

# Meeting – Council, Cam Conservators & Camboaters 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Agenda items 1 and 2 – mooring licence scheme budget, and priorities for expenditure

## Summary

The business plan for the mooring licence scheme currently allocates £11140 to refuse collection in 2007-2008, and £8240 to the River Bailiff fee. Camboaters believes these figures are too high, and suggests that figures of £2166 for refuse collection and £1300 for the River Bailiff fee are reasonable amounts.

Camboaters recommends that the £15914 saved by reducing spending on these budget items be spent on the following areas:

- Recycling facilities
- Postal facilities
- Improvements to the river bank.

## Rationale

### ***Waste Collection costs***

The Council's target cost for waste collection per person in 2007-2008 is £22.56 per person (£54.25 per household according to the Council's waste management plan [http://bvpp.cambridge.gov.uk/service\\_plans/pdfs/wastemanagement.pdf](http://bvpp.cambridge.gov.uk/service_plans/pdfs/wastemanagement.pdf), and assuming the national average of 2.4 persons per household).

Refuse collections for residential boaters are very basic. We do not have access to composting or recycling collections. We use a small number of communal bins. The bins are in any case heavily used by members of the general public, and so require frequent collections to be made irrespective of the presence of boaters. Very little additional expenditure should be necessary to collect boaters waste.

As we get a poorer waste collection service than households, we do not believe that the figures spent on refuse collection should be greater than £22.56 per person. There are 96 people living on boats under the mooring licence scheme, so we suggest that the figure allocated to refuse collection for this year should be £2166.

### ***River Bailiff fee***

Camboaters believe that the sums of money allocated to checking for unlicensed boats are excessive. There have not been significant problems with unlicensed boats in the first year of the scheme. We do not want records to be kept of licensed boats moored along the commons, and feel that a short weekly or fortnightly check for unlicensed boats should be sufficient to ensure that the mooring licence scheme is not abused. As this can be combined with existing checks on navigation licences, we estimate that no more than one hour a week should be necessary to keep a check on unlicensed boats. At a cost of £25 per hour, this amounts to £1300 per year.

## **Priorities for expenditure**

If figures of £2166 and £1300 are allocated to refuse collection and the River Bailiff fee annually, £15914 is saved to be spent on other services of benefit to boaters.

Camboaters recommends that the priorities for expenditure should be:

- **Improved recycling facilities.**

At present residential boaters have no collections for recycling or composting waste, unlike other city residents. We suggest that communal recycling and composting bins be provided at the Stourbridge Common end of Riverside Road, near the Fort St George pub on Midsummer Common, and near Jesus Green swimming pool.

- **Postal facilities**

The lack of a fixed address is one of the principal disadvantages of living on a boat. We suggest that money from the mooring licence scheme budget be used to build a set of post boxes for boaters use, or to fund a postal service to boats using a local cycle courier (see proposal from Outspoken Delivery).

- **Bank improvements**

The state of the river bank is poor along much of the river, and in places is unsafe. Repairs to the concrete are long overdue. The bank side along Jesus Green is also extremely steep, and would benefit from steps. Provision of mooring rings along the bank would make mooring safer and more secure.