Agenda

Whitstable Harbour Board

Friday
9 October 2026
At no earlier than* 3.00 pm

The Community Classroom
South Quay Shed
Whitstable Harbour
Whitstable
CT5 1AB

*Please note at 3pm there will be an informal question and answer session with the Board prior to the commencement of this formal Board meeting. It will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

Membership of the Whitstable Harbour Board

Quorum – 5 Members

Councillors

Chris Cornell (Chair)
Michael Dixey
Tom Mellish
Grace Paget
Clare Turnbull

Independent and Co-opted Members

Alex Hare
Sandy Ackord
Peter Steen
Neil Webster

NOTES

1 Members of the public may speak at meetings of the Committee so long as they contact Democratic Services by 12.30pm the working day before the meeting.

2 Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever non-disruptive methods you think are suitable. If you are intending to do this please mention it to the Democratic Services Officer and do not use flash photograph unless you have previously asked whether you may do so. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office).

Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to withdraw permission and halt any recording if in the Chair's opinion continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting. Reasons may include disruption caused by the filming or recording or the nature of the business being conducted.

Anyone filming a meeting is asked to only focus on those actively participating but please also be aware that you may be filmed or recorded whilst attending a council meeting and that attendance at the meeting signifies your agreement to this if it occurs. You are also reminded that the laws of defamation apply and all participants whether speaking, filming or recording are reminded that respect should be shown to all those included in the democratic process.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then, in conjunction with this, all rights to record the meeting are removed.

3 The information contained within this agenda is available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audio cassettes and other languages.

Contact: ☎ 01227 862009 ✉ democracy@canterbury.gov.uk

Agenda

Page (s)

1 Apologies for absence

2 Substitute Members (Councillors)

3 Declaration of interests by Board members and officers

TO RECEIVE any declarations for the following in so far as they relate to the business for the meeting:-

a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
b. Other Significant Interests (what were previously thought of as non-pecuniary Prejudicial interests)
c. Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests

Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests not required to be disclosed as DPI's or OSI's, ie announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

- Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- Where a Councillor knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- Where an item would affect the well-being of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

4 Public Participation

Members of the public may speak on any item on the agenda, for a maximum of three minutes, provided that notification has been given to Democratic Services by 12.30pm on the working day before the meeting.

To find out more visit this page

5 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2026 5 - 9

To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2026.

6 Summer Events Feedback

TO RECEIVE the verbal update for the Harbour Day 2026, and the Oyster Festival.

7 Review of Harbour Charges 27/28 10 - 14

TO CONSIDER the report of the Harbour and Foreshore Manager.

8 Engineer's report 15 - 20

TO NOTE the report of the Head of Engineering.

9 Harbour and Foreshore Manager's Report 21 - 28

TO NOTE the report of the Harbour and Foreshore Manager.

10 Date of next meeting

11 Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public

12 Exclusion of the press and public

TO RESOLVE – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.

13 Property Action Plan Updates 29 - 30

TO NOTE

The action plan updates the Board on ongoing tenant related matters, for example lease negotiations. The Property department act as landlord on behalf of the Board and so manage the tenants and leases directly. Where any decisions by the Board are required a separate item will be listed on the agenda accompanied by a formal report to inform the decision(s).

(The action plan contains information the disclosure of which is likely to prejudice the commercial interest of both the Council and other bodies (s. 43 Freedom of Information Act 2000). The Council considers that at present the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Paragraph 3 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 also applies.)

14 Any other business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

WHITSTABLE HARBOUR BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday, 26th June, 2026 at 3.00 pm in The Community Classroom, South Quay Shed, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable, CT5 1AB

Present:	Councillor Chris Cornell (Chair)		
	Councillor Dixey		
	Councillor Mellish		
	Councillor Paget		
	Councillor Turnbull		
	Alex Hare		
	Sandy Ackord		
	Peter Steen		
In attendance			
Officers:	Liam Wooltorton	-	Head of Engineering
	Matthew Young	-	Harbour and Foreshore Manager
	Lauren Wheeler	-	Democratic Services Officer
	Stephanie Williamson	-	Democratic Services Officer
	Adam Wright	-	Principal Property Surveyor
	Andrew Pullen	-	Technician Engineer
	Naomi Delo	-	Venue and Bar Manager
	George Wooltorton	-	Trainee Engineer
Guest	Susannah Gooch, Whitstable Maritime		

121 **Substitute Members (Councillors)**

There were no substitute members.

122 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Neil Webster.

123 **Declaration of interests by Board members and officers**

Alexander Hare made a voluntary announcement that he was a member of Whitstable Maritime.

