

-----Original Message-----

From: Cllr Martin Klute [mailto:martin.klutexislington.gov.uk]

Sent: 05 September 2011 14:27

To:

Subject: Noise officer

[REDACTED] could get me name and number of an environmental health officer to deal with noise and diesel fume pollution from a generator on private property. And maybe even ask them to ring me please.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Sub Committee B

06/09/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

I understand that you have previously been in correspondence with my colleague

[REDACTED][REDACTED]x regarding nuisance from the canalboats moored at wharf Road.

[REDACTED] has now left the council so I will be covering much of his caseload.

We have received complaints of noise and diesel fumes from narrow boats moored in this location.

As you know this has been an ongoing issue for some time; and is still potentially causing what we would consider to be a statutory nuisance.

The affected residents have been asked to provide diaries for when they are disturbed; once this has been received perhaps we could meet and visit the area to discuss what options are available to resolve this.

Please call me if you need to discuss.

Regards

07/09/2011

[REDACTED], further to my visit to your house on Monday evening I have contacted islington's environmental health officer, who is keen to get to grips with this issue. There is still a grey area around who is legally entitled to enforce against the noise and air pollution from the generators, it is either BW or the Council. However, the Council's officer is being proactive in trying to engage with the BW officer and our legal dept to establish the correct procedure.

The Council officer tells me she wishes to commence observation of the problem next week, so it would be very helpful if you and your neighbours could keep diary records of nuisance between now and next Sunday. Diaries can be forwarded to me or direct to the officer, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (copied in). I have worked with [REDACTED] previously on construction site noise and nuisance and have found her very effective.

I am attaching a further copy of a nuisance diary template to show what form the diary evidence should take.

Regards,
Cllr Martin Klute
21/09/2011
Cllr Klute,

I haven't received anything from any of the residents. I've been to visit the canal a few times but not witnessed and noise or smoke from the boats moored at the rear of Noel road.

British Waterways would enforce their licence conditions, if we establish a statutory nuisance then we can serve an enforcement notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. To do this the nuisance has to be witnessed from the complainants property and an assessment made of how much it affects their living activity.

I'll contact [REDACTED] to arrange a home visit.

Regards
[REDACTED]
21/09/2011

Dear [REDACTED]

I've received your complaint from Cllr Martin Klute regarding noise and smoke from the canal boats moored at the rear of your property.

I'd like to visit to assess the alleged nuisance so that we can then take the relevant enforcement action if necessary. I understand that this happens from 5.30pm during the week.

Could you be available tomorrow afternoon at this time? Also can you confirm your address please?

Regards
[REDACTED]
21/09/2011

Dear [REDACTED]

I will make myself available from 5.30pm tomorrow at

[REDACTED][REDACTED]x.

However, as I wrote to Martin Klute, the particular boats parked near my house seem only to be operating their generators for short periods of time and timing is variable. I think you are more likely to witness the nuisance if you arrive a little later, after 6pm.

Regards,
[REDACTED][REDACTED]x

21/09/2011

Ok, I'll get there before 6. My mobile number is [REDACTED] call me if there are any problem[REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21/09/2011

Please find attached photographs of the smoky boats taken last Sunday at 18.50 from my bedroom window. This is typical of how these residential boats pollute the environment with smoke from fires, fumes and noise from generators. In winter the air quality can be particularly poisonous and a health danger to house and boat residents. You can see how close the boats are so that the smoke, fumes and noise can easily access our homes.

Regards,

[REDACTED].

22/09/2011

[REDACTED],

Good morning.

With regards to our telephone conversation yesterday, please find a couple of brief, summary details of the [REDACTED] and conditions. I have also left in the web link in case you wish to browse British Waterways site.

I have provisionally [REDACTED] in 4pm Wednesday 5th October for a 'meeting'.

All the best

Regards

22/09/2011

observed from Danbury Street Bridge, at least 14 barges moored at the rear of Noel Road properties no noise or smoke coming from any of them. Went to [REDACTED] at 6pm, met with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Discussed history of complaint had correspondence from 1990's from EH and planning.

26/09/2011

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

Just wanted to let you know that I've discussed this case with colleagues and we've agreed to do some proactive monitoring between 5 and 6pm as often as possible. As agreed, if the boats are emitting noise and smoke they'll come to assess from within your home.

Also I've made some enquiries with the planning office regarding the number of boats that are permitted in this location; also today I've asked for some advice from the air quality officer at the GLA about what guidance or restrictions the mayor's office place on controlling the pollutant emissions along canals and waterways.

Will keep you informed about my findings, please let me know if the behaviour or timings of any of the boats change.

Kind Regards

26/09/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

A boat has been parked at the end of my g[REDACTED] for at least 3 weeks now. It has a very loud generator and uses it frequently. Today it was running for at least 2 and a half hours non stop. The owner locked the boat and left us to endure the noise. I have attached a short video of the situation from the first floor window. It is the red and blue boat seen on the right of the photo next to the green boat. As you can see the boats are also triple parked.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

27/09/2011

Hi [REDACTED],

Yesterday's visit to [REDACTED] went as follows:

arrived at the canal about 5pm, could hear some generator noise; decided to visit [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. reached her house about 17.05, went to rear tv/lounge room on ground floor. Boats visible from rear window. No noise or smoke at time of visit.

Discussed issues with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], she told me that generator went on for 2 and a half hours and stopped at 4.45pm. She showed me short video clip. There were a number of barges on the moorings.

She told me about planning not granting extra moorings, asked me why can't we take action against the waterways authority. maybe you can check with legal if we can take action against the waterways people if boats are transitory. Ended visit at 5.28pm, no nuisance witnessed. Oh yeah, she asked why do we need to witness a nuisance if they, the home owners, are witnesses. Tried to explain the law to her....

regards,

05/10/2011

Met [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - enforcement officer from British Waterways at Regents Canal with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Discussed issues affecting residents, NW confirmed as long as boats can pass on the other side there's no restriction to how many boats can be moored here. As we stood there one boat started up the engine, smell of diesel was evident and noise was quite loud. Boat owner covered the engine which reduced the noise slightly, left canalside to go to assess from [REDACTED] but engine was stopped when I got to the bridge. NW to consider reducing the length of stay for the visitor moorings and also moving winter moorings further down the canal away from residents.

07/10/2011

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

The monitoring conducted at the canalside hasn't found much evidence as yet to support any enforcement action. When I was there on Wednesday a boat switched on its generator at around 4pm, but then switched off within about 10 minutes.

I've decided to halt the pro-active monitoring for the moment and continue again in a few weeks; in the meantime you should let me know of times and duration of noise and smoke.

Also, I've had discussion with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from British Waterways, he's trying to get the winter mooring moved away from the rear of the residential properties in Noel Road, and also we've been discussing changes to the licensing agreements. I need to pursue this with his senior managers at BW but will let you know of the changes made.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/10/2011

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will contact you when I feel there is a chance to witness the nuisance. The boats parked at the end of my g[REDACTED] have been quiet lately.

Many thanks for your work on our behalf, [REDACTED].

11/10/2011

[REDACTED],

I've not visited this complainant yet, but will let you know after I have.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Moliko, Firoze On Behalf Of Issues, Noise

Sent: 10 October 2011 16:32

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: noise/smoke pollution from canal boats at Treaty Street gate N1

FYI

Thanks

Firoze

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]][REDACTED]x]

Sent: 08 October 2011 17:13

To: Issues, Noise

Subject: noise/smoke pollution from canal boats at Treaty Street gate N1

Hello

I'm complaining about the noise and other pollution caused by the narrowboats and cruisers parked almost permanently along the canal outside my flat at the bottom of treaty street islington N1. Today in particular a generator on one of the boats has been going all day long since 8.30am this morning. The generator is not enclosed and I can't have my balcony door or windows open because I can't here myself think because it is so noisy. This has been going on for almost 18 months. They are not residential moorings but boats are parking there on a long term basis. We've had to block the vents on our windows with newspaper to stop smoke/fumes from the boats permeating through our home.

I've found it very difficult to get through to british waterways and nobody has ever called back. Please can you help resolve this problem or maybe you know of a contact name and number at british waterways who can help.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

020 7278 6013

11/10/2011

Hello [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

We would appreciate a visit but I am currently on jury service for two weeks (from 10/10/11 - 21/10/11). However my husband can be available from 3pm onwards if you can confirm a date this week or next week. Alternatively I am happy to meet evenings or weekends.

Our address is as follows: [REDACTED][REDACTED]. Our maisonette is at the end of the block ([REDACTED]xx next to [REDACTED]xx canal gate and our balcony overlooks the canal.

For the last eighteen months we have put up with noise from generators (of varying sizes, not enclosed and some boats using more than 1 generator), fumes from burning wood permeating our home leaving us unable to open our doors and windows, noise from power tools evenings and weekends by some boat owners using the canal as a repair yard to renovate their boats. We've also had boat owners riding very powerful motobikes up and down the canal path at all times and increased amounts of rubbish. As you can imagine this problem increases over the summer months due to the large number of boats using the canal.

We're not opposed to the boats being there as we have lived overlooking the canal for 30 years.

We would be very interested to hear what british waterways have to say as I am sure that many of the boat owners parked along this stretch of the canal should not be there as I understand there aren't any permanent moorings along this stretch (from cally road to york way). I feel they are having an adverse effect on the environment and the wildlife on the canal.

Thank you

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: Noise and other pollution from Regents Canal

Date: Tue, 11 Oct 2011 11:02:36 +0100

From: [REDACTED].[REDACTED]xislington.gov.uk

To: c_[REDACTED][REDACTED]x

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

I've been passed your complaint regarding noise and other pollution from narrow boats at regents canal.

I'd like to visit you to assess the problem that you're experiencing, ideally at a time when you're being disturbed but initially just to get a perspective of your proximity to the canal. I'm currently dealing with the same complaint further down the canal and have been liaising with British Waterways so I can add your complaint to the others.

Regards

12/10/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

Friday is fine. My husband will be home at 3pm and his mobile number is [REDACTED]. Our landline is [REDACTED]

At this stage I am happy for you to pass my email onto british waterways as long as our names and details are kept confidential and are not made available to any third parties.

Thank you

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16/10/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

The residents next to Islington visitor moorings have been pleased to see that the new sign requesting considerate behaviour from boat owners has been erected.

However many of the boats are not abiding by this. There has been loud and long lasting use of generators and worst of all a lot of smoke and fumes. Last night I forgot to shut the bedroom window and my husband and I woke suffocating with smoke and acrid fumes. My husband had to retire to another room as he couldn't stop coughing. The basin has been full of smoke all day today. This is often a weekend problem as many boat owners stay on the boat at this time. This makes it difficult for British Waterways staff to witness.

Some of the boats I witnessed puffing a lot of smoke were [REDACTED] (which moved today) [REDACTED]

boat next to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Boat with skull and Crossbones across rear door

What has happened about the request to install electricity and only allow single rows of boats at this location

Please can something be done about this as winter has not yet come and it is already very unhealthy for all people living in the vicinity.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

26/10/2011

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

I've been passed your complaint from cllr Klute and I'm investigating the incidents reported. In order to substantiate a statutory nuisance I need to witness the noise/smoke from within your home. I have agreed with one of your neighbours to visit the canal periodically and if there is either noise or smoke then I would come round and hopefully if your home I can assess. Please let me know if this arrangement is also acceptable for you.

I did go by the canal this afternoon and there was a boat running with smoke bellowing, but I couldn't take any action without assessing the effect this had on an individuals living activity. I will be discussing this incident with British Waterways and will keep you inform of progress toward any changes that will help to resolve your complaint.

Please call me if you'd like to discuss further.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/10/2011

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you're well.

Yesterday I visited the section of the canal between Danbury Street and Colebrooke Row and there was a boat called [REDACTED] burning wood and eth generator was running. Unfortunately none of eth residents that have complained were at home so I wasn't able to witness this from within their homes.

I spoke with the boat owner a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who told me that usually he stays here about 2-3 weeks and then moves on; he mentioned also that the time limit for mooring had changed here to 7 days but as he hadn't been consulted about this he was ignoring it. He said that he would usually burn the wood for most of the day; he was quite defensive towards residents complaints and said that if they were told to stop then he and the other boaters would most likely protest and run their engines all at the same time. I explained that we are by no means asking them to leave the area but are looking for a reasonable solution so that they can stay on the water without causing a disturbance to residents.

No action is to be taken at this stage, I'll let you know if and when I can witness anything that constitutes a statutory nuisance.

Also, I was reading through the General Canal bye laws and note that no. 39 says, "No person shall commit any nuisance in or on any canal", does this mean that if we find evidence to suggest statutory nuisance is being caused then they would also be breaking the bye-law? What are the consequences of this?

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

30/10/2011

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

To: Cllr Martin Klute

Subject: RE: diesel engines, music and smoke nuisance from double and triple parked moorings

Sent: 27 Oct 2011 15:39

Thank you for this, I've contacted the complainant, she's away at the moment but will let me know when she's disturbed when she gets back.

