



# PORTS & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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Endeavour at Sunset by Alison Leddy, winner of the Port of Blyth's Annual Community Photography Competition 2018

COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH  
CASE STUDY  
REPORT

**British  
Ports  
Association**

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# INTRODUCTION



As an island nation, ports are pivotal to the prosperity and success of the nation. The UK port industry facilitates 95% of UK trade, generating over £29bn in turnover and contributing £9.7bn in Gross Value Added to the UK economy.

The British Ports Association (BPA) represents over 100 port members. Our members own and operate over 350 ports, port facilities and terminals of all sizes across the UK, and their activities range from large cargo handling ports and terminal operators to small leisure ports. Ports can vary widely in terms of their ownership model and how they are operated and are usually either privately owned, municipal or a trust port. Trust ports in particular are a unique ownership model. Operating in a commercially viable manner, profits are reinvested back into the port for the development of its own business activities and for the benefit of the stakeholders. Such stakeholders include port users, employees, the local community and other groups with an interest in the port.

With the ports sector directly employing over 115,000 people, there can be little doubt of the benefit ports can bring in terms of employment and their contribution to the local and regional economy. However, there appears to be a common perception that the positive impact ports have on communities stops here. The BPA wants to challenge this notion and highlight how ports can lift their communities over and above just providing employment and acting as an economic enabler.

We have therefore compiled some examples of the many community and stakeholder initiatives occurring across UK ports, with the motivation of highlighting that not only do ports act as national hubs and drive regional growth, they also strive to give back and support their local communities.

After calling for contributions, we have brought attention to the work of 17 ports below to encourage the sharing of ideas within the sector and to offer examples to those outside of the ports industry of the successful community and stakeholder initiatives that are being undertaken.



# ABERDEEN HARBOUR



Located in the heart of the city, the trust port Aberdeen Harbour is major hub for the energy industry.

Aberdeen Harbour offers financial support to community groups and local charities who have a direct and measurable impact on the community. They support 22 local charities and organisations, with total funding amounting to approximately £120,000 each year, with an estimated 20,000 people in Aberdeenshire benefiting from this sponsorship in some way. For example, the Harbour supports the Balnagask Community Centre, a group that combats social isolation for older people living in Torry. Aberdeen Harbour aid the centre by covering transport costs for a weekly ‘Music and Movement’ class.

The Harbour also runs an annual photography competition for students at North East Scotland College, which successfully drives engagement from young people within the community and showcases not only the talent of the students, but the beautiful surroundings of the Harbour in the process.

Recently the port has begun work on a major expansion project to build a new southern harbour, making Aberdeen Scotland’s largest port. As part of the South Harbour Expansion Project, £1.9 million has been set aside for the benefit of local stakeholders. This investment has been assigned to projects overseen and funded by the port that will benefit the entire community and maximise opportunities for locals to enjoy the coastal environment. Examples to date include the

establishment of a coastal road cycle path, viewing areas and outdoor classrooms, as well as coastal path landscaping.



# BELFAST HARBOUR



Belfast Harbour is a major port that engages with a range of maritime trades, acting as a key gateway for trade, services and tourism for this region.

The trust port plays a vital economic role in the city and has a range of initiatives that are designed to benefit the whole community, taking consideration of young people, the environment and creative culture.



In addition, Belfast Harbour has collaborated with Disability Sport NI to hold several recreational events for people with disabilities and their family and friends. The events involved walking, pushing and cycling and were planned to ensure accessible routes, including around the Belfast Harbour Office and the Lagan Weir Footbridge.

One example of their many projects is their partnership with STEM Aware and City Quays Hotel contractor Gilbert-Ash to educate pupils on the potential routes they could take towards a future in the construction industry in Belfast. The initiative offers several Belfast schools the opportunity to design and build their version of the new AC Marriott Hotel at City Quays using sandbox virtual world game Minecraft. Workshops are delivered to students, culminating in a showcase of their work at an event in at the port's head office.



