

- 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

Cambridge News > News > Cambridge > Review promised on mooring ban

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A CONTROVERSIAL mooring ban along Midsummer Common will be reviewed, it has been agreed.

(picture 896r "Under review: Mooring ban rethink")The Conservators of the River Cam agreed at a meeting on Thursday morning to take another look at the policy they adopted in July.

It was agreed then to ban mooring from The Fort St George pub to Eights Marina from October 1 to March 31 in a bid to ease congestion on the river there.

The ban was due to come into force next week, but the Conservators agreed to defer the implementation until October 1, 2005, and to carry out a review in the meantime, depending on any mooring policy Cambridge City Council agrees upon.

The move follows a resolution passed by the city council earlier this month to urge the Conservators to reverse their original decision.

Many boat owners who live on that stretch of the river feared they would be left with nowhere to moor and essentially homeless.

A petition of more than 900 signatures was collected in opposition to the ban, while many letters and emails were sent to the Conservators in opposition.

Conservator and county councillor Robin Driver told this morning's meeting it would be "unforgivable" not to review it in light of the volume of correspondence received.

Fellow conservator Dr Robert Laws said: "I am keen the review should take place even if the council does nothing."

Luther Phillips, a conservator and member of boating community association Camboaters, said: "I think the city council should prepare a report so the Cam Conservators can see what it is trying to do."

The news of the review was welcomed by houseboat owners.

Monica Guy, Camboaters spokeswoman, said: "We're quite pleased they took us seriously."

"I think they will take us seriously in future as a proper association and involve us in active discussion of mooring policy."

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Back to top

- Marketplace
- Jobs
- Property
- Motors
- Directory
- E-Editions
- Dating

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