

To all members of BHUG 18 May 2020

Dear BHUG Members

Very important: Groyne Repair update and funds appeal

We do hope that you are all keeping safe during this coronavirus crisis?

As you will know, the project to repair the Bembridge Point Groyne has been on hold, "in Limbo", as Malcolm Thorpe calls it, and, although he says he still supports our campaign, he has not allowed things to proceed since last August. We cannot do the repair work without the Harbour Company as it has to be the contracting party as the "permitted developer" under the 1963 Harbour Act.

You will have heard this before, but may we please remind you that Mr Thorpe says he will not lift his Limbo until he has achieved a satisfactory result to his development plans and after there is no chance of a Judicial review.

There have been many attempts to persuade Mr Thorpe to lift his embargo and to let the repair project proceed but with no success.

The need for the repair is becoming ever more important as the stormy winter weather has increased the level of sand and gravel entering the Harbour. Just have a look at the damage to the point by Nigel Bennett's yard, the entrance channel at low tide, and the sandbank in the middle to see this. In addition, Nigel Bennett has terminated his aggregate business at the point and his channel dredging contract which has yet to be replaced.

So the future of the Harbour looks very much at risk. It is silting up by around 10 cm per year or nearly a metre every ten years in critical areas of the Harbour. By such time much of the harbour will have become unusable. **So immediate action is required. It cannot wait.**

But just now we need some funding in order to pay our consulting engineer, Rosebay Services, for all the valuable work that they have done to date. This work has taken us up to agreeing a design and contract cost as well as much other advice. Rosebay are sticking to the contract that was agreed, between BHUG and the Harbour Company, back in December 2017 but not signed off until June 2018. The total amount due is £17,450 excl VAT. This covers the engineer costs, a ground bore survey of the groyne and an independent site survey.

The engineer has agreed to defer part of his supervision cost of £1750, for the time being, leaving £15,700 to pay now. The Harbour company has agreed to provide £2,970, and we have the balance of funds available from two very generous individual donations plus a small loan.

Can you help please? We need to find the balance of £5,000 to cover this cost and we are hoping very much that members of BHUG, collectively, will be able to pay off this amount. We would be most grateful if as many of you as possible will be as

generous as possible. As a guide for those who can support this appeal we are thinking of say between £100 and £250, but of course any amount will be gratefully received! If it would be easier for you to pay this with your £10 subscription then please do so but let us know so that you are correctly recorded.

If you can help, please make a donation directly to our Bemgroyne Limited account at Barclays, sort code 20-79-31, account 80141372 and please leave your name as reference. If this method is not convenient then a cheque payable to Bemgroyne Limited will be fine. Please sent it to Michael MacInnes, c/o Bembridge Sailing Club. Embankment Road, PO35 5NR. All donations will be acknowledged.

Many thanks for your support over this important project.

Best wishes

Michael Toulmin, Chairman;

Robin Powell, President;

Michael MacInnes, Chairman of the Groyne sub committee