Furthermore, the port has previously been the primary corporate sponsor for Culture Night Belfast, an annual festival celebrating the diversity of culture in Belfast with over 100,000 people in the City's Cathedral Quarter. The port also supported the event's extension from Belfast's Cathedral Quarter to the Harbour's landmark City Quays area.

# PORT OF BLYTH



The Port of Blyth is one of the UK's major energy ports and provides a hub for companies servicing the offshore industries including the renewables sector. To reach out to their community, the trust port implemented a two-phase development upon the quayside.

In collaboration with a number of local groups, phase one of the Blyth Education and Community Hub (BEACH) saw the development of the Blyth Boathouse building. This building is home to the port Heritage Centre, a permanent home for artefacts that engage the community with the port of Blyth's rich history. The building is also home to the Blyth Tall Ship Project and Newcastle University's Blyth Marine Station.



Phase two of the BEACH, the port Training Centre, encompasses the Port of Blyth's values of education and training for their local area. The centre will prepare the port workers of the future, both at the Port of Blyth and elsewhere, with state-of-the-art training facilities and will allow Port Training Services to expand its offering of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's) and plant training, as well as apprenticeships.

The Port has also launched the Blyth STEM Hub, a major initiative based in the Port Training Centre, set up to engage young people with the local career opportunities in the offshore energy sector. 1,000 young people were welcomed through its doors in 2018; a number the Port is on course to double in the coming year.



The port also continues to support health and sports initiatives; acting as a major sponsor for local football team Blyth Spartans FC. The port is also the title sponsor of Blyth Running Club's Port of Blyth 10k Road Race and their Junior section's Winter Sports Hall Series, with more than 300 young people taking part in weekly athletics activities to keep active and fit. Finally, the port also runs an annual community photography competition celebrating the surroundings of the Port; won by Alison Leddy in 2018, whose winning entry is shown above.



# CATTEWATER HARBOUR



Cattewater Harbour Commissioners are a trust port that located in Plymouth, the largest city on the southwest peninsular. As one of the three statutory harbours that operate within the Dockyard Port, Cattewater Harbour Commissioners are responsible for navigation and conservancy for the Cattewater Harbour, and are the civil pilotage authority for the Port of Plymouth.



At the Harbour, regular outreach with young people within the community and city of Plymouth has been established via a work experience placement programme. Year-round, 15-16-year olds from local schools in the city are invited to participate in the programme, which provides valuable insight into the general duties of the Harbour and allows them to accompany the port's staff on visits to ships, pilot boats and meetings with shipbrokers.

Cattewater also regularly make charitable donations to support local organisations. This has included assisting the Plymouth and Devon Schools Sailing Association with the purchase of new protective clothing, lifejackets and navigational and safety equipment.

Furthermore, Cattewater Harbour have been pivotal in facilitating plans for the Plymouth 2020 commemorating the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the 'Mayflower' ship for the New World in 1620. The anniversary will encourage a wide range of visitors including cruise passengers to come to the area for the event and will no doubt benefit the entire community, through the celebration and education of Plymouth's rich history and by drawing thoroughfare into local businesses.



# CORNWALL COUNCIL



Cornwall Council owns and operates thirteen ports, harbours and marine assets in Cornwall. The local authority's maritime team have recently established a scheme to ensure the greater protection of local fishermen and the industry. Fishing is recognised as one of the most dangerous professions in the UK and Cornish fishermen can now apply for essential life jackets that have locator beacons to aid their rescue in emergencies.

It is hoped that this alongside training as delivered by Seafood Cornwall Training, will dramatically reduce the high rate of fatalities in the regional fishing industry.



The scheme was originally proposed as Councillors were keen to support local fishermen who might be likely to struggle to purchase modern and potentially lifesaving pieces of equipment. The scheme, delivered in collaboration with maritime charity Seafarers UK and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is now in its second wave and has provided 250 lifejackets, costing approximately £150k. The cost of each lifejacket is £360, but those who are eligible will only have to pay £30.



# PORT OF CROMARTY FIRTH



The Port of Cromarty Firth is located in an arm of the Moray Firth in Scotland. They undertake a wide variety of activities; from supporting the offshore energy industry, to hosting approximately 180,000 cruise passengers each year.