124 **Election of a Chair for 2026/27**

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED that:
Councillor Chris Cornell be Chair for 2026/2027.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:
For (7): Councillors Dixey, Mellish, Paget and Turnbull, Alex Hare, Sandy Ackord and Peter Steen.
Against: None.
Abstained (1): Councillor Chris Cornell.

The Chair paid tribute to former Harbour Master Mike Wier, recognising his contribution to the Board and the harbour community.

125 **Public Participation**

The Chair advised that there were no speakers registered for the meeting.

Points were raised by members of the public during the informal question and answer session with the Board prior to the formal meeting and throughout.

126 **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January were confirmed as a true record by general assent.

127 **Gamecock and Harbour Day update**

Susannah Gooch of Whitstable Maritime provided a verbal update on the restoration of Gamecock, Harbour Day 2026 and the Trust's educational, heritage and community activities.
The Board discussed the update, and the following points were made:

- Whitstable Maritime continues to deliver education, training, volunteering, environmental and heritage programmes across the harbour community.
- Significant volunteer efforts supported the successful relocation of Gamecock to Iron Wharf, Faversham, with the move funded by Canterbury City Council; restoration works continue at the vessel's temporary home.
- Restoration activities are focused on completing hull planking, internal framing and preparing the vessel for survey, certification and future operational use.
- Harbour Day 2026 will take place on 15 August and continues to be promoted as a community event organised by the community for the community.
- Progress was reported on the Whitstable Coastal and Heritage Trail and associated Sound Map project, including work with disability organisations to improve accessibility.
- Members welcomed the continued development of student work experience programmes and partnerships with schools, colleges, charities and local businesses.
- The Chair thanked Whitstable Maritime and its volunteers for their continued contribution to Whitstable Harbour and the wider community.

The report was NOTED by general assent.

128 **Annual Harbour Outturn Report 25/26**

The Head of Engineering introduced the report detailing the provisional outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year.
The Board discussed the report, and the following points were made:

- Whitstable Harbour achieved a provisional net operating surplus of £500,274 excluding depreciation, capital charges and South Quay Shed.

- Income from rents, concessions, vessel fees and dues exceeded budget expectations, reflecting increased harbour activity.
- Parking income exceeded budget projections due to increased usage and revised charging fees.
- Premises costs exceeded budget primarily due to backdated electricity charges relating to previous years.
- Members received an update on the Environment Agency funded Section 3 Quay Replacement Project, with the lowest tender returns within budget and the works remaining on programme to commence in September 2026.
- Reserve balances remain healthy and continue to support delivery of the Whitstable Harbour Strategic Plan.
- Members requested that the long-term harbour capital expenditure programme be reviewed and updated.
- Discussion took place regarding filming activity within the harbour and the wider economic benefits generated for local businesses and the town.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED that:

The report was NOTED.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:
For: (8) Councillors Chris Cornell, Dixey, Mellish, Paget and Turnbull, Alex Hare, Sandy Ackord and Peter Steen.
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

129 **South Quay Shed Annual Review 2025/26**

The Venue and Bar Manager introduced the report which reviewed the performance of the South Quay Shed during 2025/26.

The Board discussed the report, and the following points were made:

- Visitor numbers increased during 2025/26, with footfall rising by approximately 5.7% compared with the previous year.
- Occupancy levels within the Shed had improved significantly following a successful marketing campaign, with 15 of the 16 units now occupied and the remaining unit under offer.
- A wider variety of businesses had strengthened the overall visitor offer and enhanced the atmosphere within the venue.
- Improvements had been completed to both the interior and exterior of the building.
- A stronger programme of events had been established, with several events selling out and generating positive visitor feedback.
- The Board welcomed the partnership work being undertaken with Canterbury College and other community organisations.
- The appointment of a dedicated Venue and Bar Manager had improved operational management, communication and tenant engagement.
- Members discussed cleanliness within communal areas, maintenance responsibilities and ongoing improvements to the building.
- Positive feedback was received regarding the Community Classroom and its contribution to community and educational activity.
- Members welcomed the progress made during the year and acknowledged that the improvements implemented were not yet fully reflected in the financial performance of the reporting period.

Action: Information signage to direct the public to Unit 6 if assistance required.

The report was NOTED by general assent.