I'm still yet to witness anything that would warrant enforcement action being taken. Yesterday there was a boat burning wood but as neither of the residents that have contacted me were home at the time I couldn't witness it.

British Waterways have restricted mooring in this location to 7 days now, which I think helps, as long as they can take the necessary action against boats who overstay. There's no justification for action against BW as yet; once we take enforcement action against individual boat owners then we'd need to review this position.

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Cllr Martin Klute [mailto:martin.klute@islington.gov.uk]

Sent: 24 October 2011 14:09

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: diesel engines, music and smoke nuisance from double and triple parked moorings

Finally some diary evidence (attached). It is obviously getting worse as it gets colder. How are you getting on with untangling the legal side?

Thanks.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Sub Committee B

A hasty handheld communication

01/11/2011

Dear all,

I am sorry if I have missed any one of the list, if you can think of any others please forward this onto them, thank you.

I must apologize for not responding to your e-mails on a more regular bases, however my work load as I am sure you can appreciate is pretty full and is on-going. However I have acted on each and every bit of information, complaint that I have received and I have taken the appropriate action where necessary. I still have about 5 on going enforcement actions relating to this.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] and myself have had a meeting and we are liaising over issues on and around this area, and I hope and sure that this working together relationship will progress further. There was an issues with the signage on the visitors mooring board over times of engine/generators, this has now been corrected. I am also hoping that the "mooring arrows" on the Totem poles will be extended to the whole stretch, ie: Bridge to Bridge, this will stop any boat mooring here outside the Visitor Mooring Zone.

This year the winter moorings have moved from this location, south, below City Road Lock towards Wharf Road.

I did previously mention the possibly of extra staff, and I am happy to announce that will have another enforcement officer, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] whom will be joining us on temporary loan (12 months) very shortly. Part of his role will be to monitor and act upon over-staying boats, non-continuers cruising craft. Also where necessary to target hot-spot areas, such as Islington VM. To assist him and us we have a 'data checker' starting within the next week. Her role will be to sight boats on a daily bases along the Regents Canal. This will give us more, regular, accurate sightings on craft on a daily bases where upon we will be able to collate and act upon this information with moving boats on and where appropriate charge the extended overstay charge of £25.00 after the 7 day period.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me and please keep the information coming into me.

Thanking you

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Enforcement Officer South

London: River's Lee & Stort. Hertford Union & Regents Canal. Docklands

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].[REDACTED]@britishwaterways.co.uk

<mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]@britishwaterways.co.uk>

Enfield Lock

Navigation Drive

Enfield

Middlesex

EN3 6JG

01/11/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you very much for your endeavours on our behalf and well done with the progress. It is great news that you now have more help to enforce the regulations on the boats.

This year we have seen a higher number of visiting boats to the Islington Visitor Moorings than ever before. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Islington Council has regularly counted 14 boats where the Department of Environment once decreed 8 to be too many for this environment.

Lately there seemed to be an endless succession of this. No sooner does one problem boat leave than another boat arrives with a very loud generator or wood burning stove, oblivious or unconcerned about the impact on our lives. As soon as the weather started cooling down, boats started burning wood day and night. This wood is often taken from building sites and can be very toxic. There has also been a lot of triple mooring, parties with loud music and power tools use on the tow path.

It does seem that as soon as we complain to you the nuisance boats are moved on fairly quickly. However that relies on us going out, taking the number or photo of the boat and emailing you, which doesn't always happen in our time-short lives. In the meantime we must live with the noise, smoke or both, especially in the weekend which is often the most problematic. With the new enforcement officer and data checker starting, I am hoping that the problem will abate once boats realise that they must adhere to the regulations or be fined. Will these staff be working during weekends?

I was glad to see the new sign arrive but as it doesn't look very different to the last one and the words relating to consideration to neighbours are set so low down that I don't think boat owners will notice it. They certainly haven't over the last few weeks. We did ask that boats be restricted to single file. Is that going to be enforced? It would half our problem.

Lastly, a boatowner has been repairing his boat most of the day beside my property. He has put up a sort of tent and has been operating power tools with sparks firing into passers -by. Please see photo attached. Unfortunately the boat didn't seem to have a number displayed. This is both a nuisance to pedestr[REDACTED]s in this busy narrow tow path and noisy for neighbours.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

14/11/2011

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 June 2011 15:44

To: Pollution

Subject: FW: Noel Road Resident's Meeting

Hi There,

re emails below, residents complain, especially during winter, that boats moored on the British Waterways owned canal create a lot of smoke pollution burning firewood.

I said I would investigate with colleagues. Do you have any advice on this or is this something we enforce as well?

Many thanks, any help appreciated,

regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED][REDACTED]]

Sent: 14 June 2011 11:01

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: Noel Road Resident's Meeting

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our conversation about the green space between Vincent Terrace and Noel Road, here is the email summary about the meeting between Noel Road residents and British Waterways.

I forgot to ask you whether you knew who is responsible for stopping the locking of the canal gates and why it happened. We have also had problem[REDACTED] with people coming at night and lighting fires next to the tunnel. After these parties they have left a lot of rubbish. Both the boaters and the residents want the gates locked.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

--- On Mon, 13/6/11, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED][REDACTED]xtalk21.com> wrote:

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED][REDACTED]xtalk21.com>

Subject: Noel Road Resident's Meeting

To:

Date: Monday, 13 June, 2011, 13:05

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Thank you very much for taking the time to visit my neighbours, and myself on 08/06/2011, and to explain British Waterways' policy of management for the Regent's Canal.

We are very pleased that you had an opportunity to personally view this conservation area which has been designated a Site of Metropolitan Importance For Nature Conservation by Islington Council. This visit should have enabled you to appreciate why the mooring of boats is impacting so heavily on both the residents next to this section of canal and the large number of residents and visitors who use this, one of the few precious green spaces in Islington. The reason for the high impact is because at this point the canal comes out of the tunnel mouth and is set very low down in the landscape. The closely set houses form high bank sides, which act like a funnel encasing fumes and causing noises to echo and strengthen. The high concentration of diesel and smoke fumes, particularly in the winter, threatens the health of local residents and is also unpleasant for visitors and boaters.

From our meeting, we understand and appreciate that

- * Winter moorings will no longer be allowed.

- * A new sign will be erected clarifying the periods when generators are allowed to be operated and restricting the moorings to a single lane. We would also appreciate that the rule on not causing a nuisance could be prominently written with reference to the unique setting and close proximity to domestic dwellings.

* [REDACTED] will liaise with Islington Council to ensure that the gates to this section of the canal will be closed at night.

We await clarification on

* The possibility of installing electricity to a limited number of boats.

* The principles behind allowing mooring on this rare stretch of canal, bearing in mind the special circu[REDACTED]tances of this short section canal, with it's narrow towpath, importance for nature conservation and domestic dwellings.

We have been considering your suggestion that we should become amateur enforcement officers by photographing, videoing and keeping a log of offending boats. This request draws attention to the fact that you foresee a continuation of our recent proble[REDACTED] but are not prepared, or not able, to prevent them. This would seem a dereliction of your duty to oversee the boats on the part of British Waterways Board. It see[REDACTED] improper that boats are sited in an area where they are guaranteed to cause proble[REDACTED].

We would like to point out that on the morning following your visit we awoke to find that double mooring had returned. It see[REDACTED] that the peaceful environment that you saw was merely a consequence of knowledge of your impending visit through the effective jungle telegraph and is not a long-term situation. Please see the photographs attached. One of the boats double moored to the left of this image has unsightly collection of wood atop, the other a tangle of bicycles along with the clutter. Two dinghies bob by their side. It is more Steptoe and Son than delightful urban vista.

Once again, thank you for listening to our concerns and explaining the complicated management policies of British Waterways. We look forward to receiving your response and hope that the resolution will be satisfactory to us all.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(on behalf of the Noel Road Residents)

17/11/2011

[REDACTED], some more diary sheets from [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Sub Committee B

A hasty handheld communication

Read my blog at:

<http://cllrmartinklute.blogspot.com/>

From: "[REDACTED] [REDACTED]" <[REDACTED][REDACTED]xtalk21.com>

Date: Wed, 16 Nov 2011 21:28:01 +0000 (GMT)

To: <martin.klutexislington.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Re: Nuisance diary

Martin,

Hopefully you can open these files. I made them smaller and in Jpeg rather than Jpeg2000 files. There is a boat ([REDACTED]) moored at the end of my property which has been there since at least 29th November. I have complained about him twice to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about antisocial behaviour , noisy generator and smoky fires. I can't believe BW hasn't moved him on after so long and with mine and my neighbours complaints. Anyway he see[REDACTED] to run his very loud generator often at about 8.30am and from 5.30pm. I will try texting you if I am at home and it may be a good opportunity to witness it.
[REDACTED].

--- On Sun, 13/11/11, Cllr Martin Klute <martin.klutexislington.gov.uk> wrote:

From: Cllr Martin Klute <martin.klutexislington.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Re: Nuisance diary

To: "[REDACTED] [REDACTED]" <[REDACTED][REDACTED]xtalk21.com>

Date: Sunday, 13 November, 2011, 15:35

[REDACTED], I received the first email, but the diary is in a file format I can't seem to open. Is there any chance you could re-send the diary as either a jpg or a pdf.

I'm glad to see BW are starting to take notice of the complaints. They do seem to be quite sensitive to bad publicity in the local press, and are starting to be more aware of the need for stakeholder engagement. The position about authority to enforce still see[REDACTED] somewaht unclear, but there does seem to be more of a team effort between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

I'm pleased you feel there has been some progress, even if the results are not quite as decisive as I'd hoped.

As always, times and dates carry far more weight, so if you can try and keep a note it is always better. Let me know how things are when the weather turns again.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Sub Committee B

A hasty handheld communication

Read my blog at:

<http://cllrmartinklute.blogspot.com/>

From: "[REDACTED] [REDACTED]" <[REDACTED][REDACTED]xtalk21.com>

22/11/2011

[REDACTED], [REDACTED],

I went down to the towpath this evening and there was a boat, number[REDACTED], running what sounded like a very antiquated generator, which was making a deep throaty chugging noise, and was emitting some pretty pungent exhaust fumes. I gather the boat has been moored in this location for about a month. I listened to the noise from a g[REDACTED] in Noel Road, and attach a short recording of same. If this was summer time it would have made the g[REDACTED] more or less uninhabitable due to the noise and fumes. I also attach a couple of pages of nuisance diary from the same property.

As we have discussed before, if the source of this noise and air pollution was a motor vehicle parked in front of the house, rather than a boat parked at the back, the pollution would be thought completely unacceptable. My view remains that the nuisance is the same regardless of the location or status of the source.

i have asked the resident to continue her nuisance diaries, and I look forward to your continued efforts to find ways to deal with the noise and air pollution.

Many thanks.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

27/11/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

As you must have heard from the emails (included below) sent by my near neighbours, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], the situation with canal boat nuisance has not improved at the Islington Visitor Moorings. The last few weeks have been particularly bad with boats moored three and four deep. At present the weather is mild so the levels of noise and smoke are not at their peak, although it is very unpleasant. The health of residents in this area, both physical and mental, is not being considered. We have done everything that we can to highlight the problem but the actions taken by British Waterways have not prevented exactly what we feared would happen. There is an excessive number of boats moored here and they break the rules regarding being a nuisance to residents and British Waterways does not prevent it.

I have also emailed you (1/11 and 6/11) with regard to one specific boat [REDACTED], whose owner used the busy tow path for renovations and has a very loud and intrusive generator. He also has smoky fires burning consistently. Quite apart from the nuisance factor and breaking of license regulations, this boat has over stayed by at least 3 weeks. With two new staff to help why has this boat not been moved even though complaints were made 3 weeks ago.

I think we deserve a reply to these emails. At the meeting about Islington Visitor Mooring nuisance boats on 8th June, we discussed many ways that these proble[REDACTED] of smoke and generator noise could be minimised. We have seen a new sign and understand that winter mooring is no longer allowed in this stretch of canal. But this has not changed the pattern of overstaying, overcrowding and disregard for the rules.

We asked that

- * boats be restricted to a single mooring
- * electricity be provided
- * a w[REDACTED] be placed nearby

Could you please inform us whether any progress has been made on these points?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

01/12/2011

[REDACTED],

I received a complaint from a resident on Noel Road today about noise from the canal. When I visited I could hear a loud thumping noise within the property, it was very disturbing when heard from within the g[REDACTED]. Indoors with the doors and windows closed the noise could still be heard over conversation.

Considering the duration of the noise I do think this is a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Also from the information that the resident gave it see[REDACTED] that there were initially two engines running, then one switched off while the other continued.

