



Meeting between Cambridge City Council (CCC), Conservators of the River Cam & Camboaters: 14th September 2007

Location: Guildhall Committee Room 2, 10am to 11am

Present: Alistair Wilson (AW), Julie Durrant (JD), Dr Pip Noon (PN), Adrian Hoyes (AH), Dr Andy Rankin (AR), Helen Wright (HW), Zoë Trent (ZT)

Apologies: Debbie Kaye

Appendix 1: Summary of Camboaters Refuse and Recycling Survey, 13th September 2007

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
<p>1 Mooring Questionnaire and Review</p>	<p>Proposed Questionnaire: A draft questionnaire was handed out. It is intended that this questionnaire will be given to stakeholders with an interest in the river. The questionnaire has been designed by Phil Back who is independent of the council.</p> <p>AW explained that the purpose of the questionnaire is to review the policy and pricing structure of the mooring scheme.</p> <p>AR said that Camboaters would like to see some questions about whether people think they are getting value for money for their mooring licence fee.</p> <p>AW said that the questionnaire was for all stakeholders and not just boaters, and so this would not be appropriate. He asked why Camboaters wanted this included.</p> <p>ZT said that it was important to find out about peoples priorities for expenditure of the mooring licence fee. AR said that this was related to value for money as currently many residential boaters believe that the money generated by the mooring licence is not well spent in all areas. In particular, too much is spent on rubbish collection.</p> <p>AW suggested that it may be appropriate to set aside a proportion of money for smaller scale projects. Camboaters could then have involvement in deciding how this was spent. AR, HW and ZT welcomed this idea.</p> <p>JD pointed out that at present, the budget is fully allocated, and that therefore there would only be enough money for such a fund if the current fee was increased.</p> <p>Camboaters emphasised that they want to keep the fee linked to Council Tax Band A, and pointed out that if savings were made in refuse collection costs and other services, then money would be available for such a fund.</p> <p>JD pointed out there were some issues of fairness and that some people on smaller boats may feel they should not pay the same as people on larger boats.</p> <p>AR said that the questionnaire should ask whether people want to keep the current pricing structure rather than asking whether they think it is fair, as Camboaters believe that most people will want to keep the fee linked to Council Tax Band A. He suggested</p>	

	<p>that the questionnaire should include a question asking respondents whether the average mooring fee should be kept at the current level, increased, or decreased.</p> <p>JD said that the council want to break the link to council tax band A.</p> <p>AW agreed that he would ask Phil Back to look at the point raised by Camboaters and suggested addition of a separate 'free text' box asking for peoples priorities for expenditure. He also said that the form would need a unique reference on to identify who had completed the surveys (and to prevent people filling surveys in twice) but that the council would not be passed this information. HW requested that there would be a note on the questionnaire informing people of this.</p> <p>AW said that Camboaters Committee members would be given a chance to see the revised draft before the survey was sent out. It is expected that this will happen around the end of the week ending 21/09/07.</p> <p>ZT asked when the date of the mooring review meeting would be. JD said she would send that information.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>JD</p>
<p>2 Improvements</p>	<p>JD summarised the ongoing improvements programme.</p> <p>River Banks: Chris Robertson has carried out a bank survey. The worst holes in the banks have been filled, and there is a rolling programme of on-going repairs.</p> <p>AR said that some of the holes that had been filled in had settled down and would benefit from more filling. JD will check that this is addressed.</p> <p>Stourbridge Waterpoint: This is happening. There are some complications with getting all of the many companies who have cables etc buried in Stourbridge Common to provide details of where their cables are - there may be a need for some hand-digging. The work should start at the end of next week and will probably take about two weeks.</p> <p>Jesus Green Pump-out: The work is all going ahead as planned. ZT requested that if there were any problems with the work being completed on time then people should be informed straight away and an alternative provided. JD said that they did not envisage any delays but that people would be informed.</p>	<p>JD</p>
<p>3 Rubbish collection (costs and services)</p>	<p>AR explained that Camboaters feel that the amount spent on refuse collection is too high. Camboaters had asked for details of the breakdown of the costs of the refuse collection on many occasions over the last few months, but the council has still not provided that information.</p> <p>AW said he felt this issue had been going on for too long. He suggested a meeting between Active Communities, Streetscene and Camboaters to try to resolve the situation. JD said she has been trying to arrange such a meeting for months but will keep trying to pin Street Scene down.</p> <p>Camboaters provided everyone with the results of the survey that they carried out on how much rubbish boaters produce (see appendix 1). The results show that most people do not use the</p>	

	<p>bags supplied by the council but instead use carrier bags. JD suggested it may be helpful for the council to supply smaller bags as they want people to use the bags to identify which waste is boaters waste and which is public waste. AR and ZT felt that most people would probably still use carrier bags.</p> <p>The results also show that most people re-cycle, and would probably recycle more if other facilities were available - e.g. to recycle plastics.</p> <p>AW said that if collection was achievable on the market at a cheaper rate then the council would not have a problem with changing the service provider. He suggested that it may be cheaper to have bulk collection once a week from fixed locations (two or three points). He said the Council would be willing to consider better recycling facilities. Camboaters welcomed the proposal.</p> <p>ACTION: A MEETING BETWEEN CAMBOATERS, CCC AND STREETSCENE TO BE ARRANGED</p>	CCC
4 AOB	<p>Bonfire Night: The river will be closed for navigation for an hour on bonfire night for safety reasons. ZT said she would advertise this in the Camboaters newsletter and JD said she would send ZT the exact time of the closure.</p> <p>Midsummer Fair: AW said that Midsummer Fair is up for review this year and suggested that if boaters wanted to make their feelings about it known then they should contact Ian Nimmo-Smith.</p> <p>Strawberry Fair: HW explained that despite some problems with Strawberry Fair boaters generally were not against Strawberry Fair. Unlike Midsummer Fair it is a local event for the community - many boaters know people involved with its organisation or are involved themselves.</p> <p>Accident and Incidents: PN said that the Conservators will have a new database in place soon (IRIS) which will improve the collation of information. She is also going to attend the novice coxes meeting to ensure new coxes are aware of navigation regulations and etiquette; residential boater Clive Brown is also going to this meeting. Camboaters will keep boaters informed of how they should report any incidents via the newsletter, and through links from the web site.</p> <p>Cam Conservators Meeting: PN said the next open meeting will take place at 9:30 this Thursday in the Guildhall, in Committee room one.</p>	JD/ZT