

TWIN SAILS BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Use of Channel:

Qu Will the channel be closed at any time due to the construction works?

A *Temporary short term closures of the Back water Channel will be necessary to ensure maritime safety during critical construction operations. Closures will be kept to a minimum and each closure should not be for longer than 24 hours. All closures will be advertised at least 14 days prior to the planned closure.*

Qu Will there be any obstructions in the water?

A *Coffer dams will be installed to allow the construction of the new bridge piers. All obstructions will be clearly marked to meet the requirements of Poole Harbour Commissioners.*

Qu Will the navigation channel change at any time during the construction? When and how will it be marked?

A *The navigation channel will be moved to the middle of Back Water Channel next year to align with the central opening span of the Twin Sails Bridge. The channel will be marked in the same way as the existing channel with marker buoys.*

Qu Will there be any restriction on boat movements? If so, how will this be controlled and will it be coordinated with the Town Bridge? Who will oversee this and from where?

A *There will be no restriction on boat movements this year. After Easter 2011 the navigation channel will be reduced to a width of 19m for a shore length through the bridge construction site (this will be like passing through Poole Bridge). Navigation through this restriction will be managed with the use of navigation signals that will be coordinated with the operation of Poole Bridge. The operation of the bridge and navigation signals will be from the new Hamworthy quayside control facility. These operating arrangements will be approved by the Harbour Master before implementation.*

Navigation Signals:

Qu I have heard that new lights are to be fitted to the bridge. Will they be similar to the old ones?

A *The navigation signals on the existing bridge do not comply with current regulations. The Council are in the process of replacing the existing signals which consist of red and green lamps only, with new compliant signals consisting of four sets of three red, three green and one yellow lamp. Twin Sails Bridge will be equipped with a similar system which is also widely used*

on marinas and docks throughout Europe. A leaflet to explain the new system is being prepared and will be issued to mariners during the summer.

Bridge Lifts:

Qu Will the construction works affect the lifting of Poole Bridge?

A *The current schedule of bridge lifts will continue for as long as possible. There will be no changes this year but a new schedule incorporating the lifting times for both bridges will be developed by the Bridges Operating Board over the next 12 months.*

Qu When will the new bridge open and where can I find updates on the programme?

A *The programme of bridge lifts will be developed by the Bridges Operating Board for approval by the Council prior to advertising.*

Qu Will the new bridge work on the same opening timings as the old one?

A *A schedule of timings for the operation of the two bridge system is likely to involve changing the lifting times for Poole Bridge. The schedule will be developed to minimise disruption to mariners and offer as many opportunities as possible for vessels to pass between Holes Bay and the Little Channel.*

Programme:

Qu When will the works start and finish?

A *The contractor is on site now and works in the channel will commence in July this year. The bridge is scheduled for completion during the winter of 2011/2012.*

Operation of the Two Bridge System:

Qu Where will the new bridge be operated from?

A *A new control facility will be established on the Hamworthy side of Back Water Channel mid-way between the two bridges. During normal operation all lifts for both bridges during the summer months will be undertaken from this control point. At other times the operation of the bridges will be transferred to the Civic Centre.*

Qu Will there be anywhere to tie up between the bridges whilst waiting in the basin?

A *Although it is envisaged that the majority of vessels will not have difficulty "holding station" in the basin, as they do now when waiting for a bridge lift, there will be 15 berths for use when vessels are held in the basin.*

Qu What happens if there are more boats than can safely be accommodated within the holding basin? Will they open both bridges together?

A *Records from the past few years indicate that it is unlikely that the number of vessels will exceed the basin capacity. To further reduce this possibility there will be more lifts than at present to give mariners a greater choice of times to leave/ return to their berths. Only in very exceptional cases, if the Harbour Master considers it necessary on the grounds of maritime safety, will both bridges be lifted at the same time.*

Other Issues:

Qu I hear that the new bridge will be the same height as the old one but is this height taken from the underside of the beam that goes across the bridge or is it taken from between the beams?

A *The two bridges will be of similar height (Twin Sails will be marginally higher). The height shown on the electronic indicators next to Poole Bridge is the minimum clearance available, i.e. measured to the lowest part of the bridge over the navigation channel. Twin Sails will also be provided with electronic height clearance signs on both the upstream and downstream approaches.*

Further Information:

Qu Will up to date information be available at my marina? – Where else?

A *Information will be made available as widely as possible including:*

- *Letters or leaflets to local marinas and associations*
- *Advertisements in the local press*
- *The Council's web site – boroughofpoole.com*
- *"Notices to Mariners" issued by PHC*