I went and spoke to the boat owner who refused to give me her name or any details, I'm quite sure the boat was called "Summer Breeze". I made it clear to her that I wouldn't be taking any enforcement action today, but she still declined to give me her details. She explained that she normally runs her engine about twice a week for half an hour each time, today she was doing it for longer so that she could charge her laptop. We talked about what is considered reasonable and I explained that the noise from her engine was just too loud in this location and we are obliged to serve notice and request that works be done to reduce the noise level. She said she would be leaving on Saturday, I advised that I'd continue to monitor.

She also told me that the boat next to her which has a really loud engine (it's likely this is the one that was running before I arrived) has a winter mooring and will be staying for 5 months. Could you confirm if you have any winter moorings here? The sign states only 7 days and I was sure we'd agreed to move winter moorings further down in the wider part of the canal.

I've discussed this with the service manager for noise and pollution and we've agreed that we have grounds to serve enforcement notices if the engines are too loud. We can discuss further when we meet next week.

Please let me know about the alleged winter mooring.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/12/2011

[REDACTED],

Hi, thank you for your e-mail. Sorry to hear about this incident.

Firstly if you require the boats, owner details, this will not be a problem. The boat is known to us although not currently in our enforcement process.

There are no winter moorings at this location. The winter moorings for this area are below City Road Lock, Wharf Road Bridge. This was discussed and decided after the meetings we had with local residents.

The visitor moorings at this location are for 7 days and stretch from Tunnel to Bridge.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate in contacting us, I look forward to our meeting on Thursday.

All the best

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Enforcement Officer South
London: River's Lee & Stort. Hertford Union & Regents Canal. Docklands
020 7985 7707
07747765434

[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk
<mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk>

Enfield Lock
Navigation Drive
Enfield
Middlesex
EN3 6JG

07/12/2011

Hi [REDACTED],

Following on from last week's conversation with this crafts owner, in which promises to move by the weekend were made, if this craft is still present during our visit tomorrow then CC actions will be commencing.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Enforcement Officer
South East Waterways
[REDACTED]

07/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

I did receive a response from [REDACTED] at BW (see attached) and also from the new enforcement officer, [REDACTED]ip [REDACTED] to say that boats should only be at this location for 7 days and if the boat in question is still there on Thursday then they will commence enforcement action. From this statement from [REDACTED]ip I assume that the individual has been spoken to and moved on. Will let you know how my meeting goes.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

07/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] whose generator you heard has now left. I am not aware of it overstaying. The boat Reg [REDACTED] which I first complained to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about on 1/11 and also on the 6/11 and 27/11 has also finally left. I had no reply from [REDACTED] and this boat stayed over 5 weeks at this location running its very loud generator mostly twice a day. This is typical of the behaviour of inconsiderate boat owners who know how BW operates and how to flout the rules. As [REDACTED] hi[REDACTED]elf has said they have been until recently given up to 5 weeks before BW will fine them as it is not worthwhile collecting any smaller fines. However I understood from our meeting with BW last June that they would be enforcing fines after 7 days now.

Can you please ask [REDACTED] whether any penalty was given to this boat or whether it will get away with this flagrant disregard for the rules of its license? Once instant penalties are given I'm sure there will be better behaviour from the boat owners.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

08/12/2011

[REDACTED], please see attached letter that I gave you today. Can you also see the email from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] below, I forgot to ask you about this boat, can you let me know if any action was taken.

Thank you both again for meeting with me today.

Speak soon.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED] - a boat at the bottom of my g[REDACTED] has been pouring out thick smoke since 9am this morning. It is now 1pm and the smell is very unpleasant. Boats are still double and triple parked on this stretch of the canal that lies in the gully between Colebrook Row and Danbury Street, so diesel fumes and smoke accumulate and drift into the adjacent houses, especially those with very short g[REDACTED]s at the Danbury end of the cutting.

I am attaching two photos taken this morning from inside my house, the first to show double parking, the second to show the smoke plume.

Sincerely - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11/12/2011

[REDACTED],

Thanks for your note. I'm sorry you've had another rotten day. Please keep advising when these events occur, and if possible, keep the record in a diary form, as I previously suggested.

British Waterways are slowly waking up to the extent of the issue, and I have heard it suggested by your neighbour, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], that when BW do manage to move boats on after they have over-stayed their license, the problem is noticeably reduced. Is that also your impression?

Also, this year is the first time I've been made aware of the problem with noise and air pollution from canal boats: It would be helpful to know if the problem is noticeably worse this year, or whether it is more the case that you and your neighbours are being more vocal about it? We all need to keep up the pressure on BW to encourage them to find ways of enforcing their own rules, as well as trying to find ways of taking action against polluters.

Please stay in touch.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Labour Member for St [REDACTED]'s Ward

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

11/12/2011

Dear Martin - thank you for your helpful reply. Yes, it has been a noisy, smelly weekend. The time I spent at home today was constantly accompanied by the throbbing of diesel generator engines, making it difficult to concentrate on reading or writing. It is clear that while boats are still double parked along the whole of this gully there is no prospect of relief.

It has certainly NOT always been like this. I moved here in 1977 and at that time only occasional boats moored on this stretch of the canal - often only a couple of them, so there was virtually no noise or pollution problem [REDACTED], and fishermen were usually sitting peacefully on the tow path. They have been edged off their places here. The local amenities for Islington residents are also thereby diminished, especially for those housed in nearby high-rise flats, who use the towpath as a local open space (of which Islington has few).

During the last few years the noise and pollution problem [REDACTED] have developed and increased in intensity - it is worse now than ever before. Those of us living in houses with short g [REDACTED]'s backing onto the canal drew BWB's attention to the start of double mooring and the inexorable increase in boat numbers, and recently this has increased further due to triple mooring. There are now upwards of two dozen boats moored in this gully, each one needing to run a diesel generator as BWB provides no electricity (as is provided at other mooring places further down the canal). A maximum number of 8 boats is an LBI recommendation and needs to be implemented ASAP. Our lives have been made a misery by the failure to stop the increase, and the almost universal failure of moored boats to observe the basic neighbourly rules - the notice board providing information about not running diesel engines between 8pm and 8am had been obscured by piles of rubbish when I walked down the towpath two days ago. Boats continue to run engines during the evenings, and this is the last straw for those of us who have suffered the throbbing noise all day.

From time to time (and this happened for a short period during the course of last week) the number of boats suddenly diminishes, possibly related to BWB 'moving on' overstayers, but the empty spaces are within hours filled by new boats, also double or triple parked, and a new set of temporary boaters with no idea of the basic rules takes over. Since BWB makes regular patrols of this stretch of the canal, it might be an idea of their posting a notice about these rules into or on every moored boat - thinly laminated notices could readily be pasted onto the sides of each boat, and could also include the instruction that double parking was not permitted. No attempt appears to have been made to limit the number of boats, despite the obvious health and safety implications of the current situation. It would probably be better to issue 8 winter mooring licences for this gully, and not allow roving moorings here at all. I'm not sure why this year BWB changed the winter months management

structure so that only roving moorings (limited to 7 days) were available here. It see[REDACTED] a retrograde step, as it diminishes control, and is associated with the intense exacerbation of the proble[REDACTED] we've had for the last few months.

I will do my best to keep a noise and pollution diary, but I am away intermittently at meetings so there are likely to be gaps in the record during those times and when I am out - I am sometimes forced to go out when the diesel engine noise and smell gets to be too much. I very much hope you will continue your efforts on our behalf, and thank you and your colleagues for what you are setting out to do, hopefully with the full cooperation of BWB.

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12/12/2011

Dear All,

I met with [REDACTED] from British Waterways last week and discussed the ongoing issues and what they can do to resolve these.

There are a number of issues at the canal;

1. Noise and smoke pollution - I witnessed noise from [REDACTED]'s home and was met with objection when I approached the boat owner. My service manager has authorised that enforcement notices are served if further nuisance is witnessed. BW have issued the attached letter to all boaters on the canal in Islington.

2. The winter moorings are now located at a wider point of the canal away from homes, this is expected to result in less nuisance as the noise and smoke will disperse better in a wider area. It was agreed that the moorings at the rear of your homes would be for 7 days only to reduce the potential for nuisance. I do accept your point however that it may have been better to have a small number of winter/permanent moorings on the condition that the boats here do not have noisy generators etc. I will discuss this in more detail with [REDACTED].

3. BW have an officer that monitors and logs boats on the canal daily - this is to enable [REDACTED] and the new enforcement officer [REDACTED]lip [REDACTED] to take the necessary action for those that overstay.

4. When I visited last week there were only about 8 boats moored - I've never seen this stretch of the canal so quiet, during all my previous visits there have been around 12-14 boats on average. I've asked [REDACTED] to do what he can to reduce the number of moorings, I understand that the bye-law states that as long as boats can move freely along the canal without obstruction there is no restriction on numbers; however as I've explained to [REDACTED], with a higher number of boats, the potential for nuisance due to cumulative noise is far greater.

I think that much of the action taken by BW recently has been positive, I've made it clear to them that enforcement is an absolute must to ensure their rules actually work. They are also discussing the options for a code of conduct and I've asked if we (local authorities) can input into this to ensure local residents are protected.

Please continue to let me know of nuisance incidents and I'll come to witness if I can. If you identify a particular boat that constantly causes a nuisance then you are entitled to take your own action.

I've attached information for your reference, will be happy to discuss this in more detail if you wish.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for that detailed reply and attachments, that I'm also including with this email for general information. I am not much impressed with the BWB letter. It is couched in ter[REDACTED] that make it seem perfectly acceptable to be burning wood, and states clearly that the boats are expected to run their generator engines longer and keep their fires burning now that winter has come.

When more than 8 boats do that in this cutting, it is inevitable that serious pollution occurs - raising health and safety issues as well as nuisance. There appears to be no plan to reduce the number of boats in this gully, as we have repeatedly requested. This morning I counted 14 boats, some double and even triple parked. Diesel engines have been pounding most of the day, and as I write this, at nearly 8pm, one near me is still running.

The BWB note see[REDACTED] only to take exception to the idea of engines being run after 10pm - this sort of noise between 8-10pm is torture. No effort is being made to enforce the basic rules, and I consider it very unwise to attempt speaking to boat owners in the dark, having been at the receiving end of abusive language on other occasions. Indeed, BWB have recommended that we don't try to do this. What are we supposed to do when all offices are closed? There has been no response to our request that there should be an on-site w[REDACTED], as there once was.

As an interim measure I suggest that the 8 boat limit be enforced by issuing just 8 winter mooring licences for boats to moor along this stretch - then at least we will not have a weekly shifting population who are ignorant of the local rules. Something needs to be done urgently about the overcrowding and high boat density - surely a simple daily boat count by the BWB person who patrols this stretch would provide their own documentation of the situation, and LBI should be provided with this information on a regular basis.

Please continue to work towards a solution - the problem is currently getting worse rather than better.

Sincerely - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED] - the generator noise I have continued to hear is intermittent, and definitely from various of the boats. I am aware of the building site generator in Vincent Terrace, but that is continuous during daytime, and far enough away not to have caused me problems [REDACTED].

I was away Dec 1-6th and when I came back I noticed that there were indeed far fewer boats - maybe that was the day that [REDACTED] counted 8, which is fine. Unfortunately more started arriving within a day or so of my return, including two at the end of my g[REDACTED] with very loud generators. Yesterday my boat count was up to 14, with double and triple parking in places.

I agree with you that we should ask [REDACTED] to find out what happened to any boats identified as overstaying, and whether any were prosecuted - for overstaying or causing nuisance. But for as long as we are dealing with a moving population, any solution is temporary until the next lot arrive and are not instructed. That BWB letter is not in my view anything more than a nursery school homily. The rules need to be spelt out, and a paragraph added about NOT double or triple parking - all boats moored on his stretch should be given such a letter by the day after they arrive. If this was co-ordinated with successful efforts to move on overstayers, it could be effective.

Indeed, I will fight on - driven to it I fear.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

On 13 Dec 2011, at 16:56, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

The boats have been considerably better at my end of the canal this week. However did you realise that the very loud generator which runs all day is from a building site on Vincent Terrace?

Well done keeping up the fight. I will compose my reply within the next few days. One thing I did request from [REDACTED] was that she ascertain whether any boats have been prosecuted for overstaying in the last few months that we have identified them and they have had extra staff. I.E. Is anyone being punished and giving those boats with no consideration for neighbours a reason to stop?

[REDACTED].

14/12/2011

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

As far as I'm aware no-one has actually been prosecuted or fined by BW for overstaying. I'll continue to check this with [REDACTED].

The issue about double and triple parking is slightly difficult because BW feel that it's not an offence to do this as long as boats can pass on the other side. However, I've asked [REDACTED] if he can apply a rule to reduce numbers, he hasn't come back and confirmed anything as yet.