130 **Harbour and Foreshore Manager's Report**

The Harbour and Foreshore Manager summarised the report which updated the Board on matters pertaining to legislation, management, harbour operations, staff, communications, publicity and general port marine issues. Members also received an update on the Whitstable Harbour Marine Safety Plan 2026-2029.
The Board discussed the report, and the following points were made:

- The Marine Safety Plan 2026-2029 had been updated and sets out both standing and temporary safety targets for the harbour. These include navigational safety, harbour basin safety, traffic management, quay maintenance and safety ladder improvements.
- Oil spill response training and preparedness arrangements continue to be maintained and reviewed.
- Trinity House completed its annual inspection of navigational aids and confirmed that they were in good and efficient order.
- Members received updates on West Quay repairs, safety chain vandalism, the fuel tank incident at North Head, harbour safety ladder inspections, website improvements and Destination Management Plan development.
- Progress updates were also provided regarding the old Crab and Winkle (Net Store) site, Community Classroom and Sound Map projects.
- Peter Steen welcomed the continued focus on marine safety, risk management and compliance.

Action: The Marine Safety Plan and associated documentation be circulated to Board members and a future update be brought to a subsequent meeting.

The report was NOTED by general assent.

131 **Membership of the South Quay Task and Finish Group**

The Board considered the recommendation that membership of the South Quay Task and Finish Group remain unchanged.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED that:
The membership of the South Quay Task and Finish Group remain unchanged.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:
For: (8) Councillors Chris Cornell, Dixey, Mellish, Paget and Turnbull, Alex Hare, Sandy Ackord and Peter Steen.
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

132 **Engineer's report**

The Technician Engineer introduced the report which provided a summary of ongoing engineering projects and forthcoming works.
The Board discussed the report, and the following points were made:

- Harbour dredging was successfully completed in April 2026, with approximately 5,000m³ of material removed and disposed of in accordance with licensing requirements.

- Progress was reported on the new seating area and wet fish concession site, with works expected to be completed during summer 2026.
- An update was provided on the NeuConnect funding application for further solar panel installations. Although unsuccessful, officers intend to review the scheme and submit a future application.
- Members supported continued efforts to secure external funding opportunities to improve the harbour's environmental performance.
- The Section 3 Quay replacement project remains on programme, with steel pile delivery scheduled for August and construction expected to commence in September 2026.
- Discussion took place regarding the anticipated impacts of the works on harbour users and visitors, with officers confirming that arrangements would seek to minimise disruption wherever possible.
- The Board received an update on recent floodgate improvement works and the benefits these would provide to public access arrangements along the seafront.

The report was NOTED by general assent.

133 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 3pm on Friday 9th October 2026.

134 **Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public**

None advised.

135 **Exclusion of the press and public**

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote RESOLVED by general assent that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.

136 **Property Action Plan Updates**

The Lead Property Surveyor introduced the report.

It was RESOLVED by general assent:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

137 **Any other business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both**

There was no other business that fell under the exempt provisions.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.38 pm

Whitstable Harbour Board

9 October 2026

Subject: Review of Harbour Charges 2027/28

Director and Head of Service:

William Hicks, Deputy Director of Place

Liam Wooltorton, Head of Engineering

Officer:

Matthew Young – Harbour and Foreshore Manager

Decision Issues:

To Recommend

That the proposed Schedule of Charges is approved

A standardised approach/guarantee for the discount that is provided to the fishing sector is investigated.

Is any of the information exempt from publication:

No

CCC ward(s):

Gorrell and Tankerton

Summary and purpose of the report:

This report provides information on proposed Schedule of Charges for 2027/2028

The schedule of charges will be included in the draft budget proposals and Council Fees and Charging process, with a view to them being implemented on 1 April 2027.

1. Introduction

It is proposed that port marine service fees, dues & charges are amended as detailed in Appendix One - The Proposed Whitstable Harbour Charges 2027/28.

The proposed fees and charges have considered current market trends and trading conditions.

Benchmarking has taken place with other ports and harbours - increases are expected across the board to account for increases in operating costs such as dredging, repairs to fenders, access ladders and general quay maintenance works.

2. Detail

Berthing

- Harbour dues are berthing fees and include access to the business parking area and fuel supply. It is proposed to increase this charge to £172.17/metre/annum. The owner of a 10-metre boat will therefore see an increase from £1696.30 to £1721.70 per annum a total of £25.40.
- The cost of a pontoon berth for a leisure boat operator is currently £4583.79. This includes a previously separate charge of a contribution towards maintenance of the pontoon infrastructure. It is proposed to increase the pontoon berth fee to £4721.30. An increase of £137.51.