Through their community engagement initiatives, the trust port builds rapport with school children, local businesses and ex-offenders. Through the Community Sponsorship Programme, which has been running for several years, sponsorship has been awarded to a wide range of community projects and clubs. The port sets aside 1% of their surplus for the programme, providing immeasurable benefit to the local area and encouraging inter-community collaboration. To receive funding, initiatives must fulfil one of four qualifying criteria; Skills Development, Employability or Job Creation, Vessel Crew or Passenger Support, Environmental Protection or Enhancement. These conditions have

ensured that the funding has been awarded to groups that will bring the most benefit to local people.

In addition to the Sponsorship Programme, the Port of Cromarty Firth also teams up with local schools each year to join the Marine Conservation Society's Great Big British Beach Clean. Staff from the port have worked alongside over 200 pupils to clean up an area around the Firth. Further to this, Cromarty Firth has also established educational workshops to inform local people of jobs available within the maritime sector and have established mentoring schemes for unemployed individuals and ex-offenders.

Finally, the Port of Cromarty Firth hosts more cruise passengers than any other Scottish port and are estimated to boost the Highland economy by around £18 million through this activity. To ensure this brings benefit to all within the community, the port has arranged highly popular workshops for local tourism businesses, so they can maximise their trade.



# PORT OF DOVER



As the shortest crossing point between Britain and mainland Europe, the Port of Dover is Europe's busiest ferry port and is the second busiest cruise port in England. This trust port sees 120 ferries a day and facilitates £122 billion in trade each year.

The port has an established Community Fund, administered on their behalf by the Kent Community Foundation. The fund has reached out to over 50 organisations since its establishment and has awarded £536,203 in grants to enhance the social, cultural and environmental life of local communities.

The port also drives engagement with the local community through the Dover Marina Open Day. Attendees of the event include the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI), Sea Cadets and Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club to inspire people to get involved with sailing. Further to this, the port has organised beach cleans, with upwards of 170 attendees working together to remove rubbish washed ashore. Visitors are also taught about the detrimental impact litter has on the marine environment and how they can prevent it.

Additionally, as part of the Dover Western Docks Revival, a project that has transformed the waterfront with a new marina pier and an area to attract a host of shops, bars cafes and restaurants, the port has reached out into local schools. Twenty-two schools have been approached to design a community art project, on the theme of 'what they love about Dover, how they value where they live and what is important to them about their hometown'. Jack Cant, a local graphic designer works with the students, and chosen entries have been transformed onto a hoarding. This successful project meant that the Dover Western Docks Revival received second place in the National Considerate Constructors Scheme.



# FOYLE PORT



Foyle Port is the key maritime gateway for the North West of Ireland for both commerce and tourism, handling two million tonnes of cargo each year, and supporting approximately 1,000 jobs in the local region.

Foyle Port is a trust port and careful consideration is given to how they can benefit their stakeholders, both current and future generations. Their values of community outreach are based upon the key principles of people, partners, planet and place.

The port has provided sponsorship for over three events in the city in recent years, including both the City of Culture and Clipper Festivals, of which donations were in excess of £250k. Furthermore, the port value their ongoing involvement with schools; and continue to offer student placements to promote and raise awareness of careers in the industry among young people, as well as helping them to gain valuable work experience to help them make career decisions.

Foyle Port also provides support to multiple charities and organisation who make a positive difference to the local community. Just some of these include; Sailability, Women's Aid, Rotary International, the Foyle Maritime Festival and the Enagh Youth Forum.



# HARWICH HAVEN



As a conservancy and pilotage authority, Harwich Haven provides services for shipping using the commercial ports of Felixstowe, Ipswich, Harwich International, Harwich Navyard and Mistley, with 40% of Britain's container traffic travelling through the area. The Authority is a trust port also provides boarding and landing services for the river Thames, Medway, Blackwater, Colne and Crouch.



Harwich Haven Authority recently launched the 'Turn the Tide on Plastics' campaign in time for World Environment Day on 5th June. The port engaged with 20 local schools and the town Mayor to organise a beach clean-up event, which was attended by 250 people. Students were given branded caps and badges to bolster the visibility of the campaign and engagement with the Port. As a result of this event, the port has also supported other plastic clean up initiatives across Harwich and Dovercourt.



