

- News Cambridge Ely Hunt'don/St Ives N'mkt & Haverhill Royston/S Walden St Neots National News Features Picture Galleries Messageboards Blogs Letters Rss Feeds E-Edition

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- People Messageboard Announcements

- Marketplace

- Jobs

- Property

- Motors

- Directory

- E-Editions

- Dating

Cambridge News > News > Cambridge > Cam residents step up campaign

# Cam residents step up campaign

## Cam residents step up campaign

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HOUSEBOAT owners have stepped up their campaign against plans to ban them from part of the River Cam in the winter.

(picture 3131r "Protest: Boat owners angry at plans")The group, Camboaters, has produced hundreds of information packs promoting its campaign, "Reverse the Ban on Midsummer Common Mooring". The packs are being delivered to councillors, the river authorities and residents this week.

The campaign follows the River Cam Conservators' decision to ban mooring along Midsummer Common, from the Fort St George pub to Eights Marina, from October 1 to March 31, to try to ease congestion.

Currently, about 15 boats are moored there and the owners would need to find alternative accommodation for the winter months.

The pack contains a poster and newsletter, urging people to support the campaign.

Luther Phillips, who has lived aboard his boat Corn Dolly for two years, said: "The restriction was put in place under the guise of a so-called navigational issue.

"But we feel the process in which the problem was investigated was not only flawed but took place far too quickly. And with no proper safe place for us to go, we will effectively be made homeless."

(picture 3132l "Way of life: Houseboats targeted")Prof Michael Chisholm, chairman of the Conservators, said a proper consultation was carried out and the decision would not be changed. But he said the Conservators did support the Camboaters' calls for an area of off-river mooring.

He said: "We think the city council does need to recognise an area of off-river mooring and in principle we would support that."

The Camboaters' campaign, which will run for 10 weeks until the ban is in place, was launched last Friday when they unveiled a huge protest banner at the finish of the Town Bumps.

They will also be launching a website, [www.camboaters.co.uk](http://www.camboaters.co.uk)

And the boat owners will stage an open-boat day on August 22 when a variety of craft will be opened to the public.

"We want to promote the campaign and dispel the myths widely held about live-aboards," said Mr Phillips.

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Back to top

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