



camboaters

Newsletter - September 2007

CAMBOATERS AGM – 7:30 pm Thursday 18th October, Fort St George back room

There will be FREE SNACKS, FREE CHOCOLATE and you will get a chance to have your say, vote on the new constitution (see page 2), vote for new committee members or even become a committee member!

Most importantly we need you to come to the AGM because just when you thought everything was ticking along nicely with the moorings policy there is going to be another review in November. **The council want to change the charging structure, which no doubt means charging us all more money** (see Andy's report of the council meeting below). We need to hear your opinions and we need be united so that we have more weight when negotiating with the council.

AND there will be **FREE SNACKS AND FREE CHOCOLATE!**

Council meeting: Mooring Review and Rubbish.

Zoë, Helen and I attended the recent quarterly meeting between Camboaters, the Conservators and the Council. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the impending moorings policy review. We were given a draft copy of the questionnaire that will be given out to boatholders and other people with an interest in the river. We were quite concerned about some of the questions it asked, which we felt to be leading - and about some of the questions it didn't ask too! There was no opportunity at all for example for people to give any input on the amount that was being charged for example, or whether they felt they were getting good value for money from the existing scheme. We've suggested a few changes.

Julie Durrant said that the Council's intention was to move away from the existing pricing structure, which limits the charge to Council Tax Band A. This is pretty worrying, as removing that safeguard could open us up to very large increases in the charge levied in the future - don't forget we had to fight very hard to prevent a 23% increase in the mooring charge in the spring when they tried to break the link to Council Tax Band A. The review will be taking place over the next couple of months, so lets make sure we are clear about what we want from the mooring licence scheme, and make our voice heard.

We asked again for the amount spent on rubbish collection to be reviewed. It still amounts to 5 times what householders pay for their rubbish collection, and I'm sure everyone agrees we don't get 5 times as good a service. The council agreed to arrange a meeting with Streetscene to discuss the fee they charge, and to work out if there might be better ways of arranging the rubbish collection. One possibility might be to have a few large bins at strategic locations along the river, which would be emptied weekly rather than daily. It might mean walking a tiny bit further with our rubbish - but it would be vastly cheaper than the current system, and would stop the problem of dogs and cows munching on our leftovers when they are left out beside the bins on the commons.

Good news on the Stourbridge water point and the pump out refurbishment though - both are very imminent! Of course, the Council have been saying that for years... but it really does seem now like they might genuinely happen soon.

These meetings are definitely worthwhile in improving dialogue with the Council and getting some of our concerns heard - so do get in touch if there is anything you want raised at future meetings.

Andy

Full notes of the meeting can be found at www.camboaters.co.uk/projects.html

REMINDER Jesus Green Pump-out – Refurbishment

The pump-out will be closed from **1st October to 10th October**.

During this time people will not be able to pump-out. Please pump-out before – no alternative will be offered. Porta-potti's will have to be emptied in the public loo.

**Lovely Limited Edition
Camboaters T-Shirts**
Prices £10 to £12.50.
Contact Helen on Roe
(07929 841 860)

Minutes of all Camboaters Committee meetings are available on the Camboaters website at:
www.camboaters.co.uk/committee/meetings.html



Eco-logs



Eco-logs are made of compressed waste sawdust. They make an excellent environmentally friendly alternative to coal. Andy at Midsummer Energy (www.midsummerenergy.co.uk) is planning to sell them again to boaters this winter, so give him a ring on 07974 709710 if you want to try them!

Refuse and Recycling Survey

Thanks to everyone who completed the refuse and recycling survey. The results have been collated and analysed and were presented to the City Council, as part of our campaign to improve their rubbish services. With your help, we were able to point out that on average boaters chuck out a paltry 2.2 carrier bags of rubbish bags per week (very few people use the orange Cambridge City Council bags, preferring to reuse carrier bags instead). If that doesn't sound much compared to the wheely-bin-fulls chucked out by your average house dweller, it's because Cambridge boaters are greener than a plate of solar powered peas! A remarkable 94% of boaters recycle their rubbish. This includes 88% of glass bottles, 69% of cans and tins, 56% of news papers and magazines and 38% of plastic bottles that we produce.

However, because the Council don't yet provide us the dedicated recycling service that householders enjoy, all of the boaters questioned said that they dutifully take their reusable trash to various recycling points by the river. Most popular are those at Tesco on Newmarket Road (used by 47% of boaters), at Abbey Road (used by 35% of boaters) and at Mitcham's Corner (used by 24% of boaters). Unfortunately, due to the lack of necessary facilities, no one who responded to the survey said they currently compost organic waste. However, a number of people suggested that the Council should provide such composting facilities. Other popular suggestions included a new recycling point near Jesus Green swimming pool, with access restricted using an EA (Abloy) key; recycling boxes for boaters; to broaden the range of items that can be recycled at existing CCC recycling points; an engine oil recycling facility and lifting (not fixed) grids covering existing bins. We will continue to lobby the Council to provide these facilities and to reduce the unnecessarily large proportion of our mooring fees they currently spend on rubbish collection.

Ewan



Detailed results of the refuse survey which even include a pie chart can be found at www.camboaters.co.uk/projects.html

And a couple of photos from Helen...



Salters Lode



The tide up the old Bedford River overtaking Roe

CAMBOATERS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

The Camboaters Community Association constitution was drawn up before there was a mooring plan in Cambridge. Now the mooring plan exists, we think it's time to update the **Aims/Objects** section of our constitution so it describes what our aims should be now. Here's our suggested version of this section:

2. Aims/Objects: ~

- a) To represent the interests of residential boaters on the River Cam, and to address issues that affect the residential boating community.
- b) To work with the City Council and Cam Conservators to maintain and improve a mooring plan and associated facilities that accord with the needs, safety and welfare of all those who live aboard their vessels upon the Cam.
- c) To promote the recreational use of the River Cam for all its users, by working with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and residents on the river to preserve and enhance the amenities available in relation to the River Cam.

We've made several other changes elsewhere in the constitution to correct grammar and clarify meaning; none of these are substantial. You can see the full revised constitution on our website (www.camboaters.co.uk/committee/revisedconstitution.pdf), or give Helen a ring on 07929 841 860 if you don't have web access and would like to give a copy the once-over. The changes won't be made until and unless they're approved by a two-thirds majority at the AGM on 18th October.

If you want to propose any different alterations to the constitution, you need to give your changes to Zoë by 8th October at the very latest, because she has to post the wording of any proposed alterations publicly at least ten days before the AGM.

Helen



Forthcoming Events on the River

Date	Event	Detail
6 Oct 07	Cambridge Small Boats Head	Rob Roy BC. Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge
20 Oct 07	Cambridge Autumn Head	Rob Roy BC. Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge
28 Oct 07	CFPAS Open Match	CFPAS. A14 Road Bridge to Clayhithe
4 Nov 07	CFPAS Winter League	CFPAS. A14 Road Bridge to Clayhithe
17 Nov 07	Cambridge Winter Head	Cantabs RC. Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge