

2009 Members and Boat Owners Survey

Summary of results

Methodology

As part of their consultation process, Jersey Harbours presented their initial concepts/plans for the port of St. Helier to an audience of yacht club and boat owners association members at Albert Quay on Monday 14th December.

Following this, in order to gauge their views and concerns, and to help in the consultative process, St. Helier Yacht Club commissioned Island ARK to undertake a survey of its members. This was extended to members of the RCIYC and St. Helier Boat Owners Association, and on Friday 18th December a self-completion questionnaire was made available in both yacht clubs and online through the Yacht Club and Boat Owners Association websites.

By the cut-off date 194 responses had been received, with 3 of these being deleted as multiple responses. Of the 191 eligible questionnaires, 168 were completed online and 23 were data inputted from the paper questionnaire submissions.

Profile of respondents

Of the 191 respondents:

- 166 (87%) were members of St. Helier Yacht Club
- 37 (19%) were members of the RCIYC
- 106 (55%) were members of St. Helier Boat Owners Association

- 161 (84%) said that they had seen the initial plans

- 178 (93%) said that they currently owned a boat

Of these:

78 (44%) kept their boat in St. Helier Old Harbour
65 (37%) had a marina berth
35 (19%) kept their boat elsewhere

108 (61%) had a dry mooring / cradle berth

91 (52%) had a sailing boat
60 (34%) had a motor cruiser
24 (14%) had some other type of boat

Brief summary of results

75% felt that Jersey needs more marina berths and 42% felt that Jersey needs more dry moorings. However, 48% felt that the number of dry moorings should remain the same and very few felt there should be less.

Those who do not currently own a boat (very small sample size):

For the 12 non-boat owners who responded, all apart from 1 were interested in potentially buying a boat. The cost of berthing and a lack of dry moorings rather than marina berths were stated as the main deterrents. If they were to purchase a boat, 8 said they would prefer a dry mooring and 3 said they would prefer a marina berth. 11 would prefer to keep their boat in St. Helier and 1 in St. Catherine. A majority said the concepts they had seen would make them less likely to purchase a boat.

Those on drying moorings:

The main reason boats were on drying moorings was the additional cost of being in a marina berth (61%), followed by the preference for their boat to dry out regularly (31%). Only 2 respondents said they had a drying mooring due to a lack of availability of marina berths.

20% said they would potentially be interested in a marina berth depending upon the cost, 29% said they would probably not be interested in moving on to a marina berth irrespective of cost and 51% said they would definitely not be interested in moving onto a marina berth if more became available in St. Helier.

Stage 1 - Proposals for Albert Pier (pontoons 4 & 5):

A fairly even reaction to the current proposals; a slight majority believing the plans to be better for visiting yachts and a slight majority believing the plans to be detrimental to local boat owners. Overall, a majority (47% to 39%) were not in favour of the current plans for this area.

Stage 2 - Proposals for St. Helier marina

A good majority agreed that more provision of contract berths for local boat owners is preferable to the provision of these berths for visitor usage. A very strong majority disagreed that providing berths for large, luxury yachts is of benefit to Jersey. Overall, a majority did not feel that the plans would enhance the offering of St. Helier marina and were not in favour of the current plans.

Stage 3 - Proposals for St. Helier Old Harbour

A majority (54% vs. 30%) did not agree that the flooding of the Old Harbour would provide a better range of berthing options. A majority (45% vs. 36%) also did not agree that the proposals would enhance the appearance of the area. The main concerns were for the loss of ability to regularly clean hulls, the tidal accessibility, the loss of so many dry moorings and the fact that boating would become financially inaccessible to many. Overall, 18% liked the proposals compared to 71% disliking the proposals for this area.

- 63% were completely opposed to any flooding of St. Helier Old Harbour
- 18% were opposed to flooding as much of the area as currently shown
- 15% felt that the plans looked good and have potential, but need refining
- 4% said they liked the plans as they currently stood