I'll keep you updated about any changes, and will also go and look at the generator on Vincent Terrace today.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14/12/2011

Hi [REDACTED], [REDACTED]lip,

I've been asked by the residents on Noel Road if any of the boats moored at the rear of their properties have ever been prosecuted for overstaying. Could you let me know please.

Thank you

16/01/2012

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for your helpful and considered reply - it is reassuring to know that the noise team could be brought into this scenario. The situation at the Danbury end of the gully is currently very bad, due to triple mooring - there are 6 boats moored with their engines within a few meters of my back door - the g[REDACTED]s of the houses at the Colbrooke Row end of the gully are much longer and higher up, so not as vulnerable as those, for example, as mine or [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s.

An added problem this weekend was that of wood smoke - I woke in the night on Saturday/Sunday with such a strong smell of burning in my house that I thought it was on fire - very disturbing at 4am. Again, the boat proximity and numbers make this worse.

Finally, on Sunday morning one of the boats hauled an electric power drill onto the towpath and started it screeching to cut big logs being hauled off the roof of the boat. I called out to them (with difficulty shouting over the noise) and asked them to stop, which indeed they did, but they were certainly in ignorance about using the canal towpath as a work station - surely BWB need to make this clear - does their notice need amending for this purpose.

Thank you for your continued efforts on our behalf - I do hope you can get BWB to deal with rule compl[REDACTED]ce issues - until they do, we are on a hiding to nothing

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

17/01/2012

Dear [REDACTED] - just to give you a quick update - the triple parking over the last 24 hours at the back of my house (but not along the whole stretch of the gully) has been reduced to double parking, so that instead of 6 diesels meters from the back of my house there are 3 - clearly an improvement but it would be better if this was reduced to a single one.

Smoke continues to pour from the chimneys of many boats - again the high number exacerbates the problem - if burning wood cannot be using current health and safety principles, the number of permitted fires must be reduced - i.e. at least back to the limit of 8 boats moored along this stretch. Smoke, diesel fumes and noise from generator engines clearly constitute 'nuisance' to neighbours - my understanding is that one of the principle rules is that moored boats should not generate nuisance - this rule needs to be enforced by BWB. Endless 'nuisance diaries' have provided evidence of the scale of the problem, but nothing has been done to prevent it happening again and again.

With thanks for your attention to these complaints from an Islington resident of more than 40 years, over 30 of these living in the same canalside house. I have been daily witness to the escalating problems relating to excessive numbers of boats permitted to moor here without any of service provision provided at other mooring sites, eg. electricity to obviate the need to use individual diesel generators.

Sincerely - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/02/2012

Dear [REDACTED] - earlier this week we had a period of several days when the density of moorings in this gully dropped to a single file, with just 7 or 8 boats spread out between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street. This made a significant difference to generator diesel engine noise and pollution levels and I was rejoicing in this, hoping that you'd managed to get BWB to agree to limit the number of boats allowed to moor here. However, double parking is now back again, with two huge boats behind my house (near the Danbury St end of the gully, so with a very short g[REDACTED]) and the nuisance levels are on the rise.

It is quite clear that the level of nuisance is directly proportional to the number of boats moored.

Please can you make serious efforts to see that an acceptable limit is placed on that?

With respect to enforcement, we still have heard nothing about having a w[REDACTED] boat moored in this stretch - a tactic that worked very well in the past, and has not financial implications for BWB.

Can you again request that this be set up?

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

01/03/2012

[REDACTED],

The level of pollution nuisance has now become extremely unhealthy once again. Yesterday I counted 18 boats from my fence. They are triple parked and many have been there for 2-3 weeks. I have attached some photos taken on 19 February when the wood smoke was particularly bad. I did not get an opportunity to send them at this time and as the weather became warmer they haven't needed fires. A lot of these boats have not moved on and some huge boats have joined them. On that day I also found rubbish piled up at the bins and some even pushed through the fence of a neighbours property. This rubbish was clearly left over from the renovation work that had been done on a boat. This has become a regular sighting along the canal towpath- piles of rubbish left by boats. On that day there was also a boat owner cutting wood on the tow path to stock his fire. The rumble of many boats running their noisy generators from 5.30-8pm tonight has been disturbing. When I went outside to look, the acrid smell from the combination of diesel and engine fumes, wood smoke and smokeless fuel was noxious and within

2 minutes my hair and clothes stank. I have had to shut all of the windows in the house and my son's room if full of these poisonous fumes.

Please can you make sure that these boats are moved on tomorrow and monitor the boats daily as you promised, making sure that they only stay for one week. This is clearly not being done.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

01/03/2012

Dear [REDACTED] - I can confirm all of [REDACTED]'s observations and I had been on the point of emailing you myself, as triple parking has brought 7 boats within meters of the back of my house, with the attendant noise and fumes from diesel engines. The large boat (with a white roof) of which [REDACTED] writes had been here for 2 weeks and has been joined by two other very wide, long boats, moored at an angle and sticking out far into the canal because of their size.

Triple mooring, in addition to tripling the noise and pollution levels, also makes it difficult to enforce 'moving on', even if attempted (there is no evidence of any attempts at enforcement), exacerbated since these boats are occupied by people who are out, working one assumes, most days - in no sense are they 'cruising craft' - merely LBI residents avoiding paying council tax, and taxpayers like us are both subsidising them and suffering from their overcrowding. Diesel generator noise between 5 and 8pm every night (and often after 8pm) blights the prospect of quiet evenings. The sound of chopping and sawing wood from the towpath is frequent.

It is a matter of urgency that the overstaying and overcrowding of moor boats is dealt with effectively - while we may be able to compromise to co-exist with 7 or 8 boats, 18 plus creates intolerable levels of pollution and distress. PLEASE ACT - ASAP.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

02/03/2012

[REDACTED], are you and your colleagues able to take action about this please?

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Labour Member for St [REDACTED]'s Ward

02/03/2012

Begin forwarded message:

Can this suggestion from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] please be taken forward - we residents are being subject to very bad environmental pollution by this increasingly problematic mooring problem - SOMETHING needs to be done to solve the problem. Those of us with very short g[REDACTED]s, at the Danbury St end of the cutting, are particularly badly affected. This includes [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and me. Please find a way of applying common sense to this - I'm at the end of my tether with the noise and fumes - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2012

Just to let you know that nothing has moved since my Thursday email - the same overstaying boats are double and triple parked, with the engines of 7 of them a few metres from the back of my house. There has been intermittent sound of chopping and sawing wood, with predictable smoke rising from boats burning this fuel over the w/e. The cacophony of diesel engines has continued well past 8pm each evening. There has been no reply to our requests that a w[REDACTED] boat be moored amongst those in this gully.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2012

[REDACTED],

Since I wrote to you last week asking for nuisance boats to be moved on, nothing has changed. As you can see from the attached photographs, the same boats are still moored at the end of my g[REDACTED] and have been subjecting my neighbours and myself to their woodsmoke and generator fumes and smoke. The ones whose names and numbers I can read are [REDACTED][REDACTED][REDACTED][REDACTED]xx. They have all been moored here since at least 19th March, so should have moved on at least a week ago.

Last night was particularly bad and I woke up coughing and with a headache. My son is also complaining to me and he sleeps on a higher floor. This sort of pollution would not be acceptable if they were on dry land. I understand that you may need to observe them breaking the rules of their license by burning wood fires and this usually happens at night time when the officers are off duty. However it is obvious that they are burning a lot of wood as it covers the roofs of their boats and the piles change daily. (photographs can verify this) Their generators are also very intrusive for the whole of the evening and often well after the 8pm cutoff time.

I do agree with [REDACTED] that boats should be excluded from close vicinity of houses if you cannot police them properly.

Please could you move these boats on and if it is not possible inform myself and my neighbours why not?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

05/03/2012

I concur with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s complaint. Yesterday evening a diesel generator was run until 9pm. This would have contributed to the air pollution. This location is clearly completely unsuitable as a mooring for boats needing to rely on diesel motor generated electricity and smoky fuel for heating.

[REDACTED]

06/03/2012

This email is further to my previous 2 emails detailing the smoke and noise from canal boats. These boats are being allowed to overstay even though British Waterways have been notified that they are a health nuisance.

As you can see from the photograph, the smoke heads straight into the upper roo[REDACTED] of the houses. These roo[REDACTED] are mainly bedroo[REDACTED] and so residents are having to sleep in smoke filled roo[REDACTED] with no way of alleviating the problem. My family and myself all have coughs, sore throats and chest restriction.

Please can something be done as quickly as possible?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

06/03/2012

I re-iterate [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s concern - there are now 19 boats double and triple moored in this gully - the health hazard is obvious, as well as the nuisance. ES

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12/03/2012

The boats complained more than 2 weeks ago about for overstaying are still there, and have been joined by a huge number of additional boats - there are now 20 of them and the noise and fumes from diesel engines have been getting worse and worse. Chopping of fire wood has continued - almost all the boats have timber piled high on their roofs, their chimneys pour out smoke, adding to the air pollution.

THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY BOATS MOORED IN THIS GULLY - THIS MATTER NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION. THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12/03/2012

Dear Martin - what concerns me is the huge build up of boat numbers - 20 of them now, each pounding away daily with their diesel engines. This is not frustrating - it is more like an assault. A third of that number of moored boats would be starting to get tolerable, especially if the observed the rules about not running diesel generators after 8pm or before 8am. I suggest you take a walk down the towpath in the gully behind our houses - [REDACTED]

12/03/2012

Visited canal between Danbury Street and Colebrooke Row. 19 boats were moored, one of which had it's engine running, very low level noise not considered to be a nuisance. No smoke at time of visit. Observed for 15 minutes.

13/03/2012

Dear Martin - thank you so much for taking the trouble to do this site visit. Your findings confirm the daily situation on the ground. I went into my g[REDACTED] at 6pm yesterday on my return from work, and had to retreat inside the house because of the fumes - smoke and diesel. They could still be detected (along with the throbbing of diesel motors) even when the back door and all windows were closed. It is the excessive NUMBER of moored boats that inevitably leads to this toxic build up. It is not just a case of getting overstaying and nuisance offending boats to move on - there also needs to be a strictly enforced limit to the number of boats that can be moored in this gully. But you are quite right about the Danbury Street end being the worst affected - our g[REDACTED]s are lower and much shorter than those at the Colebrook Row end.

Please make other site visits here at the same time of day - the build up by then is awful and needs to be witnessed. We much appreciate your action.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

17/03/2012

We are very appreciative of the significant reduction in the numbers of boats moored in the gully behind the Noel Road terrace, but I'm afraid not all of them have taken onboard the rule about not lighting smoky fires. I'm attaching a photo of the boat moored behind my house, chimney pouring smoke, and piles of neatly chopped wood stowed on the roof ready to add to that - please can you contact him and get him to stop. The boat is easily identifiable from it's red roof and piles of wood - my house is already stinking from its smoke.

With thanks - [REDACTED]

31/03/2012

Boat number [REDACTED]xx, has overstayed its mooring in the Noel Road stretch. I am letting you know, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], so that you can serve a warning on it, as promised last year.

Again, may I please ask why you allow moorings in a place so close to home owners. This is another boat of roof sitters on a level with my (tiny, short) back g[REDACTED]. There has been much noise from boats

this past week -- unfortunately for me, I am a writer and frequently work from home. A travelling boat with 'pumping out' on it was particularly noisy. I do wonder about the boats' apparent impunity to flout health and safety issues that the rest of us have to observe.

Please take these issues seriously. No boats at the bridge end would immediately remove the cause of irritation.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

02/04/2012

Dear all,

Thank you for your various e-mails over the past month.

I have noted all your comments, suggestions and requests.

Those boats that have been identified to us as 'over staying', 'ASB' ETC, these have been further investigated and appropriate action has been put into place, taken. I hope you can appreciate that I cannot go into to many details as to which boats, what action.

Most of the suggestions and requests that have come to me unfortunately I cannot deal with for these are matters for the Waterways Manager, [REDACTED][REDACTED]xBritishWaterways.co.uk <mailto:[REDACTED]xBritishWaterways.co.uk> and head of boating

[REDACTED][REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk <mailto:[REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk>

The issues of how many boats can, are allowed to moor at this location has no definition at present other than that the navigation must be kept clear.

The use of engines, generators during the permitted hours, again I cannot deal with, however outside these permitted times I can. But the process is not instant and I have a set process that I have to follow.

I think I mentioned that we were in the process of employing 2 new enforcement officers. I can confirm that we have now employed 2 new enforcement officers. We have 'split' London into 3, West - Central - East. Central which includes the Regents Canal will be under [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]([REDACTED].[REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk

<mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xbritishwaterways.co.uk>). I have cc'd her into this e-mail and I shall be having in depth talks with her to bring her up to speed with the history and delicate balance at this mooring site. I would also like to imagine, hope that I shall also stay involved but as a back seat driver/advisor with, to [REDACTED].

Please do keep the information, reports coming in and I thank you for these. I am sorry that you are frustrated with what might seem BW taking no action, I can assure you we are.

