



Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

- MEDIA RELEASE -

Record breaking year for Falmouth Harbour Commission

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners Annual Report has just been published; detailing a record breaking year for the Commission with a 45% increase in turnover up to £2.4 million and a 300% increase in profitability. The Annual Report was launched at the Commissioner's Annual Meeting in Falmouth and details can also be found on their web site www.falmouthport.co.uk.

New EU Regulations have meant that ships heading up the English Channel need to take on board low sulphur fuel oil which has led to a significant increase in the Harbour Commissioners bunkering activity.

This financial improvement has been anticipated by the Harbour Commissioners and has fully justified investing heavily in improved facilities for harbour users, which included the new £ ¾ million pilot boat, the Arrow, and a new specialist patrol officer tasked with ensuring safety and security for boat users in Falmouth Bay. A safety campaign was carried out last year and will be repeated during the summer season of 2008 to encourage safe boating for all, including reducing speed, sensible drinking and use of lights at night. 130 Verbal and 5 written warnings were issued during the course of last summer demonstrating that the Harbour Commissioners take the issue of safety at sea very seriously.

Despite the poor summer weather last year, the levels of leisure boating and demand for moorings remained high, and the Harbour Commissioners are proud that the costs levied on these users remain some of the most reasonable in the country.

The challenges of continuing to invest in the future of Falmouth by ensuring the economic stability of the port have been faced full on by the Commissioners who have played a pivotal role in the development of the Cruise Liner Project and have given fair consideration to proposals in relation to ship to ship transfer.

The Cruise Liner Project's Environmental Impact Assessment has been extended to allow further consideration and evidence in respect of recommendations for dredging to create a new channel to accommodate the bigger ships of the future.

However, as reported at the Annual Meeting, initial proposals to the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners in relation to ship to ship transfers have not been followed up, and the Commissioners have no current plans to advance consultations on this potential business opportunity.

Increased demands on all aspects of Falmouth Harbour Commission's operations have put pressure on staff, whose hard work has been appreciated and whose professionalism has been commended, and there are plans to expand office space onto North Quay.

Summing up the year, Chief Executive and Falmouth Harbour Master Mark Sansom said "Our Annual Report details a busy and financially successful year. There are many changes and challenges to anticipate in the year ahead and, together with the Harbour Commissioners, we remain dedicated delivering our responsibility for the safe operation of our magnificent port as we as securing its financial stability and ensuring the port remains central to the economy of Falmouth and further afield."

Ends

11 April 2008

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