Further to this, Harwich Haven Authority has also been involved with a campaign led by the local authority to improve sea safety across the Tendring coastline. As part of their sea safety message, the Authority will join with the RNLI and other agencies to go into local schools to speak to children about the dangers of the sea. The port has also been working with Swim England to ensure that more than 500 children from across the local community can take part in a summer activity called Swim Safety on their local beach. They also continued their focus on young people when acting as headline sponsors of the Tendring Youth Awards in July 2019.



# PORT OF LONDON



The Port of London Authority (PLA) oversee 95 miles of the River Thames and are the second largest port in the UK. As a trust port they work to ensure navigational safety along the tidal Thames, sharing their marine, environmental, planning and other expertise to promote use of the river and safeguard the unique marine environment.

To engage with the London community, PLA have adopted the 'Thames Vision' project, a wide programme of initiatives which encourages input and involvement from all stakeholders so that may benefit from the River Thames. This includes working with the Greater London Authority on the development of a cultural strategy for the Thames. They have also announced a four-year programme of support for the Thames Festival Trust, in which they will aid the delivery of 'Totally Thames', an annual season of diverse and accessible arts and culture which celebrates the River Thames, throughout September.

The Port of London Authority have also worked with Thames21 since the charity began work in 1994. The environmental charity organises volunteers to clean up the shores of the Thames and helping to create new habitats for wildlife. PLA provide baskets and cages which volunteers fill with litter from the foreshore, which they subsequently take away and oversee appropriate recycling or disposal of the rubbish.

PLA also assist educational outreach in East London through support for the Thames Explorer Trust, enabling them to extend

education activity delivery over a wider area (Greenwich to Gravesend). The port has also launched a small grants fund, in which they will support seven organisations, to encourage sports participation on the Thames. The ambition for the fund is to empower more people to get involved in activities such as canoeing, paddle boarding, rowing and sailing on the Thames. They have already funded projects to support increased paddling at Canvey Island and fixed seat rowing in Deptford.



# PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN

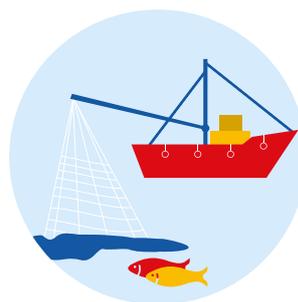


The Port of Milford Haven is a trust port and is located on the South coast of Wales and handles over 30 million tonnes of cargo annually. The Port's wide expertise lies in expert solutions in marine operations, cargo handling, shipping layover, marine renewables, freight and passenger ferry services, fisheries, commercial property management, leisure and retail.

Further to their formal stakeholder meetings, the Port of Milford Haven ensures their community remains up to date with their activity with their biannual community newsletter, OnBoard, to the 30,000 homes and businesses along the Milford Haven Waterway.

The port also began an annual Scholarship Scheme in 2003 and have since supported over 60 young people. The scholarship involves awarding several pupils each year a three-week work placement at the port, alongside £1,500 to support their studies, and is a brilliant example of how ports who value their role as facilitators of education can create opportunities at the port to support local young people.

Furthermore, the Port of Milford Haven has acted to ensure safety within the local area, partnering with Milford Youth Matters, Dyfed-Powys Police and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for the WAVE campaign; a collaborative project to teach local young people about the dangers of tombstoning (jumping into the sea from height) and educate them on how to enjoy the water safely. After the campaign, 96% of students said they would tell others about the dangers of tombstoning and 100% said they had a better understanding of the dangers. After winning an award from the Arts and Business Cymru for the anti-tombstoning play, 'Would you Jump?', the port further developed the initiative to include pupils from years 7 and 8, who collaborated with a professional writer and director to create their own storylines as a sequel to the original play.



# PD PORTS



PD Ports is one of the UK's major port groups and is privately owned. Based in Middlesbrough, they operate at 13 locations across the country.

