



## **NEW HARBOUR AUTHORITY AT TOBERMORY**

Tobermory Harbour Association, known locally as the THA, on behalf of the whole community are delighted to announce that Scottish Ministers have approved the first ever Harbour Empowerment Order (HEO) for Tobermory.

By a quirk of history there has never been a Trust Port or any form of Harbour Authority at Tobermory. The last act of Parliament, to our knowledge associated with Tobermory, was the General Piers and Harbours Act of 1861 which proposed and built the Mishnish Pier in 1862.

The THA will now step up and become the single Harbour Authority in Tobermory Bay and manage the Harbour in accordance with the powers granted under statute. Locally, and to all our friends our members and our visitors, we will remain a caring, sharing, welcoming port. We will stay focused on improving the harbour and building 'facilities for all' to bring benefits to the local community and the wider west coast of Scotland.

The THA has worked incredibly hard to achieve authority status and ensure that the management of Tobermory bay is by the community, for the community! The THA has kept all stakeholders and the public informed with regard to the changes the HEO will bring. Specifically we wish to thank CMAL who agreed that the Association should become the single Authority in Tobermory Bay. Also we extend our gratitude to the owner of Calve

Island and our adjacent landowners, Forestry Enterprise Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and the Tobermory Fishermen's Association who supported the HEO application.

#### Helpful Facts.

The order came into force on the 10th of June 2017 and was be announced by Humza Yousaf, the Minister for Transport and the Islands on Monday 12th June in Tobermory. The authority encompasses the whole bay from the iconic and historic town to the west coast of Calve Island. The authority is up to the line defined by mean high water spring tides. The authority also includes the land ashore at Ledaig, owned and leased by the THA and the land ashore owned by CMAL, including the Mishnish Pier and the Ferry Slipway.

Copies of the act will soon be available online at

<http://www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk/>

The THA are also pleased to announce that we have employed a new Harbour Master, Robert Hemming, from Swansea. Robert has many years of port and harbour management experience and strong connections to the Scottish west coast. Robert commences employment, by co-incidence on the 12th June, the day the HEO is announced.

Jim Traynor our well known marine manager is, after many years, stepping back. He has been an employee and friend of the THA for over 30 years. Jim has been instrumental in the growth and shared in the success of the company. Jim has helped to reorganise the bay, expand the number of moorings and oversee the construction and management of the THA pontoons. He has also been instrumental in attracting and expanding the number of cruise liners now visiting Tobermory and benefiting the whole Island.

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“The granting of a Harbour Empowerment Order in favour of Tobermory Harbour Association is the vehicle which will allow THA to take the management of the bay and the provision of facilities thereon to an ever higher level than is presently within its gift. The grant of the HEO by Scottish Ministers, is a result of a blend of hard work, good will and encouragement by and from all who have been involved in the process, and we thank them for it”. JOHN MACDONALD, DIRECTOR OF THA WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORT

“This is a huge step-up for Tobermory Harbour and for everyone who lives and works around our iconic and very colourful harbour. The new Harbour Authority will be a community run and community driven organisation. It will be dedicated to build 'facilities for all', to benefit, local boat owners, local fishermen, local charter boats, our wonderful Island of Mull and the wider west coast of Scotland.

The Harbour Empowerment Order brings future security to invest in the next Phase of our plans to create a welcoming and 'safe' Hub Port at Tobermory. A port, where visitors afloat will enjoy our island hospitality and enable them to wait for weather windows to sail to the more remote communities beyond Ardnamurchan”. BRIAN SWINBANKS, CHAIR