

Scarborough Borough Council Harbour Authority **Disabled / Enhanced Access Policy.**

Scarborough Borough Council, acting in its role as the Competent Harbour Authority for the Ports of Scarborough and Whitby, provides a range of berths and moorings and associated facilities, which by their characteristics and nature have varying degrees of accessibility for harbour users.

Consideration has been given to providing enhanced access facilities and moorings to physically impaired harbour users and persons requiring ease of access whilst within the harbour limits where ever this is reasonably practicable, in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 / 2005.

Scarborough Borough Council aims to make such arrangements and adjustments as is reasonably practicable to prevent persons requiring improved access facilities from being placed at a substantial disadvantage when compared to others.

In consultation and partnership with local the Disabled Action Group (DAG) representatives the Harbour Authority identified (as at August 2009) 78 single pontoon berths at Scarborough harbour and 38 single pontoon berths at Whitby harbour which could be considered appropriate in providing suitable access to those with Physical impairments and persons requiring enhanced ease of access to vessels berthed within harbour limits.

All berthing information provided either in hard copy or online (web based) by the Harbour Authority requests that any individual with a disability or enhanced access requirement should inform the Harbour Master of their additional needs and consideration when applying for either a contracted annual berth or on a visiting vessel basis.

All applications for a contracted berth will be placed on the central berth application waiting list relevant to either harbour. Any applicant with either a disability or enhanced access requirement will have their name recorded in those terms on the waiting list.

Berths are allocated based upon the date of application (chronological order) and vessel / mooring compatibility criteria. When any berth is offered to an applicant recorded as requiring enhanced access they will not be removed from or returned to the bottom of the waiting list if the berth is considered unsuitable for their needs as is the case for other applicants. They will be able to retain their position at the top of the waiting list until a more suitable berth is available to accommodate their personal requirement.

Current contracted berth holders who develop the requirement to be considered as physically impaired or require enhanced access shall notify the Harbour Master and be recorded as such/be placed on the relevant berth transfer list with the same entitlement to remain at the top of the list when reached until a suitable berth is available.

The entitlement of 'Blue Badge' parking permit holder status will not, in itself, be sufficient to determine if the holder warrants being recorded as significantly impaired as to require enhanced access to the harbours moorings and facilities. The Harbour Authority will retain the right to seek referral to an appropriate professional specialist and independent advisor as required regarding compatibility for an applicant and particular berth. That advice will be relied upon by way of in any arbitration.

The Harbour Authority, in partnership with DAG, has identified the most suitable visiting vessel pontoon berth at either harbour which can be made accessible to visiting craft with enhanced access requirements, these berths are signed ' Disabled Access Priority Berth ' and will be made available on request at the Harbour Master's discretion. Any existing vessel not registered as meeting the enhanced access requirement and occupying one of these berths will be relocated to an alternative berth designated by the Harbour Master.

New berthing/marina facilities at both harbours may from time to time be provided. All new harbour facilities and infrastructure at Scarborough and Whitby harbours are subject to full stakeholder consultation, including DAG recommendation and feedback regarding ease of use and access for the physically impaired.

All new buildings and facilities will meet the legal requirements and guidelines as laid down in the DDA 1995 / 2005 or subsequent revisions.

The Harbour Authority shall endeavour to make every reasonably and practicable measure to enable any physically impaired persons are able to enjoy its facilities at no increased risk or disadvantage when compared to other harbour users.

Capt Martin Willis
Borough Harbour Master.
August 2009