Storage

- Capacity permitting, each berth holder in the harbour, excluding pontoon berths, is designated a storage bay. The charge per bay is presently £279.40 per year. If the berth holder wishes to place a chiller unit in the compound the charge is presently £465.64 per year in addition to consumer use.
- The proposed fee for 2027/28 is an increase to £283.60 and £472.64 respectively, per year. This is an increase of £4.20 and £7. These charges are added to each boat owner's harbour dues to give a consolidated charge.

Commercial Ships

- Dues for ships when cargo is discharged or a ship visit e.g. berthing on the Outer West Quay, are levied on the ship owners/operators. It is proposed to increase these charges by £0.02p per tonne to £0.69p per tonne of cargo or per ship’s GT. Based upon the average cargo tonnage from 2025/26 (1283 tonnes) the ship owner/operator will therefore see an approximate increase from £859.61 to £885.27 or £25.66 per ship’s visit if cargo is discharged.

- Cargo wharfage fees are levied on the cargo receiver (normally Bretts). It is proposed to increase these charges to £1.02p for 'Stone' and £0.67p for 'Type 1' respectively.

  Based upon the average cargo tonnage from 2025/26 of Stone (1283 Tonnes) the receiver of cargo will therefore see an increase of approximately £38.49 for Stone per cargo of stone.

  No type 1 was received in 2025/26 but based upon the average cargo tonnage from 2023/24 of Type 1 (885 Tonnes) the receiver of cargo will therefore see an increase of approximately £17.70 for Type 1 per cargo.

- A conservancy/pilotage fee of £49.07 per voyage is to be increased to £50.55 per voyage.

- Linesmen services are to increase from £161.24 per linesman to £166.08. Each ship visit deploys 4 linesmen (2 linesmen for arrival and 2 linesmen for departure). The new rate will result in an increase of £19.36 per ship's visit.

Beach Huts

- A rental increase for beach huts of 3% is proposed for the coming year- this is in line with other proposed beach hut fees across the district.

	2026/27	**2027/28**	**Increase**
Front Row/Year	£2852.42	£2936.95	£84.53
Back Row/Year	£1997.83	£2057.02	£59.19
Double Hut/Year	£2659.81	£2739.61	£79.80

3. Consultation

- These proposed charges have already been reviewed by Canterbury City Council Head of Finance.
- As part of the Council's Fees and Charging setting process, a copy of the proposed charges will be forwarded to the Whitstable Fishermen's Association, Brett Aggregates, Faversham Ships, Armac Shipping, GSea8 and beach hut tenants for their information.

4. Conclusion

The Council is proposing a 3% increase to the Whitstable Harbour beach hut fees, which is consistent with the increase proposed for the beach huts managed by Foreshore Services. A 3% increase has been applied to the other fees and charges associated with the Harbour and is in-line with general increases in fees across the Council.

As part of the commitment by the Harbour Board to support the fishing sector,

any fees impacting this (fishing sector) have received a 50% discount with an increase of 1.5%. It is recommended that Harbour Board should work towards a standardised approach/guarantee for the discount that is provided to the sector.

To Recommend:

That the proposed Schedule of Charges is approved

A standardised approach/guarantee for the discount that is provided to the fishing sector is investigated.

