



British Waterways Revised Mooring Policy

Notes of Meeting Friday 19th November 2010 Stonebridge Lock, Tottenham Marshes

Present

Cllr John Bevan	LB of Haringey & LVP Member
Sally Ash	British Waterways
Denise Yelland	British Waterways
Russ Bennett	British Waterways
Stephen Wilkinson	LVRPA
Claire Martin	LVRPA
Janet Green	LVRPA

Notes of meeting

Site tour around the immediate area at Stonebridge Lock to highlight LVRPA concerns surrounding

- Excessive casual mooring (continuous cruising) including double mooring in some cases.
- Residential use of permanent moorings including inappropriate use of adjacent land.
- General poor condition of boats.

BW advised that their new national Mooring Policy has been adopted and went on to discuss how this could affect moorings along the Lee Navigation. They acknowledge that there are more boats along the Lee than are desirable and are keen to develop a local mooring strategy prior to the Olympics for the Navigation. This would cover the length of the Regional Park and the Stort Navigation

Main problem is that there are no official residential moorings along the Lee or Stort and insufficient permanent moorings to meet demand meaning that a large number of boats are deemed "continuous cruisers." The continuous cruisers have a detrimental effect on leisure boaters who have difficulty finding spots to moor up and their activities often spill over onto the towpath.

Proposals

Long term moorings. BW will conduct a full survey of moorings along the Navigation and create an action plan based on the results. Of concern is that some boaters have been moored in particular locations for a number of years and the courts may not allow people to be evicted. They acknowledge that they will need to work closely with local authorities.

Residential mooring. Long term moorings could be re-designated as residential but this would require planning permission. The planning process could possibly be used to impose conditions on the sites i.e. condition of boats, land based use, access points, parking etc. Cllr Bevan referred to his enquiries of LBH planning officers who advised him that they had no previous experience of this type of planning application within the borough and would most probably seek advice for other planning authorities. LVRPA position to date has been to

oppose residential moorings so a strong case would need to be made for the Authority reviewing this position.

Short term moorings. When a boater buys their licence and declares themselves a continuous cruiser, they commit to making a progressive journey around the waterways network. The mooring strategy would allow for the creation of 6 proposed “**Mooring Zones**” along the Valley and a boat, when moved on, has to move into the next section at least and cannot return for a set period of time. In general boaters will be given 14 days notice to move but Hot Spots, such as Stonebridge Lock, will be designated where boaters might only be able to stay for 7 days. Fines will be payable should these mooring periods be exceeded.

Enforcement has traditionally been a problem and there was discussion on where the burden of enforcement lies given that BW do not effectively enforce and that the designation of “residential mooring” would shift the burden of enforcement to the local planning authority. With regard to the “continuous cruising” boats, BW have recently appointed a new Enforcement Officer for the Lee and are looking at a variety of measures to enable them to compile an accurate record of boats’ locations and time spent in any one place. They have also spoken to our Rangers to suggest that they contribute to this process and are considering developing volunteers rangers to adopt local stretches to record boat sightings, report misuse etc.

Consultation. In general it was felt that local authority officers and councillors had very little knowledge of the BW Mooring Policy nor their own obligations and it was suggested that the Authority and BW jointly hosted a **Local Authority Workshop** to present the new policy and agree a way forward for the Valley. However, there was some concern over whether there would be sufficient interest outside the Valley. It was agreed that it would be left to BW to identify the level of interest in this suggestion.