



## **Come and welcome the arrival of a new era**

On Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June the people of Devon are invited to witness the final leg of the new Dartmouth to Kingswear Higher Ferry's epic journey, which will see the Ferry arrive up the River Dart. The new Higher Ferry, which will be accompanied by an official Naval escort, should be arriving in Dartmouth at approx 9.00 am – weather permitting.

In 2007 super yacht builders Pendennis, of Falmouth in Cornwall was awarded the contract to build the new Dartmouth Higher Ferry. The hull was constructed in Holland and towed to Cornwall in December 2008. From that point, Pendennis has been working to complete the vessel in Falmouth and it is due to depart on the final 19 hour leg of its journey on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm.

Tony Tucker from Dartmouth Higher Ferry comments: "It has been an exciting journey from the initial planning stages until today, and now we hope as many people as possible are able to enjoy the final part on that journey with us on the 15<sup>th</sup> June."

The new Higher Ferry will be able to carry 32 cars across the River Dart in around three minutes - the current ferry takes 18 cars and chugs across the River in a whisker under five minutes. The result will be reduced waiting times and a quicker crossing, which will be especially beneficial in peak season. Also an improved traffic management system on the Dartmouth side of the river and on-board traffic lights spanning the car deck should ensure even better turnaround times.

Tony continues: "The new Higher Ferry's engines are also exceptionally quiet and fuel-efficient which means vast reductions in the level of carbon emissions, as well as a reduction in the wash created. The new ferry will arrive on the 15<sup>th</sup> June and then the work of getting it ready for action on the Dart begins. We will have a team of expert engineers along with our own Ferry men working very hard to ensure we have the new Higher Ferry in full service as soon as possible!"

The new Higher Ferry's propulsion will be provided by a pair of hydraulically driven 'bull wheels' on each side of the vessel, which pull the ferry along two steel wires anchored to each side of the river. We spent time with the pioneers of 'bull wheel' technology who coincidentally were based in Dartmouth, Canada, to learn how to adapt it for our own River Dart last year. Our system is based on theirs, however in Canada they operate with a single bull wheel whilst ours operates with two, meaning our Higher Ferry is in fact one of a kind in the world."

*For further press information and images please contact James Frapwell at Positive PR on telephone: 01935 389497 or email: [james@positivepr.co.uk](mailto:james@positivepr.co.uk)*

**(003) June 2009**

**Background information:** The Higher Ferry operates between Dartmouth and Kingswear (at the northern end of the embankment adjacent to the popular Floating Bridge Inn and the renowned Dart Marina Hotel). The crossing forms part of the A379 between Torbay and Plymouth. The Ferry's hull was manufactured at the Dutch Ravestein yard on the bank of the River Waal. It was then delivered to Falmouth in 2008 for fitting-out and engine installation by superyacht builder Pendennis. The project has cost around £5m and has taken around two years to complete. The new Higher Ferry can now carry vehicles with a maximum weight of 16 tonnes, as opposed to the current restriction of only 7.5 tonnes.