

Oban Bay Marine

Meeting of Members, 1 October 2007 at 1900 in Oban Sailing Club

Present: John Anderson (Chairman), Mike Robertson (Vice-Chairman), Mike Brown (Secretary), Elaine Lauder (Treasurer), Roddy MacEachen (Director) and Roger Parry (Director).

Members: Helen Anderson, Alison Chadwick, Eric Chapman, Graham MacQueen, Duncan Martin, Irene Murray, Twig Olsen, Dave Petrie, Bill Taylor and Steve Thomas. **Observer:** Ken MacColl.

Apologies: Tony Hill (Seafari), Chris Jackson (Morvern Marine Services), Adrian Lauder (Minute Secretary), Councillor Elaine Robertson, Elliot Robertson, David Vass (WHAM) and Roy Wood.

The Chairman welcomed members.

Mike Robertson outlined the reasons for the formation of OBM – the benefits of Borro Boats' (BB) pontoon, now defunct; the inaccessibility and lack of facilities in Oban bay for smaller vessels, as noted in the Oban Action Plan; early discussions with the Council with whom OBM hoped to work in partnership. The Council has now offered OBM the BB lease on a year-by-year basis.

John Anderson reported that a steering group was set up in March and later OBM was constituted as a community controlled company limited by guarantee, which provides considerable financial safeguards to members and directors. He stressed the benefits of working in partnership with the Kerrera community. Potential funders had been contacted and, should a long-term lease be agreed, it was possible that OBM could attract significant sums of money. The initial aim is to provide high quality pontoon facilities, including access for disabled people, for vessels up to 24 metres. A presentation had been made to members of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee and meetings had been held with key officials in Estates, Legal Services, Planning and Roads Departments and with the Director of Development Services. Meetings had also been held with the head of HIE Argyll and Bute and local MSP, Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy & Tourism, both of whom were very supportive.

Mike Robertson reported that he and Adrian Lauder had recently had a site meeting at Dungallan Parks, Cardingmill Bay and Kerrera Ferry with Martin Gorringer from the Council's Transport Department at a very low spring tide. Martin Gorringer had expressed a preference for any developments to be at the Oban Sailing Club (OSC) rather than the BB site.

Elaine Lauder reported on OBM's finances and membership. The bank balance was £1510 and membership 69. Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners' Association had loaned £1500 to OBM and some other donations had been received.

Mike Brown spoke to the possible various stages of development of the site from a pontoon to a breakwater and distributed his draft of a stage 1 plan for a pontoon. He and John Anderson had visited Fusion Marine, Barcaldine, to explore the possibility of using their pontoons, constructed using flexible plastic tubes. These should be cheaper to buy and maintain than conventional pontoons.

Some points discussed at the open session were: the topography and ownership of land and facilities at Dungallan Parks; the lack of parking space; vehicle access; the Council's concern re increased traffic/dangerous bend; Scottish Executive and the Council's wider plans for development of Oban Bay; OSC's ownership of land and facilities and protection of same; the possibility of OBM operating from OSC land; the financial and other responsibilities incurred by taking on the BB lease; the importance of generating support and increasing membership; community fund raising.

The general feeling of the meeting was that, to ensure that OBM obtains negotiation rights with the Council, OBM should accept the Council's offer of a lease of the BB site on a year-by-year basis at a cost of £180 per annum, with possible rates on the timber shed of £600, and also pursue the option of seeking a long-term agreement with OSC.

The meeting ended at 2000 hours.