Contact Officer: Matthew Young - Harbour and Foreshore Manager

Background documents and appendices

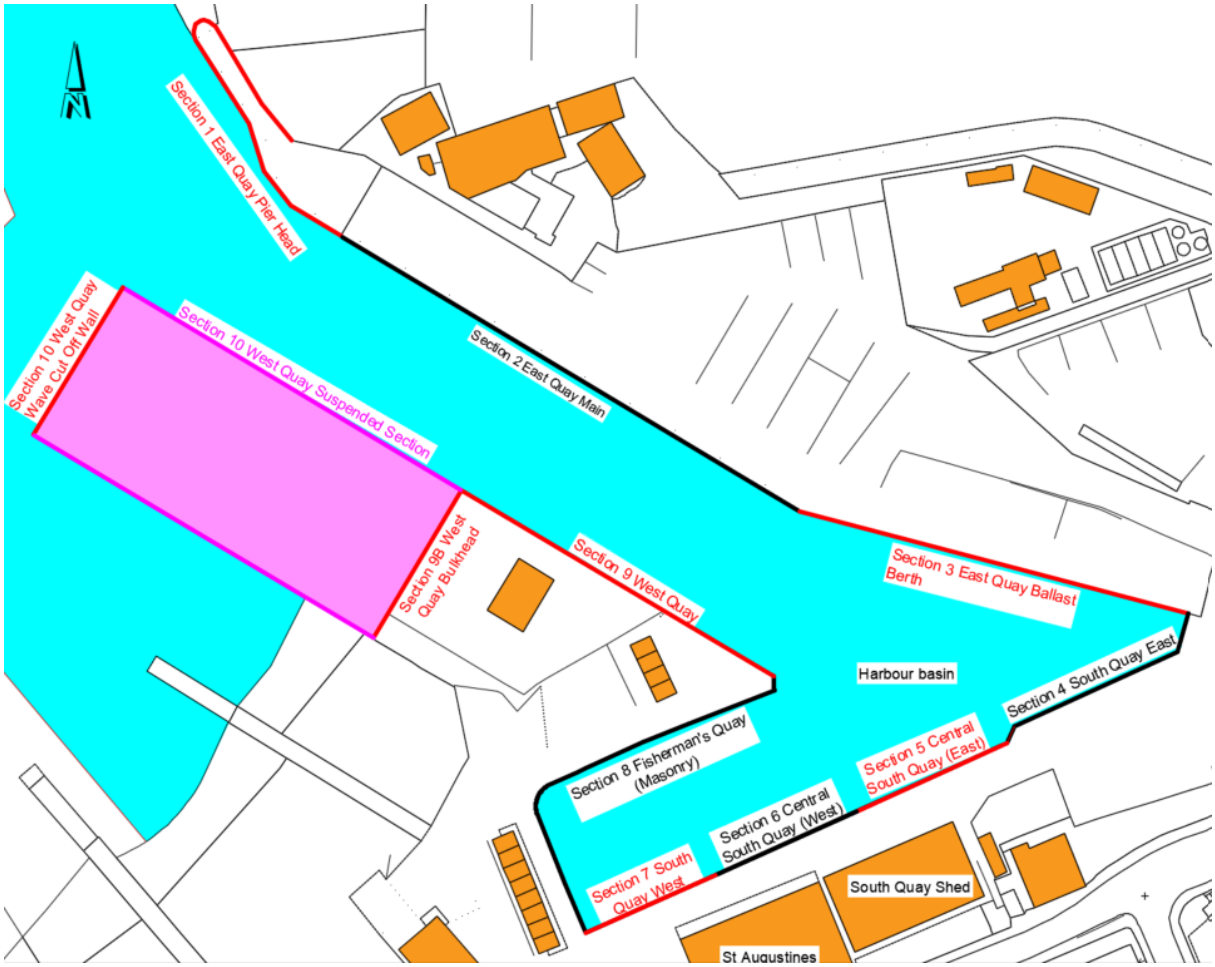
Appendix One - The Proposed Whitstable Harbour Charges 2027_28

ITEM/SERVICE	Charge wef 01/04/2026	Proposed Charge wef 01/04/2027	Increase	Vatable Yes/No	VAT included
	£	£			
Dues for ships when cargo is discharged. Per tonne of cargo	0.67	0.69	3%	No	
Dues for ships not discharging cargo per ships GT	0.67	0.69	3%	No	
FISHING VESSELS & COMMERCIAL WORK BOATS					
Annual dues – permanent berth per metre LOA per annum	169.63	172.17	1.5%	No	
Annual dues – pontoon berth (13.3m) per annum	4,583.79	4,721.30	3%	No	
Visiting craft per day	101.07	104.10	3%	No	
Additional pontoon key	32.76	33.74	3%	Yes	No
CARGO WHARFAGE					
Stone per tonne	0.99	1.02	3%	No	
Type 1 Aggregate	0.65	0.67	3%	No	
CONSERVANCY					
Fee per shipping movement	49.07	50.55	3%	No	
VESSEL AND PLANT HIRE					
Fork Lift (per hour)	73.61	75.82	3%	Yes	No
LINESMAN SERVICES					
Provision of linesman to secure ships lines (per linesman)	161.24	166.08	3%	No	
FUEL SALES					
Fuel Oil – permanent berth holder (per litre added to fuel purchase price)	0.05	0.05	1.5%	No	
Fuel Oil – visiting commercial craft (per litre added to fuel purchase price)	0.09	0.09	3%	No	
STORAGE					
WQ Compound (per quarter)	69.85	70.90	1.5%	Yes	No
Chiller storage (per quarter)	116.41	118.16	1.5%	Yes	No
BEACH HUTS					
Front Row (per annum)	2,376.18	2,447.46	3%	Yes	No
Back Row (per annum)	1,664.86	1,714.81	3%	Yes	No
Double Hut (per annum)	2,216.51	2,283.01	3%	Yes	No

