



DWDR Update June 2019

The Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR) development continues to make good progress and the recent return of some key aspects of the regenerated public realm, new marina pier and the reopening of the Esplanade road to Union Street in time for the May Bank Holiday have, in the main, been well received by the community and visitors to Dover.

We have also tried where possible to provide further benefits as the construction phase of the first two stages of the development near completion. For example, by donating the kitchen used to feed over 300 construction workers to local homelessness charity Emmaus. The high quality industrial kitchen will provide many years of use, feeding over 40 people a day.

The footfall on the seafront has increased, and weather permitting, we hope the beach and pier will continue to be a popular spot throughout the summer. We have always planned that DWDR's public realm (i.e. the Marina Pier, Marina Curve, Clock Tower Square, Union Street and the new Marina Control Building) will be returned incrementally and the remaining elements are still planned to be delivered to coincide with the completion of the marina, which is now becoming more visible for those promenading on the pier.

Feedback from our stakeholders is extremely important to us, whether direct, via formal meetings like the Port and Community Forum or the many posts received on social media. A number of points have come to our attention and we hope these answers to the most frequently asked questions help to clarify matters.

Q. Will there be any benches on the new pier?

A. The pier has been built to a clean and modern design with a focal seating area at the end.

Following some initial feedback, we are currently investigating how we might accommodate a set of benches as a half-way resting point whilst still enabling emergency and service vehicles to access the full extent of the pier as required.

On completion of Stage 3A of the development there will be good provision for benches along the 550m of public space overlooking the opposite side of the new marina.

Q. There is confusion about cycling on the pier.

A. We want the pier to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. We are aware of the confusion regarding the mixed use on the pier and can confirm that cyclists, scooters and skateboards are allowed, however we request that all visitors please share and respect fellow pier users. Signage advising users is located on the front gate and on a number of the lamp posts along the pier. The policy will be reviewed at intervals throughout the year.

Q. Will fishing be allowed on the new pier?

A. Following the closure of the Prince of Wales Pier in 2016 the fishing was transferred to the Admiralty Pier and is under the control of the Dover Sea Angling Society. There are no plans for fishing to be allowed on the new marina pier due to its width and close proximity to the marina.

Q. There is talk of the new marina suffering from swell.

A. A few members of the berth holder community have raised concerns about the degree of swell in the new marina. H R Wallingford, an experienced, independent civil engineering and environmental hydraulics company, had created the original hydrodynamic analysis for Port of Dover. In order to gain actual data, Port of Dover have installed a wave rider buoy to capture the actual swell movement. We are monitoring the marina, and once a reasonable time series of data has been compiled we will provide this to H R Wallingford for them to review their analysis for us.

The original modelling predicted waves within acceptable limits based on The Yacht and Harbour Association Guidelines and, on conclusion of the investigations, we will be in a better position to evaluate the findings in relation to the design guidelines. Should it be determined that improvements are required, we will be best informed via the analysis underway as to the nature and extent of the works.

Q. What will the open area just before the new pier be used for?

A. We are currently exploring the opportunities that this area represents, including as some form of flexible community space (e.g. for local musicians). All options are up for consideration and we would be pleased to hear ideas from members of the public.