



Camboaters Community Association
Notes from meeting with Council and CamCon: 10am, 25th July 2008

Present: Debbie Kaye, Alistair Wilson, Teresa White, Pippa Noon, Adrian Hoyes, John Adams, Luther Phillips, Andy Rankin. Rebecca Waymouth (Council Recycling officer) attended for Agenda item 1.

Location: Robing room, Guildhall

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
1 Discussion on Recycling	<p>Rebecca Waymouth attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of implementing a recycling collection from boats.</p> <p>AR outlined what Camboaters would like to see: 1) facilities for recycling within easy reach of all boaters. 2) the facilities to include a place for disposing of compost.</p> <p>RW suggested that a possible solution would be to provide bags for recyclable waste for boaters. These could be left out on a designated day, at designated places at the commons, for collection.</p> <p>It was agreed that RW and TW should meet with camboaters representatives to walk along the river and look at options for implementing the scheme.</p> <p>AR and LP raised the problem of ash disposal. Ash cannot be disposed of in the bins, and some boaters have in the past disposed of it into the river.</p> <p>The recommended method for disposing of ash is to allow it to cool, bag it and place in the bins in the commons. A piece should be included in a camboaters</p>	<p>RW, LP and AR to liase to arrange a meeting. Ben</p>

	<p>newsletter before winter to ensure boaters are familiar with the best method for disposal.</p>	
<p>2. Riverbank improvements</p>	<p>DK distributed the report of the survey of the river banks. A number of areas need urgent attention. The Council proposes to implement a programme of repairs over the next few months. Boaters cooperation will be needed to move at times when repairs are being undertaken on some areas of bank.</p> <p>JA pointed out that the EA had considerable experience in bank repairs, and had recently trialled some 'green' techniques. It was suggested that the Council liase with EA officers in deciding on the most appropriate means of repairing the bank.</p>	
<p>3. Mooring rings</p>	<p>DK reported that she was liasing with the Council legal department to clarify the position with liability to Council Tax and other legal issues if mooring rings are provided. Once these issues are clarified, costs will be investigated.</p>	
<p>4. Mooring areas for widebeam boats</p>	<p>AR and LP outlined a potential problem with moorings for widebeam boats. As there is limited moorning for widebeams, and narrowboats are able to moor in those areas, the situation could arise where a widebeam could not find a legal place to moor despite holding a mooring licence.</p> <p>One solution would be to allocate some spaces as widebeam-only areas. AR had consulted with boaters, and the general consensus was that most boaters would prefer not to have such areas, as it limits the places narrowboaters can moor. Most would prefer to rely on boaters goodwill to allow widebeams to have space.</p> <p>DK said the Council would also prefer not to have widebeam-only areas. It was agreed that no changes would be made to the policy for the present, but the situation should kept under review in case any problems do arise.</p>	

<p>5. Mooring Policy for Land on either side of new cycle bridge</p>	<p>LP and AR asked what the policy would be with mooring on either side of the new cycle bridge, as the land is returning to Council control. This had also been mooted as a possible area for off-river moorings when the moorings licence scheme was set up.</p> <p>DK said there was no intention to allow mooring on that side of the river, or to create off-river moorings. PN said the intention was to create wildlife habitat along that bank, and AH pointed out that the river was in any case narrow at that point, and mooring was already permitted on riverside.</p> <p>Camboaters also asked whether CamCon still intended to look into off-river moorings on their field on Mill Road. PN and JA confirmed that this was still in the business plan, and was being looked into in the long term.</p>	
<p>6. Signage Discussion - residential areas</p>	<p>AR reported that several boaters on Stourbridge had complained at the level of disturbance from noise and wash. The problem is both from visiting craft, particularly hire craft, and from rowers.</p> <p>LP and AR suggested that a sign could be erected asking craft to keep noise and wash to a minimum alongside moored boats. PN and AH were happy to support such a sign, and pointed out that these are common in other places. For example there is one by the motor boat club in Waterbeach. DK said the Council preferred to keep signage to a minimum.</p> <p>DK suggested the Council should arrange a meeting between the rowing community and the boating community where problems such as this could be discuss. Camboaters agreed that this would be a good idea. It was suggested that this could be arranged for the next quarterly meeting.</p>	
<p>7. Waiting List</p>	<p>AR raised several issues with the current waiting list.</p> <p>1) difficulty in contacting people at the top of the waiting list when new licences are to be issued. TW reported that she had trouble getting in touch with many people on the list, as contact details were often</p>	

out of date. Many of those who were contacted have since moved on from Cambridge, or were for various reasons unable to take up a licence. It therefore took a lot of time to issue new licence when they became available.

Camboaters suggested that people should be asked annually to confirm that they still wanted a place on the list. They also suggested that a nominal fee - say £10 - should be levied to be on the list. Although this would not discourage genuine applicants, it would deter people who had little intention of moving onto the river from staying on the list.

2) Transparency. AR mentioned that boaters had at times been given contradictory information about their position on the waiting list, or had had no reply to their requests for information on their current position. He suggested that the waiting list should be made available on the internet, so that applicants could see their position easily. DK pointed out there would be data protection issues with publishing applicants names on the internet. AR suggested that each application be given a unique ID number, which could be published instead. Applicants could identify their place on the list by their unique identifier.

DK said the Council were keen to get information available on the web in any case, and agreed that a web page would be a good idea. TW said that she didn't envisage any problems in implementing such a webpage.

3) Waiting list priorities. AR identified a problem with the way widebeams are offered licences. There is at present a waiting list for widebeam applicants - but under the present policy, no-one on that waiting list could ever be offered a place, as widebeam licences are only given out to existing moorings licence holders. The situation had not been made clear to widebeam applicants when the waiting list policy was revised in April, and was felt to be very unfair.

DK said that the policy had been set up that way to

	<p>encourage a reduction in widebeam numbers. AR pointed out that there would always be more existing licence holders wishing to upgrade than there would be widebeam licences available, and so the present policy would not lead to any fewer widebeams on the river. Camboaters had discussed this matter in recent committee meetings, and boaters agreed that the fairest policy was to prioritise the waiting list only by date of application.</p> <p>DK said that changes would best be brought in at the next annual review of the moorings licence policy. She suggested that Camboaters formally suggest the changes to the policy that had been raised at the meeting.</p>	
8. AOB	<p>TW handed out copies of a summary of income and expenditure for the moorings licence budget, as had been requested by Camboaters.</p> <p>PN asked for boaters help in dealing with an invasive species, floating pennywort. LP agreed to include a piece in the next newsletter.</p> <p>AH mentioned that the river foreman had trouble clearing rubbish from some areas where moored boats obstructed the bank, and asked for cooperation in moving boats to allow work to take place. Camboaters are very happy to cooperate, and will help to communicate with boaters when and where such work is to take place.</p> <p>LP suggested that the Council could purchase corkscrew ground anchors as a temporary solution for securing boats. However, Council officers felt that it was boaters responsibility to buy these if they felt they were a good idea.</p>	