

ISIS LOCK CONSULTATION

22 December 2011

Lock landing utilisation / turning instructions

The consultation details are set out overleaf, but in summary, they concerned :-

- The utilisation of the landing as an aid to turning from the canal into Castle Mill stream and vica versa.
- Proposed signage to instruct & assist boaters with this, and
- Proposed automated warning sign of strong stream conditions

Responses to the consultation

There were 9 responses to this consultation :-

- Five people were supportive of proposals overall and
- Four people were not supportive of the proposals

Of the five people who expressed support for the proposals :-

- Two respondents wanted the pictorial guidelines to be amended to improve clarity and understanding
- One respondent noted the guidelines were 'commendably simple to follow'
- One respondent proposed an additional turning methodology using a bollard to be placed on the right hand bank on exit.
- Two respondents felt that the guidelines were targeted to inexperienced boaters who needed the assistance, more experienced boaters would and should look after themselves.
- Two of the respondents were against the automated traffic light suggestion – one on the basis of cost and the other on the basis of efficiency.

Of the four who were not in favour of the proposals :-

- Two felt that a notch should be the only solution. They also stated that the addition of a ramp at the lock end of the landing would be a necessary improvement.
- One stated that the priority was to expend no more resource on the structure.
- One was critical of what was proposed but offered no alternative.

In addition to (and separate to) the above, one person stated that the pontoon should be removed on the basis of visual impact.

Recommendations

British Waterways will :-

- Progress investigation into the addition of a ramp at the lock end of the new landing stage. We will aim to implement this during the first few months of 2012 if costs are reasonable and affordable.
- Review the signage guidelines. Those parties making observations on the signage will be invited to contribute to the revised proposals and review final output.
This meeting was concluded on Thursday 19th Jan and agreement on signage outputs are in the process of being progressed. Target installations during March / April 2012 , subject to Conservation Officer approval.
- Investigate the installation of an additional bollard to the right at exit from the lock.
- Continue with the traffic light installation. This has the following advantages :-
 - o Can be automatically triggered by the existing EA warnings sent by text message.
 - o Negates the reliance on availability of BW operatives to manually display existing red boards. (These manual boards will be used as a fall back should there be any technical issues with the traffic light system).
 - o Brings passage through ISIS Lock up to date with other automated warning systems used elsewhere around the navigational network.
This installation has now been costed by the BW technical team and can be easily and cheaply added to the existing SCADA unit at the lockside.

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