**Ideas for Caretaker Boaters Proposal: London Boaters Group 2013**

**5 potential moorings**: Stonebridge

Old Ford/Bow Back Rivers

Broadway Market (?)

Angel

Vicky Park/Mile End

**6 Caretaker Boaters**: Voluntary, 12 month contract, must be CCing liveaboard boater in London – post advertised to boaters by CaRT, 2 reserve posts might be helpful to fill in for time out for boat-work etc.

M**onthly movement around a circuit of sites**: between 2 moorings (Vicky Park and Stonebridge?) will be 4 weeks ‘holiday’, mooring-space could be signed: “if a Caretaker arrives and asks to moor here please let them” – shouldn’t be a problem as there should always be a ‘spare’ moving between sites, one boat leaves as the other arrives.

**Solid complaints procedure**: starting with ‘forum’ of Caretakers, then to CaRT.

**Limited responsibilities**: *advise* on length of stay, *encourage* neighbourly behaviour, co-ordinate with local groups (eg. SCENT, Friends of Regents Canal, Residents Associations…), co-ordinate with events organisers (IWA, rowers, fishermen…).

**Some expectations**: to be present during most 8pm to 8am periods, and on one whole day per week, to be resident on boat, to introduce self and role to new arrivals, to report crime and serious antisocial or unsafe behaviour and liase with Project Kraken, *not* to report boaters to CaRT (eg. overstaying, return times, guidelines), *but* to advise when others might do so.

**Some duties**: to monitor: water quality and depth, air quality, noise, smoke, condition of bins/facilities; to advise on: smokeless fuels in air quality control areas, use of engines/gennies at antisocial hours; to carry out or seek out volunteers who might help carry out: maintenance/improvement of facilities, litter-picking, etc.

**Some site-specific duties**: gates at Angel, Waterside Centre at Stonebridge, co-ordinate with Tower Hamlets on safety and security at Vicky Park, discourage mooring on lock-landings and/or water points, etc.

**Rewards**: 4 week stay, guaranteed mooring and predictable timetable, 4 weeks off in 6 months, interaction with boaters and locals, almost always near transport links/facilities, a sticker in your window…

**Benefits to London Boaters**: a more ‘hands off’ approach from CaRT (this was proposed as alternative to more recording and oversight of movement and potentially two more enforcement officers on the Regents Canal), ‘Caretakers’ less likely than permanently moored ‘Warden Boats’ (suggested by some Local Councillors) to create little kingdoms or fiefdoms on certain moorings, preserves and develops relationships with locals and local organisations, a reliable ‘eye’ on boats and facilities, a friendly welcome on the towpath, ‘visiting boaters’ made more welcome and less likely to complain...