

- 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
- Sport
- Cambridge United
- Histon
- Cambridge City
- Football
- Cambridge RUFC
- Rugby
- National Sport
- Business
- Company News
- Your Money
- Events Diary
- E-Commerce
- Business Awards
- Lifestyle
- Sudoku
- Music
- Stage
- Cinema
- Food & Drink
- Events Search
- Magazines
- People
- Messageboard
- Announcements
- Marketplace
- Jobs
- Property
- Motors
- Directory
- E-Editions
- Dating

Cambridge News > News > Cambridge > Council throws weight behind boat owners

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Council throws weight behind boat owners

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THE full weight of Cambridge City Council was put behind a call to overturn the ban on houseboats mooring on Midsummer Common.

(picture 290r "Moor the merrier: Council backs boats")At the city council's full council meeting on Thursdy night, members of all parties voted unanimously to oppose the controversial decision made by the Cam Conservators - the group in charge of mooring on the river.

The decision came about after problems between rowers, anglers and boat owners who all use the same stretch of river and means house boat dwellers will be banned from mooring from October 1 to March 31.

A motion was passed to urge the Conservators to reverse the decision at their next meeting on September 23.

Council leader Ian Nimmo-Smith said: "The college boat clubs are very popular with students but they are here not just to take part in sporting activities but to work and go to lectures which start at 9am.

"There is a very intensive period of boating activity in the morning which starts at 7am and towards 9am there will be a rush-hour where crews try to return so they can go back to their colleges and undoubtedly jams will occur.

"At the moment there are no rules to produce some sort of order to the way boaters return to boat houses and this leads to congestion.

"The house boats are taking up a relatively small part of the river. There is plenty of room if people use the river sensibly."

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Back to top

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