PD Ports are one of two founding members of a local charity, High Tide Foundation. The charity's main aim is to ensure valuable time and resources are allocated to the benefit of young people living in the Tees Valley. High Tide offers life changing, industry led career experiences to students in the area, altering the perception that they need to leave the area to be successful. The charity is working with 85% of secondary schools in the Tees Valley with plans to expand the programme even further. So far, the Foundation has worked with over 5,900 young people across Teesside and has spent over 20,000 hours working with educators to implement the programme. The High Tide Foundation was recognised for the positive impact on local young people by HRH The Prince of Wales on a visit to Teesport, as he observed the "remarkable opportunities it offers to young people in Teesside and the support it offers to help them find the career opportunities they deserve."

Further to this, PD Ports wish to target the misconceptions about the variety of roles available within the maritime and logistics industry. They have, therefore, been integral to the establishment of a Logistics Academy at Stockton Riverside College, instigated in conjunction with Think Logistics, a part of the national Career Ready Charity. Since the academy began, PD Ports has offered three graduates direct employment following successful completion of the programme. They also support the Logistics Academy by offering representatives to act as mentors to the young people on the programme on a one-to-one basis and delivering in-class talks to hundreds of students about careers in logistics ranging from operational roles to support functions. PD Ports also offers internships and apprenticeships to the academy's students.



# SHOREHAM PORT



Shoreham Port is one of the largest cargo handling trust ports on the South Coast. They work to supply the South East with imported materials, as well as offering a wide range of marine services, such as hydrography and levelling, dry docking and crew changes as well as catering for Leisure and fishing users. In addition, the port has an extensive Commercial Property Portfolio to let.



The port has a well-established Community and Stakeholder Requests Group which meets once a month to discuss donation requests, choosing to support a variety of projects based on specified criteria. Their criteria prioritise locality, areas of deprivation, youth impact, and maritime projects. Recently, Shoreham Port made a substantial donation of £20,000 to The Gateway Centre, a school provision that aims to support the most vulnerable young people aged 10-16 within the local areas of Shoreham, Southwick and Fishersgate.

Shoreham Port's boat trips are also highly popular within the community, with a couple of thousand people coming through the port each July to take a behind-the-scenes look at an active commercial port located on their doorstep. Each boat trip includes live commentary from a member of the

Shoreham Port team who shares their wide breadth of knowledge about the port and its rich history, with staff from a variety of departments taking part, offering a range of perspectives. The event is free and open to all members of the Port's wide-ranging local community including schools, history clubs and business groups, who are also treated to complimentary drinks and ice-cream.



Recently Shoreham Port has worked with Concordia International Volunteers, a charity which offers affordable volunteering opportunities all over the world, and a community artist in the Port's Visitor Centre. The project was carried out in conjunction with Sussex Community Rail Partnership, where Young volunteers created a range of printed tiles through a series of workshops to decorate the Southwick railway station underpass.

# TOBERMORY HARBOUR



Tobermory is located on the Isle of Mull, on the Scottish Inner Hebrides, and acts as a stepping-stone to other Islands and remote rural communities up and down the Scottish West Coast. The Harbour accommodates marine leisure activity, fishing and often cruise vessels.

Tobermory Harbour Association occupy a unique position with regards to community engagement, as their local Harbour Empowerment Order allows them to manage the facilities on behalf of residents and businesses on Mull. The Harbour Association is a community-owned hub port. They own, manage and maintain the facilities within the Harbour, becoming a Statutory Harbour Authority in June 2017, they continue to act as a community not-for-profit organisation.

With the ultimate objective of preserving the integrity of the Bay for the benefit of all stakeholders and the general public, they have embarked on a long-term programme to build, purchase, lease, and acquire by donation assets to provide 'Facilities for All'. They are dedicated to ensuring an enduring sense of community, encouraging visitors and investing in future facilities to benefit the Harbour membership, by promoting well-being and local prosperity.



# PORT OF TYNE



Based near Newcastle on the River Tyne in North East England, the Port of Tyne is a deep-sea trust port, handling a wide diversity of cargoes; from cars to containers and bulk goods to renewable energy and offshore, as well as thousands of cruise and ferry passengers.