Thanking you

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

19/04/2012

Dear [REDACTED] and Martin

I am sorry that Islington residents still feel that the boats moored adjacent to their properties are causing unacceptable nuisance. We are sympathetic and would obviously like to be able to promise swift and effective action to mitigate the problems. This is however an extremely tall order. During December, we dropped the attached letter onto all boats moored along the towpath throughout the Regent's Canal and hoped very much that this would strike a positive chord with recipients. Taking enforcement action under the licence terms and conditions requires specific evidence and witnesses prepared to testify in court if necessary. Were we to take specific enforcement action, relying on our powers to revoke a boat licence, and then removing the boat from the waterway, the whole process would probably take in excess of a year and would depend on the County Court judge agreeing that the nuisance was sufficiently severe to warrant removal of the boat owner's home.

Another route that we have considered is to take action under our byelaws. Again we would need specific evidence, and though slow, it would be quicker and more certain than the above. However, the penalties are paltry and would not be a particularly effective deterrent.

We now have two new full time members of our enforcement team dedicated to the canal through Islington, one of whom passes through daily. As part of their induction, they will very shortly receive training on how to approach boaters who are the subject of allegations of nuisance etc. As well as handing out formal notifications, the emphasis will be on conversations aimed at persuading them to be considerate of others.

Perhaps you could explore further what other options we might have, perhaps using the powers available to local authorities? Subject to the provisions of the Data Protection legislation, we would of course be happy to share information to support whatever action you might be able to take against the worst offenders.

Come July, we have a plan to relocate resident boaters away from the Noel Road stretch so that visitor moorings may be used by genuine leisure visitors bringing their boats from other parts of the country. Wood burning stoves are much less common on board leisure boats than residential ones. The leisure boaters will all have pre-booked their berths and we will obviously remind them of the imperative not to disturb the neighbouring householders. We hope therefore that this will provide something of a respite for residents.

We are actively considering options for tackling the problem in other ways. Most promising appears to be the idea of creating an official residential mooring site on the opposite side of the canal against the land which is leased to Islington. We could install electricity and thereby reduce the generator noise. At the same time, it would make sense to close the towpath moorings and relocate visitors to below the lock. We'd be interested in your thoughts on this.

I would welcome your views on this subject

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

24/04/2012

Boat [REDACTED], fourth from bridge, white curved canopy (maybe hiding name?) has breached your mooring laws, having stayed longer than a week.

I am complying with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]'s request that we pass all long- stayers on to him for the appropriate BW response. But I should like to state that I HATE being put in the position of the Soviet informer

on the corner of my street . I feel guilty and [REDACTED]amed and sneak around -- behaviour forced on me partly by the fact that the boat's number could not have been any smaller!

Again, why are boats allowed to moor along this enclosed and residential stretch of the canal?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24/04/2012

Dear [REDACTED],

This boat, which I wrote to you about last Thursday is continuing to fill my house with smoke on a regular basis. Could you please address the problem.

This is not the only boat burning wood recently, but is the one nearest my house.

kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

24/04/2012

This problem of smoke from burning wood is not limited to the canal behind [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]'s short g[REDACTED], but stretches along the whole gully, where the smoke lingers and pollutes air entering the houses close to the canal. If mooring is to be permitted in the gully running between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street, burning of wood needs to be banned. Such consideration is being daily flouted - you only need to see the quantities of wood piles on the roofs of boats moored there to realise this must be the case.

PLEASE ACT before asthma and other respiratory diseases are exacerbated by irritant particles - there is a wealth of research showing smoke to be a serious risk factor for respiratory ailments. This matter is a public health issue, in addition to being a smelly intrusion into our lives at any hour of the day or night when boaters 'light up'. Smokers can't do this in pubs and other public places now - please ensure that we are not forced to inhale wood smoke from boats moored within a few metres of the back of our houses.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

02/05/2012

For the second night running, on returning home after being at work during the day, on attempting to go into the g[REDACTED] (after 8pm) I was forced back into the house because of the overpowering level of diesel fumes. There are again a lot of double parked boats moored in the gully behind our houses, and some of them still have engines running. That, and the current humid atmospheric conditions (that are likely to persist through this month) have contributed to creating this highly toxic environment. PLEASE ACT to bring it under control as a matter of urgency - initially by stopping double and triple mooring, then by making proper long term plans to eliminate smoke and diesel pollution by providing a power source to any boats permitted to moor in this location.

Sincerely

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

02/05/2012

I can confirm that the pollution level in the gully where the visitor moorings are located is often extremely high. Almost every evening I am sleeping in a room of smoke. If my neighbour was causing this they would be penalised.

It is now one year since Noel Road residents met with British Waterways to try to improve the situation. The situation does not seem to have improved and has, I feel got worse. I know that there are now more patrol officers and that boats are often moved

on when they are troublesome. However, as one polluting boat leaves, another one arrives. The weekends are often the worst when no w[REDACTED]s are on duty. We need more measures to be put in place to ensure that the health of residents is not harmed by pollution.

As we requested a year ago,

- * we need a restriction on numbers of boats to a single row or no mooring at all at the southern end.

- * a w[REDACTED] to police the behaviour of boatowners each day and night and during the weekends.

- * The outright banning of the use of generators and fires and the installation of electricity points.

Even one of these measures would improve the situation.

Please could you try to take action as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

09/05/2012

Dear [REDACTED] - there were again diesel generator engines of boats moored in this gully running yesterday evening well past the 8pm cut-off time. Indeed, one started at 9.15pm! Maybe this particular problem, which is a very vexing one to those of us who have been subjected all day to diesel engine noise and fume pollution, could be tackled by leafletting the boats moored here on a weekly basis - including any of those double or triple parked, since despite the difficulty of reaching them (not to mention reading their licence numbers), they are also subject to your rules. They appear to be in ignorance of them.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

21/05/2012

Dear [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] has been having very smoky fires off and on for the duration of its stay. I noticed it from 25 April, but have been too busy to notify you. Luckily the wind has been blowing away from our houses until last weekend. This last weekend a party of young men sat drinking and shouting loudly at passers by and my family in the g[REDACTED] all Saturday morning. Needless to say we had to leave the g[REDACTED]. The upper floors of my house were also filled with smoke making sleeping difficult as it seeps in even with the windows closed. I am not able to open the windows even though it is very warm inside as I risk being suffocated by smoke.

Please could you move this boat on and make sure the other boats are aware of the rules?

[REDACTED] has now been moored there for almost 4 weeks. If boats were strictly made to move on after one week as is the time allowed by British Waterways, there would be far fewer boats moored at the Islington Visitor Moorings. Therefore, the residents nearby would not have to endure the high level of pollution caused by such a large number of residential boats.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

22/05/2012

Thankyou for waving the magic wand. I appreciate it.

[REDACTED] has been replaced by No.[REDACTED], which until today has been moored for at least two weeks alongside [REDACTED]. I can't be more precise because I really really resent having to be a policeperson for BW. It is neither my nature nor my desire.

Would you agree that this whole situation is a farce?

I should appreciate knowing what method BW employs to ensure its boats do not overstay. Because it clearly is not working.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24/05/2012

[REDACTED],

i had a good meeting with BW this morning. They are in agreement that the way to permanently solve the problem of abuse of the visitor moorings in the cut behind Noel Road is for the moorings to be converted to residential, with permanent water and electricity supplies installed in bollards on the towpath, proper ter[REDACTED] and conditions of occupation, and payment of Council tax. If implemented, we would also get a new homes bonus.

I said our preference was for permanent moorings on one side only, but when i suggested that they should be on the Vincent terrace side, BW's advice was that if there is an empty stretch of towpath, boats cannot be prevented from tying up. We therefore need to keep the residential moorings on the towpath side to effectively prevent rogue boats from tying up there. The other side of the canal whilst it has a footpath, also has railings which discourage mooring, and also signs put up by Islington stating 'no mooring'. None of us have ever witnessed a boat tied up on this side.

By coincidence, BW are clearing the casual visitors from this stretch for the olympics in order to make way for visiting boats from other parts of the country that have paid for a specific license to moor on the stretch for the olympics. BW see this clearing of the casual visitors as a window of opportunity to convert the moorings, and are keen to move quickly. You should therefore expect BW to be lodging an application for residential moorings with you imminently. There will be issues about night time security and refuse collection, but I believe these are solveable.

many thanks.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

12/08/2012

Dear [REDACTED],

After the Olympic exclusion zone came into place the nuisance from boats at the Islington visitor moorings dropped considerably, as did the number of boats. Hooray.

Recently however, the small number of boats moored there have been using their generators for very long periods of time and in succession, so that often there are not many times during the day when they are not running. With such lovely weather we are keen to enjoy being in the g[REDACTED] but this is often impossible with the noise and fumes. They are also using them beyond the 8pm deadline, including no. [REDACTED] (which has a very loud rattly generator reaching me from 2 houses away) on 9th August and [REDACTED] on 6th August. I did approach boat no.[REDACTED] and ask the owner to turn the generator off and he obliged me. He mentioned that he was paying to be there and I am wondering if those who have paid to moor at the Islington Visitor Moorings feel entitled to use their generators as much as they desire or have not been adequately informed of the rules.

Could you please remind these boats of these rules and ask them to comply. We would like to continue enjoying our 'period of respite' during the Olympics.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

12/08/2012

I can confirm the situation outlined by [REDACTED] in her August 12th email. I would also like to report further evidence of the pollution to which we are exposed by diesel fumes from the generators - I left a watering can of clean water on my balcony for a few days last week, and noticed that it accumulated a thick film of oil - almost certainly condensed from the diesel fumes in the air that we are forced to breath. This is clearly not a healthy situation, and it adds to the stress of the almost continuous engine noise that stretches into the evening, well past the 8pm deadline.

It is high time that the pollution issue was faced by those taking fees from and providing services to the boats along this narrow stretch of canal - if they are to moor here, they need to be provided with a source of electricity and forbidden to run generators or to light fires. I was under the impression that this point was about to be taken up seriously by the appropriate authorities - I certainly hope so.

Sincerely - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19/08/2012

[REDACTED]/[REDACTED] we have also been suffering from this boat. It hasn't been the noise which has probably been masked by a lot of nighttime parties including a very loud group on the tow path last night. The fumes are much more the issue. The real problem when it heats up is it no longer possible to close the windows especially in the childrens' bedrooms.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

20/08/2012

I can confirm [REDACTED]'s complaint. Although my g[REDACTED] is three doors away from hers, the throbbing noise of this generator is clearly audible from both inside and outside my house, and our use of the g[REDACTED] has been severely restricted by the fumes that hang around in this gully for hours. It is not a suitable place to allow diesel generator motors to be run, particularly at the Danbury Street end where our g[REDACTED]s are less than 3 meters long and closer to the water's edge.

Please can something be done about this, urgently, before our mental and physical health is affected by this inconsiderate boater who should clearly be moved on to a site where his highly contaminating motor does not impinge on his neighbours. Are there no standards that such diesel engines have to meet, as there are on other public highways?

With respect - [REDACTED]

28/08/2012

Dear [REDACTED],

We've had a drastic reduction in the number of complaints received about Islington visitor moorings during the Olympic period. I recall a while ago we had a brief discussion about what could be done long-term to resolve the problem [REDACTED] we have in this area. Has there been any progress on this at all?

Regards

12/10/2012

Dear Martin and [REDACTED] - this morning I was woken up shortly after 6am by the droning of a diesel generator from one of the boats moored along this narrow stretch of the canal. It looks as if the crucial rule of such engines not being allowed to start until 8am is being ignored. Such behaviour does not improve the current tense situation and undermines even further the confidence placed by us in implementing a solution.

I do not think that the argument for allowing double and triple parking should be allowed to rest on merely keeping space between the outer boat and the opposite bank for cruising ing boats to pass - the need for people to breath air not contaminated by fumes and smoke surely has priority over that.

Sincerely - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/10/2012

Dear Martin

Just to be clear, the meeting on 15th is not a public one. It's part of a carefully planned consultative process in which representatives or advocates of particular interest groups have been interviewed prior to attending. [REDACTED] will represent Islington residents. I'd ask you please to respect this. I and appropriate colleagues would be happy to attend a meeting dedicated to discussing the Noel Road moorings issue, but again, I think we will make more progress if we give some careful thought to planning the agenda and participation in advance. People's views have been very widely documented through recent months' emails, and meeting time spent just repeating these will serve no useful purpose. A smaller meeting with a tighter solutions-focussed agenda would be more productive.

You may already be aware that boaters moored along the stretch have recently been subject to vandalism and criminal assault by a gang of youths. In an attempt to reduce the risk of recurrence, our waterway manager, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has agreed to provide padlocks and chains for the gates at either end. These will be locked and unlocked by boaters with the standard key on a trial basis. We are making it clear to the boaters that we are doing this on the understanding that each one stays no longer than allowed at the site and that they reduce their impact on local residents.

