

REVIEW OF PLEASURE BOAT AND BOATMEN LICENCES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider changes to the current licensing system for Pleasure Boats and Boatmen.
- 1.2 Section 94 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 empowers the Local Authority to issue licences for pleasure boats and boatmen. A pleasure boat can be either a vessel that is let for hire to members of the public or to be used for carrying a maximum of 12 passengers.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 12 September 2003 the General Purposes and Licensing Committee recommended that the licensing of pleasure boats and boatmen as a Council function should be undertaken by Licensing Services.
- 2.2 On the 19 March 2004 the General Purposes and Licensing Committee adopted a system for the licensing of pleasure boats and boatmen to be undertaken by Licensing Services.
- 2.3 A review of the existing system for the licensing of Pleasure Boats and Boatmen is due.

3. Proposed Changes: (Pleasure Boat Licensing)

- 3.1 The current guidance used for the licensing of boats and boatmen is published by the 'Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association'. This information is mainly referenced from 'The Inland Waters Small Passenger Boat Code' produced by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA); this can be viewed using the following link: mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/final_brochure-2.pdf. It would therefore appear more appropriate to adopt the latter guidance as it is a more comprehensive and updated document. Also, it is the MCA that 'police' the waters that NFDC licensed boats navigate.

4. Proposed Changes: (Boatmen Licensing)

- 4.1 The current licence is issued annually. It is proposed that boatmen licences should now be issued in a similar manner to those for taxi drivers, inasmuch that the first licence is issued for one year and renewals are issued for three years thereafter.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 A consultation, regarding these proposals, was undertaken with the following relevant parties:

- The Harbour Control Officer, ABP Southampton;
- The Harbour Master, Lymington;
- The Harbour Master, Beaulieu;
- The River Warden, Keyhaven.

5.2 There was only one response to the consultation. This was from the Lymington Harbour Commissioners. A copy of this letter is attached as Appendix I.

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6. Conclusion

6.1 The current system for the licensing of boats and boatmen was introduced on 19 March 2004. The above proposals are considered necessary in order to update the guidance used for this licensing function and align this administrative process with those of a similar nature, such as taxi driver licensing.

6.2 There have been no adverse comments received resulting from the consultation undertaken regarding these proposals.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Licensing services currently licence 22 boats and about 12 boatmen annually. To offset the slight reduction in revenue, if the proposal in paragraph 4.1 is accepted, it is proposed that the fee structure should reflect the cost of licences that are currently issued for taxi drivers as stated below.

2009/2010	Fee	Duration
Pleasure Boats (reference only)	£78	One year
Boatmen	£63	One year
Combined hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence	£66 £76	One year Three years

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental issues directly arising from this report.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications

9.1 There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

10. Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

11. Recommendations

11.1 The committee is asked to consider the changes, to the current system for the licensing of boats and boatmen, as proposed in paragraphs 3.1 and 4.1 of this report.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

GP&LC Report dated 2003-09-12
GP&LC Report dated 2004-03-19



Lymington Harbour Commissioners

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Dear Mr Weston,

Re: Consultation (guidance used for the licensing of boats & boatmen)

Thank you for consulting us on the proposal for NFDC to change the guidance it uses when licensing pleasure boats and boatmen.

I can confirm that we have no comment to make on the proposal to replace the current Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association (SASHMA) guidelines with the 'Inland Waters Small Passenger Code – Sound practice, safer waters code published by the MCA and the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities.

We recognised that the Inland Waters Small Passenger Code represents a national standard best practice guide for vessels carrying no more than 12 passengers which do not go out to sea.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Willegers
Harbour Master