Since its establishment in 2007, the Port of Tyne Community Action Fund has donated almost £500k in grants to those in need within their local community, contributing to over 170 organisations.

One example is their donation of £1,000 for locally based charity Anxious Minds. The volunteer-led charity provides in-house and online support for people with mental health conditions. Further to this, the Port of Tyne have recently announced that they have partnered with the Greggs Foundation to establish Breakfast Clubs in two schools, one South and one North of the River Tyne. 150 pupils from Silverdale Primary in Wallsend and Marine Park Primary in South Shields will benefit from the scheme, which will provide them with the best possible start to

the school day; with a nutritious breakfast, socialising with peers and engaging in a range of activities.

The Port of Tyne is covering start-up costs associated with the scheme, as well as providing funding that ensures that both schools will be able to run the Breakfast Clubs for two years; including the delivery of fresh bread from their nearest Greggs shop, as well as cereals, milk, spreads, fruit and yoghurt.

Based on the previous work of the Greggs Foundation, the scheme is expected to have a positive impact on parents with low incomes and/or work and college commitments. Teachers also typically see improvements in pupils' performance when they attend a Breakfast Club.



# ULLAPOOL HARBOUR



Ullapool Harbour Trust located in the Scottish Highlands. The Harbour welcomes Commercial fishermen, ferry passengers, cruise visitors, yachtsmen and sailors, as well as many tourists each year.



The Trust allocates up to 2% of gross profit to stakeholder initiatives annually. The ethos of the award scheme is to fund local organisations and youth projects with an emphasis on community enhancement.

As part of this endeavour, recently made a significant step forward for the accessibility and inclusivity of the village of Ullapool when they approached the Highland Council to lease the derelict ground floor of the village public toilet buildings. After the facilities had been brought to the attention of the harbour by the community, plans were made to install a Changing Place and Fully Accessible Toilet and a Community Workshop. The space is specifically designed for people with learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis who may require extra equipment and space

to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably.

Assisted by a Transport Scotland accessibility grant covering 50% of the cost, Ullapool Harbour Trust and the wider community were involved with the design of the space. The space is free to use 24/7, and accessed by a radar key system, with all running costs met by the harbour. The Community Workshop now serves as a meeting place for the Ullapool Men's Shed Group, Dolphin Dementia Artists and a young writers club. The workshop is spacious, bright and well equipped and is fully funded by the harbour.



# WARRENPOINT PORT



Warrenpoint Port handles approximately 3.6 million tonnes of cargo annually and is the second largest port in Northern Ireland. Warrenpoint Port, a trust port, was recently named 'Best Business in the Community' by the Greater Newry Area Business Awards, recognised for their wide range of initiatives including the Warrenpoint Port Community Fund, school's engagement programme and support for local charity and arts organisations.



In their role as conservators of the local marine environment, Warrenpoint Port staff recently organised a clean-up of the town's beaches and coastline, joined by their customers and family and friends to support. The port is also signed up to the Fishing for Litter Campaign. Fishermen frequently catch litter in their nets, so each boat is provided with a reusable waste bag to store this litter until they return to the Port. Once landed, a member of the operations team will collect it; waste is recycled where possible and the rest is disposed of responsibly using local specialists. Warrenpoint Port recognises that by ensuring cleaner seas, there will be a positive impact on the quality of life; as local sea life will be able to thrive, beaches will be a nicer place for locals to visit and use, and fisherman will experience less damage to their nets.



The award comes after the Port's recent announcement of the establishment of The Warrenpoint Port Community Fund. The first project to receive assistance from the Fund is the instalment of new drinking stations at a Newry school. The project, which provided bottle filling docks at Our Lady's Grammar School in Warrenpoint, will enable students to access drinking water and reduce the use of plastics within the school.

In further support of their local community, Warrenpoint Port also has a designated area for Carlingford Lough Sailability (CLS). The CLS is a charity committed to supporting children and young adults with special needs; through ensuring sailing is an accessible activity to these individuals and their families.



# PORT CONTACT DETAILS



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