Could I suggest we plan a meeting to include neighbours and boater representatives to work through the issues? It would seem sensible to fix this for a date as soon as possible after 15th, in hopes that there will be positive outcomes from that event that we could build upon.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

30/10/2012

Dear Martin - I find it very disturbing that meetings of interest groups related to the proble[REDACTED] we are experiencing in houses backing onto the Regents Canal in the gully between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street are only open to those who have preregistered. I am hoping that you and/or [REDACTED] will attend this one since you have direct experience of the issues involved.

The noise and fumes from diesel generator engines on double parked boats (the same boats having been there for very many weeks), along with the increasing use of smoky fires, are creating serious health hazards. I returned from work yesterday to find the house vibrating with noise from a boat at the bottom of my short g[REDACTED], and other boats nearby continued the noise until late in the evening, well past the 8pm deadline. They were still pounding away at 9.30pm. There see[REDACTED] to be a total disregard for the rules that have been set up to encourage neighbourly behaviour.

As a council tax payer (which the boat residents are not) I rely on LBI to deal with this situation, and not to leave it in the hands of interest groups not answerable to the borough.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

30/10/2012

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The number of boats moored at the Islington Visitor Moorings and the subsequent pollution levels have risen dramatically lately. As of yesterday there were 13 boats moored there with some triple moored.

The boat [REDACTED], has been there since before 7th October and is now running its generator often and for long periods. Boats [REDACTED]x have also been moored here since before 7th October but as they are not near my house I do not know if they are causing pollution. Allowing boats to overstay is unfair to true visiting boats who abide by the rules and causes Overcrowding. The level of fumes from generators running is becoming unbearable and is a huge health risk. Smoky fires are contributing to the problem.

Please ask those overstaying boats to leave and make sure that all boats know not to run generators for long periods or make smoky fires.

Kind regards,

24/11/2012

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Once again there are high numbers of boats moored at the Islington Visitor Moorings and the pollution level from loud generators and smoky fires is unbearable. Today I counted 16 boats! Please can you move the double and triple parked boats on and make sure that any boats staying are aware of the rules.

I have attached a video showing the number of boats and some generator noise. Please turn your sound up to hear the noise. The boat number x had its generator running all morning today but stopped before I recorded this. It is also having regular smoky fires. Many of the boats have logs and bits of wood on their roofs ready to burn. The boat [REDACTED]x has been here since before 20th October, so should have been moved on long ago.

There are now 4 boats moored in the turning space by the lock with loud generators and smoky fires going. This is a no mooring area as I understand but is now continually filled with boats.

Thank you in anticipation.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

26/11/2012

Please see attached photograph. This boat [REDACTED] is polluting our homes with smoky fires.

Please move this boat on.

29/11/2012

I have waited all week for something to be done about this awful situation described and illustrated by [REDACTED] [REDACTED], but it has persisted in all details - boats are now piled up three deep - 6 of them overlapping the end of my very short g[REDACTED], most of them with roofs piled high with wood for burning. And indeed, the acrid smell of woodsmoke mixed with diesel fumes fills the air and seeps into the house. The sound of diesel engines running goes on intermittently all day, and even well into the evening - sometimes to 10pm. There are no controls in place, no w[REDACTED] as promised. This state of affairs cannot continue - it is a serious health hazard.

Please do something - quite apart from the serious loss of amenity, our households are paying around £2600 per annum council tax each.

[REDACTED]

01/12/2012

Boat [REDACTED] has thick smoke pouring from its chimney - the source discovered when I walked along the towpath at 11am, but the stink of it filled my house before and after that. I also observed that the tr[REDACTED] cans on the towpath are overflowing with domestic waste - unsightly, unhygienic and a delight to rats, of which there are many locally.

ES

05/12/2012

There is currently a newly arrived boat, double parked at the end of my short g[REDACTED], pumping out clouds of smoke that are filling my house - who can I contact to have this boat restrained? As a pensioner I do not feel it is appropriate for me to go onto the towpath to remonstrate, but the situation is most distressing.

ES

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/12/2012

We have a large number of boats (Saturday I counted 19), double and triple moored here, meaning there is almost incessant generator noise. Many create smoky fires and today the one pictured has filled my house with smoke. I am unable to see its registration. The boat [REDACTED] has been here for about 2 weeks and was here for a few weeks in September October.

This area needs to have a single row of mooring restriction sign placed urgently and regular w[REDACTED] activity please.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/12/2012

This weekend has been made wretched by the huge number of boats making an almost constant droning of diesel engines and creating a thick haze of smoke that invades our houses. I am attaching photos of a pair of boats (triple parked) taken from my first floor balcony, one showing thick plumes of smoke, both with VERY noisy engines that sound as if they are in their death throes.

The level of noise of a boat at any one time does not reach the pitch that would be regarded as 'nuisance' by the noise patrol - it is the almost constant drone of boat after boat that creates both the unbearable noise and the attendant diesel fumes - these, together with smoke from fires on the boat, create an atmosphere mimicking the killer fogs of London before the clean air act. The simple expedient of enforcing a single line of moored boats would very significantly reduce the noise and danger. Surely action can be taken on public health grounds alone. I suggest you imagine a line of diesel lorries double parked in the street with their engines running, and how this would be dealt with - it would certainly not be tolerated.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

10//2012

It's still on our list of potential sites for working up proposals [REDACTED], but we recognise the strength of local opposition so we have no early plans for submitting a planning application. Our new enforcement team is keen to have the chance to try and make a difference so we'll see how that goes. The decision will in any case be in the hands of local residents through the planning process.

My greatest concern is that it's always going to be a very hard slog when it's a constantly changing set of boats. The great advantage of having just 8 or so long term residents is that enforcement would be much less of a challenge, and we could restrict permits to those agreeing not to burn smokey fuel. We'd install electricity to every berth.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] is the new enforcement supervisor for the area so feel free to contact him if you have any queries in future.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

11/12/2012

Thank you [REDACTED],

In the latest set of complaints many of the residents have asked that the moorings be restricted to just a single line. I had understood that the bye-laws state that as long as two boats can pass along the outer side there's no restriction to how many boats can be moored at any one time. Can you tell me if this is correct? And also are you able to restrict the number of boats in this area?

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/12/2012

A boat called [REDACTED] (can't see the number) and a boat called [REDACTED] have been double parked in the Noel Road cutting for a week.

It is akin to triple parking, as [REDACTED]x seems double width.

[REDACTED] is very smoky and fummy, with a number of fuel sacks on its roof.

Next to them, [REDACTED] , has also exceeded its stay.

These boats are to all intents and purposes permanently parked, turning this cutting into a marina.

According to your rules, it is time for them to move on . I can't imagine normal home owners putting up with the smell -- it brings the 1950s back to me before the smoke laws were passed.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/12/2012

HI [REDACTED],

Please see complaint below received from a resident in Noel road this morning. Can you respond please ASAP please.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/12/2012

Dear all,

I wanted to clarify a few points about this case so that hopefully we can all be clear on the issues and agree the best way forward.

The council has received complaints from residents of Noel road for many years about noise and smoke from the canal. Whilst this happens all year round it is of particular concern during the winter months. I have had this case since last year when the previous officer left the council. This stretch of the canal is very narrow and therefore the noise and smoke does not disperse as well as it does elsewhere. It only takes one particularly noisy or smoky boat to be causing a nuisance, however this is exacerbated when there are around 16 boats moored at any one time.

When considering enforcement action for nuisance we would take into account the reasonableness of the activity. We accept that heating and electricity is required and therefore it's likely that there will be some noise/smoke but best practice should still be adhered to, as well as licence conditions. The issue of residential moorings is something that I've asked CRT to consider simply because we could apply controls and they would be required to install mains power, therefore no need to burn fuel for heating or run the engine. We have no preference either way if these moorings remain for visitors or permanent residents. The issue is simply about pollution in this location and the effect it is having on public health. Both myself and CRT officers have put in a considerable amount of time and resources into dealing with this but I haven't seen any improvement, therefore an alternative approach is imperative.

I have looked at some of the other moorings across London, in particular Little Venice and Victoria Park. Neither of these locations have houses that back on directly to the canal and therefore I do need to question whether this is the most appropriate location in the borough for these moorings. There are other parts of the canal within Islington that are wider and do not have sensitive receivers. I shall be meeting with the CRT enforcement officer next week; I do hope that a significant change can be made as we cannot continue in this fashion especially considering how poor our local air quality is to begin with and this only gets worse during the winter. I intend to distribute letters to all of the boats reminding people of their obligations to only burn smokeless fuel.

Finally, as the towpath is owned by CRT our residential environmental health team can take enforcement action for the rubbish not being cleared.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13/12/2012

Thankyou so much for your clarity and willingness to see what can be done about the nuisance.

I once asked CRT (then BW) why we had moorings on this stretch and all they could come up with was 'historic reasons'.

I can't see why boats can't be forbidden in the Noel Road cutting . Their presence causes problems out of all proportion to their numbers and to any financial advantage to CRT. The only reason people come up with for keeping them is that they are 'picturesque' but actually the Noel Road towpath is squalid. Several of the boats are dilapidated, there is muck in the water between the boats , there is an unpleasant throb from the boat engines and fumes from the chimneys, the rubbish by the bins is only intermittently collected, bikes are chained to the no mooring signs ,there is an ad for a pub chained to a g[REDACTED] tree which overhangs the towpath and the fishermen have disappeared.. One decision to forbid mooring on this short stretch , and this problem would be removed for ever.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/12/2012

Hi [REDACTED]. Thanks for that e-mail. This is just to say that last night was particularly grim regarding fumes. I am sure the reasons were pretty much three-fold....bitterly cold so more people burning anything to keep warm, a fog or mist which kept the fumes hanging low in the air because of the culvert and lastly the large number of boats there magnifying the problem simply due to numbers keeping warm.

Whilst it is understandable, that doesn't make it right that I found it difficult to escape the fumes even in my house with windows shut and inter-lined curtains. The boaters definitely burn pretty much anything; I think they are less troubled by the fumes than the houses. I think the fumes rise to within the five storey house range but maybe get to above the canal boat level itself. Although I must say that at times the smell on the two path is very acrid and strong.

Regards

[REDACTED]

19/12/2012

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

There is now a build up of wood burning boats at Islington Visitor Moorings, filling our houses with smoke. This afternoon I saw at least 4 boats with smoke pouring from chimneys. Please see the photo and I have more of individual boats if you need them. The boats whose names/ registrations I could see are [REDACTED] Please could you request these boats and others to not use wood and to move on after 7 days.

Boats [REDACTED][REDACTED] have both overstayed already.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

21/12/2012

> I am becoming increasingly shocked by the stately quadrille danced by the boats. It makes them permanent in all but name. Like offshore tax dodgers, they are technically within the law; morally, they are far from admirable.

>> For example, [REDACTED] which last week was parallel parked alongside a boat moored next to the towpath, has this week heeded your warning about overstaying (thankyou) by moving alongside the towpath. This boat, and others like it, are basically permanently parked in the Noel Road cutting, turning it into a virtual marina. [REDACTED] is just one of several which has been around for weeks, at intervals changing places with others in the vicinity. It makes a mockery of the seven day rule.

>> Does CRT not mind being made a fool of?

>> And by the way, I am bewildered by CRT's refusal to take action about the smoke and fumes. I can't imagine any other home owners being expected to put up with the pollution -- it reminds me of the 1950s before the clean air acts were implemented.

>> [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/01/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Yet again we are being smoked out in our homes. As you can see from my attached photograph the boat [REDACTED] is having smoky fires, as well as [REDACTED].

On new year's day I counted 20 boats moored in the cut. In many places they are moored three deep. Moored in this density they are dominating this green space with their generator noise and smoke fumes and spoiling the environment for the wider public's use. Many of them are overstayers, especially [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), since at least 9/12/12, [REDACTED] since 16/12/12. The boat [REDACTED] has been here since at least 24/11/12, which is over 6 weeks!!

We need an immediate ban on double and triple mooring as a starting point to bring this situation under control. It has been going on for far too long. This is a simple request which is actually already a condition of their license regulations but is not being enforced at all.

With best wishes for 2013

[REDACTED].

04/01/2013

I can confirm the escalating horror of this situation. It can only be brought under control if single mooring is enforced, and boats required to move on after the statutory 7 day period. Is there any record of ANY enforcement (including fines for overstaying)? Without this the situation is ludicrous. Right now I am being fumigated by a foul diesel fumes for a boat's generator that is also rattling the windows at the back of my house.

I can only hope that there is an effective New Year's resolution on the part of those in authority to exercise that authority - why otherwise have they been placed in this position?

[REDACTED]

05/01/2013

The very noisy boat about which we have previously complained has been selling materials/services to all the boats moored along this stretch, one after the other all this afternoon. This trading boat has a horrendously noisy engine which shrieks out, disturbing the peace for up to half an hour for each boat served. Plying its trade in this gully should be forbidden, added to which the current density of moored boats renders the noise continuously for unbearably long period - it has now been going on for two hours and shows no signs of stopping.

