

Tobermory fisherman's Pier needs help. The end of the pier is suffering natural erosion and damage and it is now dangerous to tie alongside the pier due to the precarious state of the wooden piles. As well as the replacement of these piles, a structural engineer's report indicates there is subsidence at the end of the pier and one corner needs to be rebuilt.

Current and future generations of fishermen (or women) looking to fish from Tobermory will benefit from these infrastructural improvements and this in turn will boost economic activity around the pier. The pier was designed and built by civil engineer Thomas Telford and is a grade 2 listed building. It stands at the heart of the town and is a hub for the community and visitors alike.

Letting it fall into total dereliction must not be an option.

Tobermory Fisherman's Pier Association (TFPA) intends to renovate and improve the historic pier for the use of fishermen and other commercial users. A structural engineer's report was commissioned by TFPA which identifies the work needed to preserve the pier as a space that can continue to be used and enjoyed by locals and visitor alike.

We want to use this report as a catalyst to rebuild the southwest corner of the pier and replace the precarious wooden pilings and rusting metalwork. The fishermen desperately need a landing derrick to help land their catch – this would allow the pier to be used for landings in all but the very lowest of tides.

We want to open the pier to other commercial users as well as facilitate the continued use of the pier for the enjoyment of locals and visitors. Tourists love to dawdle on the pier with their fish and chip, while the pier and adjoining clock tower stand at the heart of many of Tobermory's gatherings and celebrations such as Hogmanay. These improvements will allow us to do all this.

We also want to ensure that the pier remains a viable resource with respect to the changing climate. The pier is on the front line due to the threat of increasingly higher tides. The structural report includes a practical solution to reduce the risk of flooding from this threat.

While the pier is a vital economic resource for the fishermen of North Mull, it is also an essential & integral part of Tobermory's built heritage. It has stood for over 200 years as a testament to Thomas Telford's ingenuity and we hope to preserve the pier for the next 200 years and beyond. Without intervention soon the condition of the pier will continue to deteriorate leading to the structure becoming dangerous to use or access and become a liability rather than an asset to the town. A structure iconic to Tobermory would be lost, the high street wouldn't be the same and the charm & bustle of the pier would disappear for good.

Without the pier the fishermen will need to look for alternative space to store and repair gear, increasing operational costs and be prohibitive to new entrants to the sector. They would have to use moorings or the pontoons which are not as secure

or safe and are also more costly. They would have to use alternative means to land their catch which would be even more inconvenient and therefore regressive.

We have the support of the local community and have secured backing from Mull Community Council, Tobermory Harbour Association and Mull and Iona Community Trust:

"I am writing on behalf of the Island's Community Council to express the Council's strongest support for applications by the Tobermory Fisherman's Pier Association for funding to enable them to repair the Fisherman's Pier at Tobermory...the pier and the adjacent high street (with its well-known multicolour buildings) form a well-known regional attraction, that both draws visitors to the island and enhances the life of residents.

We highly value the work of the TFPA and trust that you will be able to assist them in their aim of repairing and restoring the pier." Rupert Ormond, Secretary, Isle of Mull Community Council

"On behalf the Board I wholeheartedly support the Tobermory Fisherman's Pier Association and its efforts to raise funds for the renovation and preservation of the Pier.

The work of the Trustees of Tobermory Fisherman's Pier Association aligns well with our own published strategy across a number of themes including provision of year round employment and preservation of our cultural and built heritage." Moray Finch, General manager, Mull and Iona Community Trust

"I express the wholehearted support of the Tobermory Harbour Association for the Tobermory Fisherman's Pier Association application for funding to support the renovation of the town's historic fishermen's pier. The Pier...holds immense historical, cultural and economic significance. As one of the few surviving Telford designed piers, the Fisherman's Pier is an important landmark that plays a vital role in the local fishing industry, as a facility where fishermen moor and maintain their vessels, repair their gear and unload their catch. It is also an essential defensive structure in the bay, protecting the shoreline from erosion whilst sheltering the inner area of the harbour and providing a safe mooring for the fishing boats during severe weather. John MacDonald, Chair, Tobermory Harbour Association

The proposed improvements to the pier will provide a fit for purpose structure that will enable the fishing industry, and other commercial users, to have confidence in the long-term viability of their businesses and provide the opportunity to support new entrants to the sector. Securing the long-term future of the pier will enable it to

remain at the heart of the community for centuries to come, bringing economic benefit to the town as a platform for the fishermen and also as part of what draws visitors to Tobermory. It will continue to be a much loved hub for community celebrations and a valued civic space for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The project will start in March 2026 and run for 7 months.