Whitstable Harbour Board

9th October 2026

Subject: Engineer's Report

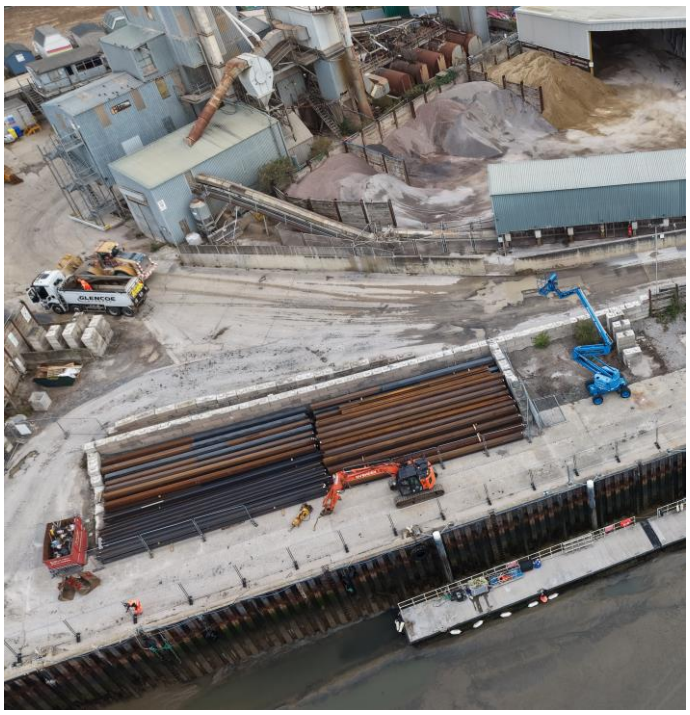


Whitstable Harbour quay section plan

East Quay Replacement - Section 3

The on-site civil engineering works to replace Section 3 (East Quay Ballast Berth) have commenced.

The pre-purchased steel sheet piles and anchor piles (shown in photo below) have all been delivered to site. This will avoid any delay when the piling sub-contractor mobilises to site.



The Principal Contractor, Ovenden Allworks, mobilised to site on 14th September and the contract is due for completion in May 2027.

The pontoon operators' huts have been carefully moved by telehandler to their temporary location on the outside of the harbour market.

The aim is to have the pontoon back fully operational for Easter 2027.





South Quay berth power and lighting was temporarily disconnected to re-route the cabling out of the site area but reconnected the same day to maintain service and quayside lighting.

The site area has been securely fenced, and the office/welfare unit and toilet block have also been sited.



An alternative pedestrian route with temporary staircase has been installed to allow harbour staff to safely access the other side of the site to berth ships, as well as allowing the crews to access the South Quay.

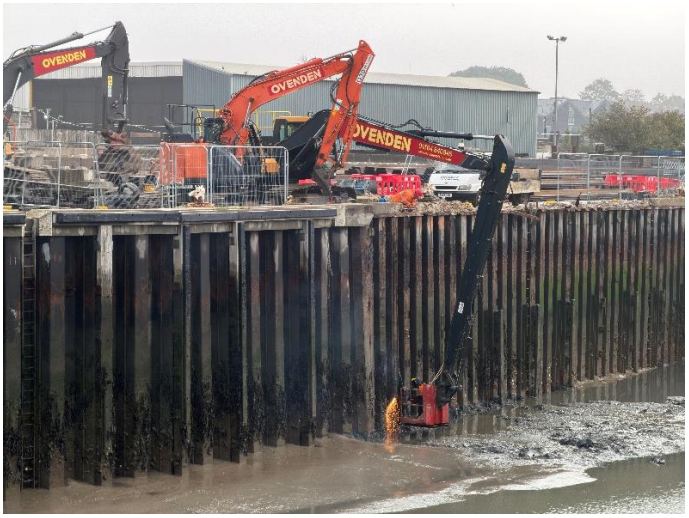


Trial pits have been excavated at along the length of the site to determine ground conditions and ground loading capacity for large plant. If suitable, as much of the excavated material will be re-used within the new works.



The contractor is using a long reach excavator to remove all fenders and brackets from the face of the existing steel sheet piles.

This will allow the new piles to be driven as close to the existing line as possible. This is also being followed by the removal of the reinforced concrete capping beam at the north end of the works.



The proposed line of the new steel sheet piles has been coordinated and plotted on site.



Seating Area (Cockle Shed site)

The new seating area and wet fish concession works are now substantially complete, and the trailer unit is currently being fitted out. There has been a delay to the new incoming power supply due to KCC rescheduling our works permit, but connection is planned later this month.



This will provide power to the wet fish concession as well as power for potential pop-up events. Accommodation works have also been included to enable the installation of four EV charging points in the adjacent car park, with the option to add additional points in the future.



