

## **To all members of the Oban Lorn & The Isles Area Committee**

### **Oban Bay Marine**

I understand that the subject of the Oban Bay Action Plan may be under review at your meeting on 8 August. It is a couple of months now since you kindly invited us to make a presentation, so I thought that it might be appropriate to give a brief update as follows (copy initial briefing note attached for reference):-

1. In relation to the Borro Boats lease, Iain Wallace, the tenant, has given his written consent to an Assigment to Oban Bay Marine. He has also given his written approval to the present community based approach, and become a member of the company.
2. Discussions have taken place with Estates, Legal and Planning Departments and we hope to meet again with George Harper, Director of Development, on the afternoon of 8 August. I have also met and received the support of our local MSP, Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.
3. A local manufacturer of a special type of pontoon, capable of being moved on and off the beach with the tide, has been located and will be asked to prepare specifications.
4. We fully appreciate the Council's desire to preserve the right to repossess the site if (or, we hope, when) a breakwater is constructed. Our negotiations with all parties will be conducted on this basis.
5. We seek from Members a commitment in principle (subject to the breakwater safeguard) to work in partnership with us as a community group. Our aim is to provide safe, convenient landing facilities for smaller vessels, including disabled access, allowing them to take on crew, passengers, stores, fuel and water, before moving on elsewhere for berthing.
6. The establishment of a properly designed and located breakwater would greatly assist us by improving the protection of any facilities we are able to provide.
7. Everybody involved with the company is giving their time on a voluntary basis. We know that there will be problems. It makes a vital difference to persevering with these problems if there is clear evidence that the Council supports the project in principle. In return for such co-operation, we offer access to sources of funding not available to the Council.
8. Demand continues to grow. As one example, we have been approached to provide facilities for the Round Britain Power Boat Race in June 2008 (an event last held in 1984). With up to 50 boats and worldwide TV coverage, that event can give Oban, as a tourist destination, much needed free publicity. With traditional tourism reported to be down some 30% this year, supporting the Aims and Objects of Oban Bay Marine makes sound financial sense for the whole area.

Kind regards.

John Anderson  
Chairman, Oban Bay Marine  
3 August 2007