This is a nightmare - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/01/2013

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Although the numbers of boats are now much reduced some of the boats are having very smoky fires night and day. My house has been continually smoky the last few days. Please can you ask them to move or stop using wood or we will continue suffering over the weekend.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can be seen billowing smoke in my photo taken today

The boat [REDACTED] has returned after overstaying in December and in September/October.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/01/2013

Dear all,

After my visit I went and spoke with the owner of [REDACTED] and asked him to stop burning wood, he said he had no alternative fuel and therefore wasn't prepared to stop burning, he argued that he would have to go without heat if he stopped. So I then asked if he would move on to another location that wasn't so sensitive; after some disagreement he said he would go later today. I explained to him that I was duty bound to serve an enforcement notice if he continued to cause a nuisance, however he wasn't prepared to give me any of his details.

Conveniently, I happened to bump into [REDACTED] [REDACTED] along the towpath a few minutes later and she agreed to speak with him immediately, as I was leaving it looked like [REDACTED] was getting ready to move on, can one of you please let me know if he's still there?

There was no-one on board [REDACTED], but again I spoke to [REDACTED] about this.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/01/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I received a complaint today about wood burning from a boat called [REDACTED] moored at the rear of Noel road. When I got down there [REDACTED] was no longer burning anything and there was no-one on board, however the smell of woodsmoke was apparent from Colebrooke Row. Another boat - [REDACTED] was burning wood, with very thick smoke coming out of the chimney. I spoke with the boater and he refused to stop burning, his reason for this was that he couldn't afford to buy alternative fuel, I asked him if he could then move on to another location that wasn't so sensitive because his burning is causing a problem here and I'm obliged to serve notice. After much discussion he eventually said he would move later today.

Then I happened to bump into [REDACTED] who agreed to speak to the boater. It looked like he was getting ready to move on as I was leaving.

I'd like to send out the attached letter next week and wondered if I could give a batch to yourself and/or [REDACTED] to distribute also.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/01/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - than you for that informative update. There is still at least one double moored boat further towards Colebrooke Row from my house, but I can't identify it at this distance and don't plan on going out today - I've too much work to do at home. But next time I do, I'll walk along the tow path and see whether [REDACTED] is still there. I would have thought that if the occupant refused to conform to the rules he should have been served the notice and asked to move on forthwith. Maybe [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has now done that. There's little point in giving such a character 'another chance' when he point blank refuses to mend his anti-social ways.

Thank you for coming out this morning to visit me here - I hope you've now been able to pick up all of those photos (2 of mine and both of [REDACTED]'s) that I forwarded to your alternative email address. They paint a vivid picture of the very unpleasant pollution to which we are repeatedly exposed. It HAS to stop. You have already contributed substantially to reducing the boat mooring density, although there's a bit further to go in instituting a single line of mooring. We hope you continue to keep an eye on this, as it bears on both smoke and diesel fume pollution, as well as noise.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

11/01/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Success! [REDACTED] has now moved on. Thank you so much for arranging this [REDACTED].

However [REDACTED] is still there and is now an overstayer as well as a polluter, having been here since at least 1st January.

I noticed as I walked past the lock that the pollution is almost as bad near the school and retirement home and beyond, with the still damp air keeping the smoke down and so many densely packed boats burning timber. They have huge logs on their roofs.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

13/01/2013

The solid good start is very welcome, the continuing wood smoke is not. There is now one remaining double moor boat which needs to be dealt with, and several overstayers, of which more than one continue to burn smokey fuel. [REDACTED] is still at the bottom of my g[REDACTED] and has been smoking away intermittently all w/e.

The enforcement team should be congratulated on their work over the last 10 days, but urged to continue it until ALL the rules are being observed. In the longer term the establishment of a resident w[REDACTED] boat, with a w[REDACTED] who can be phoned by us to deal with broaches 'in real time', and to keep a daily check on the identity of boats moored here, and when they first come, would be the simplest and lowest cost solution. It is difficult to understand why this has not been effected. Can this please be instituted ASAP. We had such a w[REDACTED] a few years back, and that worked fine, so it's not a new idea, but a tried and tested one.

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

14/01/2013

The Islington Visitor Moorings are now a much more peaceful green space. Thank you to all who contributed to reducing the number of boats.

However as you can see from my photo taken this morning, there is still flagrant use of wood smoke which is polluting my household and others. The boat in the photograph is [REDACTED] and it has had smoky fires all weekend, as have other boats, some who are overstayers. We are still often having to sleep in a smoky bedroom.

I agree with [REDACTED] that a w[REDACTED] who is also available out of office hours when the situation can get out of control, could solve the ongoing problem [REDACTED].

Best wishes,

[REDACTED].

14/01/2013

I can confirm the smoky w/e we have just endured, and the continued overstaying of some boats (including the one at the bottom of my g[REDACTED], [REDACTED]). I assume that the enforcement officer will be dealing with these today, to make it quite clear to those using the visitor moorings that the rules must be observed. If there is any let-up at this stage, i.e. allowing offenders to continue, this news will travel and encourage others to flout the rules. These have been set to safeguard the interests of everyone living in this gully or walking through it.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

14/01/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I visited the canal earlier today, [REDACTED] is burning smokeless fuel and therefore I can't do anything further to stop this.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

01/02/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see the complaint below. I've attached the document that was referred to in a previous email. On page 4 it states that double mooring is generally not permitted. Can you let me know if there is an actual rule about this?

Thank you for your help.

04/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I met you on 31st January at the Islington Town Hall for the Air Quality Working Group meeting.

After your presentation I raised the issue of pollution from vehicles on the waterways and you told us what steps were being taken to reduce this. I pointed out that vehicles on waterways are exempt from the Clean Air Act and that with an increasing number of boats being used for accommodation, the resultant air and noise pollution needs addressing. You suggested we discuss this further at the end of the meeting. Unfortunately the meeting ran on and you left without that discussion taking place.

In recent years, with accommodation shortages, there has been a proliferation of residential narrow boats in central London. These boats rely on diesel generators and fires for heat and energy which pollute the communities where they are moored with high levels of diesel and smoke fumes and noise. Large numbers of them are often moored in close proximity to families including young children and the elderly who are particularly vulnerable to cardiovascular and respiratory illness. The local authority is unable to act efficiently because these vehicles are exempt from the clean air act. If large numbers of diesel lorries were idling in the street for long periods on a continual basis, with diesel fumes and smoke from their fires filling the air, this would be stopped. Because these vehicles are on water, it is extremely difficult to curtail.

As you have been involved in a review of the Clean Air Act, I would like to suggest that the GLA recommends to Parliament an amendment to the Clean Air Act to include vehicles on water. This would enable the pollutions tea[REDACTED] from London's boroughs to act swiftly and efficiently in preventing this considerable danger to public health. Please could you inform me of steps, if any, being taken to deal with this escalating problem?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I too was at the meeting on 31st January at the Islington town hall. I second my neighbour [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s request - the situation is now getting desperate, pollution from old and poorly maintain boat diesel generator engines adds to the smoke pollution from burning wood that you see piled on the roofs of the boats. There is a narrow gully in which the Regent's Canal runs behind our houses, as it emerges from the Kings Cross tunnel, down to the Danbury Street bridge. The g[REDACTED]s of our houses are very short, especially those of us living at the Danbury St end, so the polluted atmosphere enters and fills our houses. The noise from a dozen or more (sometimes over 20) diesel engines thrumming away at all hours of the day, and well into the evening, is also intolerable, giving us no rest.

We have for a long time been raising this matter, which is an escalating problem, especially as boats have over the last couple of years started mooring two and three deep in this gully, with both CRT and the LBI. Periodically there are attempts at enforcement of the existing rules (i.e. no burning of wood) but this has no long term effect, and even now the existing rule banning double and triple mooring (i.e. limiting it to a single file of boats that would ensure a maximum of 7 or 8 vessels, a number just about bearable, as we discovered for a peaceful week or two recently following a sweep of enforcement when overstaying boats were asked to move on) is being disputed - if somebody stepped in to insist that single mooring was observed and enforced, that would help as an interim measure while we waited for any parliamentary steps, that I envisage would take some time. Meanwhile the health of young and old is at risk - a horrible game of Russ[REDACTED] Roulette. We have also requested that a w[REDACTED] be moored in this stretch, to monitor boats (a clear rule is a 7 day limit on mooring here, but widely disregarded) and deal with those flouting simple rules. Such a w[REDACTED] was in place a few years back and that arrangement worked well. Since then the number of boats has increased hugely, and controls have been slackened instead of being tightened up.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/02/2013

[REDACTED],

This morning four of the six double moored boats at then end of my g[REDACTED] are having smoky fires. I spoke to one boat owner who said she was only burning coal. However the boats are piled with logs and I saw an empty bag in the bin which originally held wood (see photo attached).

The boat numbers are still high counted at 10 today and are still double moored and over staying. As I've said before[REDACTED] has been here since before 24/11/12!

Please ensure that all boats know the rules and do not overstay or double moor.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

08/02/2013

The owner of this boat [REDACTED] [REDACTED] made my evening a misery last night by filling my bedroom and lounge with acrid smoke. As seen in this photo it continues this morning. Please move it on.

[REDACTED]

08/02/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Here is the link to the brochure which is designed to inform genuine london visitors. I don't see why it would not be valid now that they have become a charity. Why would the rules change?

<http://www.waterwaysholidays.com/location/londonboating.pdf>

Thank you so much for your help and understanding.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED].

08/02/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

When I got to the canal this morning at about 11:30 there was no burning and no-one on this boat. I'll go down again later this afternoon and leave a letter on the boat also.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12/02/2013

501484 has disappeared. Thankyou to all concerned who waved the magic wand. [REDACTED]

13/02/2013

Dear Martin

Apologies for not getting back to you.

Yes that is correct no one with a winter mooring should be moored in the ISLINGTON vm. I have just received an email from the owner of the craft , saying he is sorry it was not moved on Friday when he received my patrol notice , he was blocked in by another boat . He has tried to start the engine and is currently unable to start it.

If when he gets home from work he still can't re start the engine he will pull the craft out of the visitor mooring and onto the winter mooring site.

I am on site tomorrow so I will make sure that the boat has moved.

Hope this helps

Kind regard's

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/02/2013

There are now 10 boats moored in the gully, two of them double parked (the same ones as yesterday), this number exceeding the limit of 7 that needs to be kept for diesel fume dispersal - a number set by LBI some time ago, but never enforced.

In addition, one of these boats, '[REDACTED]' registration number [REDACTED], is pouring out smoke from its chimney, making walking on the towpath unpleasant, and seeping into our houses. I heard wood being chopped on the towpath earlier today - a not infrequent reminder of the way the rules are broken with respect to use of smoky fuels.

I think a little bit of enforcement carried out today might stem the increasing numbers, and warn the inhabitants of [REDACTED] that burning smoky fuel is not permitted. The diesel engine of this boat is also at the moment banging away very noisily.

[REDACTED]

13/02/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I passed by the canal at just before 11am and spoke with the owner of [REDACTED]; I explained to him that it was an offence to burn wood in this area, he didn't have any alternative fuel but said he would be moving on very shortly.

I advised that I'd be back in the area in a couple of hours and as long as he was gone there would be no further action taken at this stage but whenever he is moored in Islington he must only burn smokeless fuel.

13/02/2013

Dear All,

[REDACTED] has now moved on.

[REDACTED],

Are you able to provide any more information about the 7 boat limit set by LBI? Was this a planning requirement?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for your swift action on this one - the argument proffered by [REDACTED]'s inhabitants sounds the same as one offered to you on a previous occasion a few weeks ago - perhaps the same person, trying his luck!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for following this through.

Have you yet arranged for monitoring of diesel pollution levels on the towpath in this gully? It sounded as if the monitors were relatively simple (and therefore not expensive I assume) when discussed at the January 31st meeting at the Town Hall. In confirmation of what one of the expert speakers was saying that night about diesel fumes being the greatest health risk, a Guard[REDACTED] newspaper article today, quoting research scientists at Kings College, says, "PM10s - tiny particulates that have been shown to be harmful to human health ... are caused ... particular diesel fumes" and "Air pollution is a serious health hazard affecting some of the most vulnerable in our society. The hardest [hit] are children and the elderly" As you know, there are a lot of children and older people living in the houses backing onto this gully.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

15/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I discussed the issues about monitoring pollutants along the towpath with [REDACTED] some time ago.

The diffusion tubes used around the borough are for monitoring of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), the tubes the[REDACTED]elves are not very expensive but the associated lab costs for analysis can be quite costly. The difficulty is that we can't differentiate between background NOx levels and what is coming from the boats a detailed modelling exercise would need to be conducted to achieve this which we don't have the expertise to do ourselves and would be very expensive. Even if we found some funding to do this we still can't do anything with the information, other than present it to CRT. It's likely that the contribution of NOx from the canal is insignificant compared with other sources in the borough.