Whitstable Harbour Board

October 2026

Subject: Harbour Managers Report

Director and Head of Service:

William Hicks, Deputy Director of Place

Liam Wooltorton, Head of Engineering

Officer:

Matthew Young - Harbour and Foreshore Manager

Decision Issues:

None

Is any of the information exempt from publication:

No

CCC ward(s):

Gorrell and Tankerton

Summary and purpose of the report:

This report updates the Harbour Board on matters pertaining to legislation, management, harbour operations, staff, communications, publicity and general port marine issues

1. Introduction

Since the formation of the Harbour Board in January 2003, it has become standard practice for the Harbour Manager to provide a progress report to meetings of the board on matters pertaining to safety management and compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code, harbour operations, legislation, staff, communications, publicity and other Harbour issues.

2. Detail

Legislation

The table below refers to port marine legislation, codes of practice and safe working practises which the harbour complies with.

Subject	Issuing Authority	Detail	Expiry Date
Port Marine Safety Code	Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Every 3 years a self-declaration statement confirming compliance with the Code is submitted to the Maritime & Coastguard Agency.	March 2029
Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP)	UK Department for Transport	The harbour's Port Security Plan has been updated. The harbour successfully completed a formal audit by the Department for Transport (DfT) Maritime Security Division in July 2024. The DfT have issued our Certificate of Port Facility Approval.	September 2029
Port Waste Management	Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Since 2003 the harbour has had a Port Waste Management Plan in place which has been approved by the MCA. In 2022 the MCA identified a number of additional information and amendments that are required. These amendments are to be actioned asap, the plan has been updated and re-submitted to the MCA for their approval. 22/10/2024 - "There has been a temporary pause on approving PWMP's while S&I resources are being prioritised elsewhere, there is no indication when they might resume the revalidation approval process."	May 2024
Navigational Aids	Dept for Transport Trinity House	Each year the harbour's navigational aids are visually checked by a Trinity House inspector. This inspection is followed up mid-year by an on-site audit where the harbour's procedures with respect to navigational aids maintenance, reporting of defects, provision of lights and buoys etc. are checked.	May 2027
Tier 2 Oil Spill Preparedness	Maritime & Coastguard	The harbour procures a contractor for its clean-up response in the event of an oil spill.	January 2027

	Agency	This is a statutory obligation that must be adhered to by all ports. This contractor also provides oil spill response training to our harbour staff. The MCA oversees the accreditation of oil spill response companies. This accreditation status must be maintained to ensure CCC has appropriate cover in place and ensure that any oil spill training is undertaken by an accredited organisation.	
Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Maritime & Coastguard Agency	The purpose of a harbour's contingency plan for marine pollution (Oil Spill Contingency Plan) is to ensure that there is a timely, measured and effective response to incidents. Whitstable Harbour's Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been audited and approved by the MCA. However, this approval is subject to annual updates, reviews and reports back to the MCA confirming compliance. The plan must be revalidated every 5 years.	October 2026
Customs Wharf Approval	UK Border Force	These procedures are implemented by customs clearance reporting by the ship's agents but require oversight by harbour staff. In May 2025, it was confirmed by UKBF that the expiry date has been removed, and we remain authorised for as long as UKBF feel is appropriate.	N/A
DP independent assurance	N/A	The DP provides independent assurance directly to the Duty Holder that the Marine SMS is working effectively in ensuring compliance with the Code. This is completed yearly and provided to the Harbour Board as part of the Harbour Managers' reporting process.	March 2027

Oil Pollution Preparedness Response & Co-Operation

The Whitstable Harbour Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been re-written as part of the five-year, revalidation process. It is presently being consulted upon with our statutory consultees. Once feedback has been received, this will be included in the final plan and submitted to the MCA for approval.

Navigational Aids

Trinity House are due to complete their mid-year inspection on 5 October 2026.

Harbour Operations - East Quay

Appendix One - Shipping statistics.

Improvements have been made to the security arrangements of the ‘Restricted Area’ which forms part of the Harbour’s Port Facility Security Plan.

Harbour Operations - West Quay

Nothing to report but Board members may be interested to see that the Waverly had a successful visit on 30 September 2026. A second and final visit is due 11 October 2026.



Harbour Operations – South Quay

Nothing to report.

Harbour Operations - North Head

Following on from our successful check in 2024, a further ‘Compliance Check’ of our fuel supply service was completed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in September 2026.

The checks include our returns and other associated administration documents to ensure that the correct amount of tax is paid, at the right time and receive the correct allowances and tax reliefs.

