’:

- ‘Recent meetings with Poole Harbour Commissioners and Borough of Poole this will possibly influence decisions made’ (local authority officer)
- ‘Useful in creating policies regarding the harbour and what areas need specific focus for certain activities, and ensuring the factors that attract people to the harbour are further enhanced’ (local authority officer)
- ‘Useful to inform my research and assist with developing a realistic model to predict the impacts of disturbance on wintering birds’ (Bournemouth University PhD student)
- ‘As a kitesurf school owner, I find the statistics around what participants spend, like, dislike, and would like to change, especially useful when planning for the future of my business’ (Kitesurf school owner)
- ‘Better awareness of other user’s thoughts who use the harbour’ (activity club member)
- ‘The value in monetary terms is the main way of sourcing government support and/or acknowledgement’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Feed into the Marine Management Organisation’s planning work’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘To ensure we are abiding by any rules and can help the environment’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Gave me a good overview of marine activity in Poole Harbour including the sports and activities I am not involved with’ (survey respondent)
- ‘I work for the Environment Agency - the importance users groups put on wildlife and water quality will help make the case for further funding for work/projects in the harbour’ (Environment Agency officer)
- ‘For local Poole Harbour users forum’ (survey respondent)

- ‘Useful to see the amount of users and launch locations for business opportunities’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Most interested in economic values’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Useful ideas regarding the development of new business models for around Brownsea’ (NGO)
- ‘Very useful information for National Coastal Tourism Academy’ (National Coastal Tourism Academy officer)
- ‘Happy to support/facilitate some form of watersports forum’ (Active Dorset)
- ‘Management of attraction/facilitation’ (local authority officer)
- ‘To join with other user groups for mutual benefit’ (activity club member)
- ‘Increase awareness of Poole Harbour Canoe Club, local user group forums - creating opportunities’ (survey respondent and organisation/NGO/charity)

‘How could the results be used by others?’:

- ‘Good for marketing companies to make Poole as an attractive place to visit e.g. California advert spring to mind. Make use of sites where recreational users kayak from to make more use out of these where they are currently under utilised’ (local authority officer)
- ‘Probably very useful for local authorities in times of providing cost:benefit information’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘To help decide if/where regulation of activities is needed; to get stakeholders working together’
- ‘Increase Harbour safety - encourage participation’ (survey respondent)
- ‘These results should be looked at by local development officers for planning in the future (Island car parks etc)’ (survey respondent)
- ‘In my field, the results regarding requested legislation around participants and businesses could largely influence a change in the market place’ (Kitesurf school owner)
- ‘Best practise can be shared with other authorities throughout the UK’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Guiding decisions which may have an impact on users of the harbour’ (survey respondent)
- ‘Increase tourism and tourist spend. Re-think parking and changes for harbour users to increase use. Monitoring of water quality’ (survey respondent)
- ‘Other forums and businesses such as cafes retail etc.’ (organisation/NGO/charity)
- ‘Marine Management Organisation area 6/7 could springboard material/methods for extending survey works to other activities, possibly through B.U’ (NGO)
- ‘Better consultation by authorities with the public that use the harbour when decisions are being made’ (activity club member)
- ‘Continued development of recreational users plan’ (survey respondent and club member)
- ‘Some useful ideas for improvement of facilities and good evidence for promoting the area in tourism forums’ (activity club member)
- ‘Funding’ (local authority officer)

- ‘National Trust/Canoe England could develop series of trails with Poole Harbour Canoe Club, pump prime funding (local council, Poole Harbour commissioners)’ (survey respondent and organisation/NGO/charity)