



Camboaters Community Association

Notes from meeting with Council, CamCon and Rowers: 10am, 1st April 2009

Present:

Alistair Wilson, Julie Durrant for the Council
 Pippa Noon, Adrian Hoyes for CamCon
 Luther Phillips, Andy Rankin, Mark Rogers for Camboaters

Chris Robertson attended the first part of the meeting to discuss mooring rings and bank renovation.

The CRA treasurer and chair, and the CUCBC secretary, attended to discuss the notice board and a few other points.

Location: Hobson House

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
1 Riverbank renovation.	<p>Julie gave Camboaters a copy of the riverbank survey that was undertaken in summer 2007, which details the state of the bank along the commons.</p> <p>Chris Robertson told us that they are currently applying to the EA for permission to undertake work on the river bank. They expect this to take a few weeks to be given.</p> <p>There are now funds allocated to the project. They will not be enough to make the whole bank good along the full length of the river in the coming financial year, but they intend to start in the worst affected places and do as much as they can with the money. More money will hopefully be forthcoming in future years to continue the maintenance programme.</p> <p>The work will probably begin in the middle of Midsummer Common within the next couple of months, and progress downstream.</p> <p>As ever, dangerous holes in the bank that need immediate attention should be notified to the Council and will be dealt with as soon as possible.</p>	
2. Mooring Rings.	<p>Alistair gave us the very welcome news that the Council have now agreed to the principle of providing mooring rings for residential boaters - final approval from the Executive Councillor is expected very shortly. We can now progress to working out the details of installing the rings - what type of</p>	

	<p>ring, and where. As with the riverbank renovations, there is a limited amount of money, and it will take several years to install rings along the length of the commons.</p> <p>There was some discussion of the type of mooring points to be installed. Chris Robertson favours posts of the type installed at Ely. Camboaters were in favour of rings attached to the side of the concrete plinth. We agreed to meet and discuss options shortly.</p>	
3. Litter Collections	<p>Luther explained there is a great imbalance in the distribution of bins along the river - some bins are frequently filled to overflowing, while others are less used. In several locations there is a need for either more bins, or more frequent collections.</p> <p>We pointed out that all the old bins have locked grills, so boaters refuse can't easily be disposed in them. Replacing all the bins with hinged-lid types would be a very good idea.</p> <p>Julie and Alistair suggested that regular collections of refuse might be a more cost effective solution than leaving refuse beside the bins. Streetscene could even collect directly from boats.</p> <p>We suggested a meeting between ourselves, Active Communities and Streetscene would be a good idea to resolve some of these problems.</p>	
4. Mooring on Riverside	<p>Alisdair said that the County and City Councils had still not resolved the question of who actually owns Riverside. At present neither take responsibility.</p> <p>Pip reminded us that mooring on Midsummer Common and Riverside was still under review. The rowers remain keen to see mooring considerably restricted along that stretch of the river. Decisions are likely to be taken later in the year, and have serious implications for boaters living on Riverside.</p>	
5. Rowing Issues	<p>The CRA are looking for land to build a new boathouse (additional to the one they already have). We pointed out the river was already extremely congested as it was, and increasing capacity for boats was likely to make it even more crowded.</p> <p>Tom Davies made another request for boaters to ensure grab-lines are present along the sides of moored boats.</p> <p>The proposed noticeboard for rowers and boaters on</p>	

	<p>Stourbridge was discussed. Both rowers and Camboaters are in favour and feel it's useful for communication with the general public. Some matters still to be resolved, particularly the exact placement of the noticeboard, and who would have keys to be able to post.</p>	
6. Budget	<p>We asked how the moorings cost centre was spent and were given a breakdown by Alasdair. The figures are:</p> <p>Income: 34K from mooring fees.</p> <p>Expenditure: 5.5K business rates 0.5K water rates 0.5K skip hire 2.5K Maintenance of equipment and tools 0.5K printing 5K fees to Camcon 13K litter collection and sewage 0.5K publicity 2K enforcement 4K other fees - legal advice, consultancy etc.</p>	
7. River bank	<p>Julie showed pictures of steps that had been built down to the river on Jesus Green, presumably by boaters (though of course this would be hard to prove...). She asked that all structures of this sort be dismantled. We pointed out that the bank at Jesus Green is pretty dangerous and slippery in winter, and, although we accept that we have no more right to the riverbank than anyone else, asked for a light hand when dealing with such structures. They seem very keen to crack down on it however.</p> <p>Note we don't have any right to store anything on the riverbank - we do need to ensure firewood, dinghies, gas bottles etc are kept on board.</p>	