Some amendments were required to the administration process (specifically, record keeping in-line with legal requirements) which have been completed and we await confirmation of approval from the HMRC.

Harbour Operations - Pontoon

Berthing and operations from the pontoon have now been suspended as part of the Section 3

quay replacement works.

Harbour Operations - General

Nothing to report.

Beach Huts

Some minor maintenance works have been completed to several beach huts. We are taking the opportunity to manage such works as and when there is a change in tenants.

The huts are 100% occupied.

Fishermen's Huts

Some minor maintenance to the huts has been completed.

After speaking with tenants and berth holders, we have recently reviewed the associated provision of sanitary conveniences. We have increased the frequency of cleaning and improved security measures for access and management of the associated supplies.

Berthing

Nothing to report.

Publicity and Communications

Harbour Annual Forum: The event is planned for 26th November 2026. All board members have been sent an invite for the event and publicity will commence shortly with support from our Communications team.

Webpage: The transfer to the new format/provider has been completed. The new pages are an improvement, and updates continue to me made. Conversations have commenced with an external provider for an interactive map to improve pre-arrival information to visitors of the harbour.

Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

Whitstable Fisherman's Association

The next meeting is due to take place 14 October 2026. Concerns continue to be managed appropriately outside of the meetings. The next approved meeting minutes will be provided in January 2027.

Task and Finish Groups

The South Quay Task and Finish Group continue to meet – since the last Harbour Board one meeting was held in July 2026.

Main actions and outcomes from the Task and Finish group will be updated to the Board in this report and more detailed reports will be presented separately to the Board for consideration.

Net Store: More detailed outcomes will be provided in the property update. The main discussion point of the meeting was review of offers received for the tenancy of the Net Store.

Old Cockle Processing Site: An update on the works is included in the Engineering report and feedback to date has been very positive.

Wet Fish Concession: An update on the works is included in the Engineering report.

Sound Map: A soft launch of the Sound map is planned for the weekend of 24/25 October 2026. Final elements are presently being pulled together by the delivery team. Publicity will commence shortly with support from the CCC Communications team.

Support for the route is being provided by Harbour and Foreshore Services. This includes signage and provision of a display system located on the ground floor exhibition space of the Community Classroom. We are also working with and supporting the development of a community group, to investigate options for volunteers to provide support in opening the space for peak times though the year and management of future exhibitions schedules.

South Quay Shed: As part of improved reporting on performance and operations, a six-monthly report on turnover and activity for quarters one and two will be provided in January 2027.

Community Classroom: Temporary signage is being developed for the classroom by our Media and Marketing Team. We are also exploring the potential to work with students from the University of Creative Arts (Canterbury) for permanent signage and interior decoration.

A dedicated area on the Harbour webpage is presently being developed and will include a feedback and booking/interest form for the room. Promotional materials (featuring the Harbour logo) have also been produced as ‘take-a-ways’ for targeted groups on the developing programme.

Usage of the classroom is increasing and at the next Harbour Board meeting, we will be able to present usage figures and a breakdown of the types of use the space is having. We shall continue this on a six-monthly timeframe. Feedback on the space remains highly positive

Contact Officer: Matthew Young, Harbour and Foreshore Manager

Background documents and appendices

Appendix One - Shipping statistics up to June 2026
Appendix Two - Health and Safety Incident Log for previous 12 months

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

None

APPENDIX ONE

Month	2024/25		2025/26		2026/27	
	Ships	Tons	Ships	Tons	Ships	Tons
April	5	7725	4	4278	4	5652
May	5	7334	5	7703	4	4084
June	7	8529	6	7434	5	5037
July	5	7687	5	6015	5	4445
August	3	2478	3	3770	5	3834
September	6	7207	6	8919	4	5081
October	6	6782	6	7305		
November	4	4931	3	3153		
December	3	1553	5	6697		
January	2	2967	2	903		
February	3	2949	6	7390		
March	4	3628	3	5747		
Totals	**53**	**63,770**	**54**	**69,314**	**27**	**28,133**

SUMMARY

Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Average
Tons	77,165	66,512	63,465	63,770	69,314	**65,765**
Ships	44	42	43	53	54	**47**

Appendix Two - Harbour Board Health and Safety Incident Log

REF	DATE OF INCIDENT	ACCIDENT CATEGORY	HAZARD DETAIL	AFFECTED VESSEL(S) IF APPLICABLE	AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS (IF APPLICABLE)	CAUSES	EXISTING CONTROLS APPROPRIATE Y/N	OUTCOME OF REVIEW WITH POTENTIAL ACTIONS

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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