Monitoring of PM is more complicated and therefore more expensive; again the same issues would apply in that we don't know it's definitely from the canal without detailed modelling.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and Martin - There are now upwards of 12 boats moored in the gully, several of them double parked. Within metres of the back of my house there are five boats pumping out diesel fumes, a couple of them with thick smoke coming from their chimneys - the registration of one such is [REDACTED], which also has an incredibly loud diesel engine.

The supply boat, '[REDACTED]' is also plying it's trade in the gully, its even louder diesel engine adding to the noise. Diesel fumes have also reached an intolerable level - I started off the week with a mild chest infection, which has steadily got worse, in parallel with the increase in numbers of boats. I am now having frequent fits of coughing, and I strongly suspect that fumes from so many fires, including those burning 'smokeless' fuel (this only reduces the most toxic, PM10 pollutant by 60%, so again the more boats there are, the worse it is) are triggering these.

In view of the very high turnover of boats and the fact that the rule breaking tends to be exacerbated at weekends and outside office hours, I cannot see how CRT officers can enforce the rules - surely the time has now come for installing a w[REDACTED] with his or her boat moored in this stretch, with responsibility for making sure the rules are kept, i.e. a single line of boats and no smoky fires for a start. This interim measure would at least reassure us that effective enforcement measures are being taken to prevent this nightmare situation recurring as soon as CRT's and LBI's officers have left the site.

In desperation - [REDACTED]

16/02/2013

PS I'd meant to attach these two photos, just taken from my first floor balcony - you can see the dense accumulation of double moored boats, one (with the light green tarpaulin) with a thin line of smoke coming from its chimney, and the supply boat Archimedes pulled alongside - unfortunately you cannot hear the racket of the diesel engines, but I'm sure you can imagine those! [REDACTED]

17/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and Martin,

I agree with [REDACTED] that a w[REDACTED] sited nearby is desperately needed. I have attached a photograph of this morning's pollution which as you can see is heading directly into our houses. I would love to do some g[REDACTED]ing on this beautiful sunny morning but the pollution level is so bad that I don't want to be outside.

I have researched the emissions levels of smokeless fuel and was concerned to see that apart from PM2.5 levels other pollutants are almost as high as smoky fuel. The idea that as long as boats are using smokeless fuel then it is safe is absurd. We should not have to be subjected to this pollution on a daily basis and no residential boats should be allowed here at all. Please see the chart below for emissions from burning fuel. Of course we are subjected to pollution from the generators as well.

17/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and Martin - there are now 7 boats double parked in the narrow gully behind our terrace, bringing the total number to more than 14. Many of them have smoke coming from their chimneys and a significant number are running noisy diesel engines. The smoke, fumes and noise is appalling.

With half term next week, there will be more children at home in this terrace being subjected to levels of pollution that should not be tolerated - not to mention the older people also at higher risk. I suggest that first thing on Monday morning effective steps be taken to put an end to this overcrowding, and to make the relevant rules known to the boaters - there is still no amended notice providing all this information, but in any case, few of them appear to read it, and/or abide by it. Each boat needs to be leafleted and/or the inhabitants spoken to. If there was a w[REDACTED] on site, there would be a check on this sort of situation arising over the weekend.

It is also clear from looking at the boats that many of them are returnees that have moored on this stretch often in the past weeks and months - again, the rules on the 'no return' time after the 7 day period allowed need to be posted and enforced.

Please help us - [REDACTED]

17/02/2013

Lots of smoke and fumes today. This would be unacceptable anywhere else in London. Isn't it time this anomaly was corrected?

The towpath looked most unappetising. The rubbish bin near the tunnel is overflowing, there is litter all over the place but particularly around the bridge, there are home made advertising signs tacked to posts and an advertisement for a pub chained to a g[REDACTED] tree. Perhaps CRT gets rent from this last? If so, it should rightly go to the home owner.

Boat No [REDACTED], which is being used as a permanent home (which is why I asked if boat owners paid council tax) ,has moved precisely one mooring over since being requested to move by CRT.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18/02/2013

[REDACTED], that craft has a winter mooring permit, hence it's long stay. There is a bit more to the story but it's not appropriate that I elaborate. Thanks for the comments on the improvement, we will continue with our enforcement and I hope you continue to enjoy the view of the canal.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18/02/2013

Thankyou for writing back to me. And for the information on [REDACTED]. I shall stop fretting about the unfairness.

But I am afraid the double parkers feel it is safe to return after the recent purge. They really are cheeky. Many of them have set up home permanently in this enclosed cutting, just swapping places whenever CRT tells them that they have overstayed their allotted seven days.

There was a lot of smoke as well as unpleasant fumes this weekend. This would be unacceptable anywhere else in London. Isn't it time this air-quality legal anomaly was corrected? Smoke and fume emitting caravans would not be allowed to park at the end of short, low back g[REDACTED]s anywhere else.

The towpath looked most unappetising. The rubbish bin near the tunnel is overflowing, there is litter all over the place but particularly around the bridge, there are home made advertising signs tacked to posts and an advertisement for a pub chained to a g[REDACTED] tree. Perhaps CRT gets rent from this last? If so, it should rightly go to the home owner.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18/02/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I've had a number of emails over the weekend complaining about noise and smoke from the canal.

When I walked by on Friday there were about 10 boats, but this number crept up over the weekend which is to be expected. We are currently experiencing a pollution episode due to the current weather conditions; you can notice it from the lingering smog and poor visibility, this will exacerbate any existing health conditions that residents may have.

Perhaps when we meet on Wednesday we can discuss this in more detail.

Regards

18/02/2013

you were all removed from the cc list of this reply. see response below. don't shoot the messenger.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Labour Member for St [REDACTED]'s Ward

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Sub-Committee 'B'

Chair: Joint Overview Health Scrutiny Committee for North Central London

(Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden, & Islington)

Blog: This Islington Life <<http://cllrmartinklute.blogspot.com/>>

Twitter: xCllrKlute <<http://twitter.com/#%21/cllrklute>>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Congestion at Noel Road Visitor Moorings

Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 12:53:34 +0000

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk>

<[mailto:\[REDACTED\].\[REDACTED\]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk)>

To: Cllr.Klutexpobox.com <Cllr.Klutexpobox.com> <<mailto:Cllr.Klutexpobox.com>>

CC: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk>

<[mailto:\[REDACTED\].\[REDACTED\]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk)> , [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk>

<[mailto:\[REDACTED\].\[REDACTED\]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk)>

It was from a very old publication no longer current Martin. That's why it's not on the website.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] is monitoring the situation closely. I think that to announce a change in practice at this stage would cut across the work we're trying to develop with help from Community Resolve on relationship building which [REDACTED] is part of.

Regards

[REDACTED]

18/02/2013

[REDACTED],

I think the disallowing of double mooring is particularly pertinent in the Noel road cut, because we have very specific advice from Environmental Health that due to the lie of the land double mooring exacerbates the dispersal issue both in relation to noise and air pollution. I am hopeful that we can reach agreement with you on this.

Thanks.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

22/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The very high density of boats lately has been creating some of the worst pollution I've experienced in the 16 years of living next to the Islington Visitor Moorings. It flows directly out of the chimneys and in to the cracks in the Georg[REDACTED] windows of our houses. I can provide many photographs to show you and have attached one. You may say that the boats are allowed to use smokeless fuel and that they are behaving within the guidelines of their licence. However most of them, in order to start or boost their fires, will use wood at some stage, as proven by the logs on their roofs. The smokeless fuel is NOT much less harmful than smoky fuel so all residents at the lower end of Noel Road with shorter g[REDACTED]s are in direct line to receive the smoke and fumes into our bedroo[REDACTED] and sitting roo[REDACTED]. We know it affects our health as we often awake with sore throats and headaches which ease over the day but return at night when the smoke is worst.

The worst offender this week is boat [REDACTED] which has been here since before 13/2/2013.

Please can you make sure it is moved on today before the weekend.

Please see this chart below.

It is now 20 months since the residents of Noel Road had a meeting with you and the situation is worse not better. We need an immediate reduction in numbers of boats allowed to moor here and a w[REDACTED] to make sure that they are not causing a nuisance and who is able to visit in the evenings and weekends when the problem is worst.

I also noticed that the area next to the lock is being used as a mooring even though boats are not allowed to moor there. There were 6 boats there this morning (see photo) Boats are also stopping to fill with water from the tap there and causing high amounts of pollution while they do. The canal and river trust needs to find more facilities for these boats away from residential areas where they will not cause a nuisance. There also needs to be a limit to the number of licences issued to boats without moorings in the London area. I understand that numbers issued in the last 2 years have doubled.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Domestic smoke emissions

Emissions for each kilogram fuel burnt
fuel

Pollutant coal anthracite wood smokeless solid fuel

Particulates total 40g

PM10 9.7g 1100mg 7.9g 3.1g

PM2.5 3.8g 6.4g

Carbon monoxide 181g 203mg 50g 124g

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (BaP) 254mg

(1.55mg BaP)

(0.03mg BaP) 43mg

(1.3mg BaP)

(0.33mg BaP)

Furans and dioxins 2.9pg TE 2.1pg 2.4pg TE 2.7pg

PCB's 3.6ng 3.6ng 2ng 3.6ng

Benzene 618mg 75mg 5000mg 217mg
Sulphur dioxide 24g 16g 0.107g 16g
Nitrogen dioxide 3.5g 3.4g 0.5g 3.1g
Carbon dioxide (carbon) 2500g (684g) 3030g (821g) 2800g (774g)

References: national atmospheric emissions inventory ,
aeat report 02aeat/1, March 2002

23/02/2013

I fully support [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s points. The anti social, anti pollution results of allowing mooring in residential areas with short g[REDACTED]s and little open space should be dealt with by CRT.

Ideally, boats should not be allowed in enclosed cuttings. A decision and a signature is all it would take to outlaw a practice that in years to come will be seen as an extraordinary anomaly.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

23/02/2013

As a near neighbour of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I share with them the obvious consequence of having a very short g[REDACTED] at the Danbury Street end of the steep slope on which this terrace is built - the g[REDACTED]s of houses at the other (Colebrooke Row) end of the terrace are much longer and both they and the houses are considerably higher than ours from the towpath. Our g[REDACTED]s and houses are filled with the fumes from fires and diesel engines being wafted directly into them. Double parking makes the situation dire, but at this end there is a strong case for banning mooring altogether, on health grounds, as we have documented from reliable sources (and as I know from my medical background - there is ample scientific literature about this).

I moved into this house in 1977; at that time we very much enjoyed having the occasional narrowboat moored along this stretch, but there were never more than two or three of them at the same time. Fishermen sat quietly with their rods on the tow path, also enjoying the scene, and having plenty of space left for their sport. Walkers also enjoyed using the towpath. Over the years the numbers of moor boats gradually increased, with occasional proble[REDACTED] about antisocial behaviour, but offenders were cautioned by a resident w[REDACTED], and they either desisted or were moved on. A single line of mooring was never exceeded except very recently, and it is allowing that which has resulted in the current nightmare levels of pollution. The BWB rules were indeed, as [REDACTED] has found, limited to a single line of boats in this location and we were never consulted, by BWB or CRT, of any change in this rule. I suggest that as a start, it is reinstated and enforced.

Once this is done and a single line of boats enforced, our confidence in CRT and LBI's ability to effect this improvement will create a pause for proper consideration of longer term issues, as suggested by [REDACTED]. The current situation is mayhem, and has to be brought under control.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the locking of the gates at either end of this stretch between the Danbury Street Bridge and the Colebrooke Row tunnel. Leaving it unlocked generates a security risk when the hours of darkness provide cover for break-ins, both for our houses and the boats the[REDACTED]elves. These gates in the past were always locked, perhaps by the same LBI personnel who locked the adjacent Duncan Terrace G[REDACTED]s gates, and after numerous complaints CRT accepted responsibility for locking the footpath gates, devolving it to the boaters.

Clear instructions are posted to this effect on the gates at both ends, but they are completely ignored by the boaters, so this pathway for footpads and others remains open all night. Burglary of my house has certainly been attempted from the g[REDACTED] on several occasions - the frames of my locked windows provide testimony to this. It is time that effective arrangements were made for locking this stretch of towpath (as indeed, most other parts of it are locked at night), perhaps by the same LBI person who deals with locking the Duncan Terrace G[REDACTED]s gates, as we have previously suggested.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24/02/2013

Dear All,

This is a short note to update you on the meeting I had last wednesday morning with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], CaRT head of enforcement, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], LBI environmental health officer.

Boats moored on the Noel Road stretch are being "sighted" on a daily basis, and penalties issued on Fridays as necessary. The new enforcement regime is to my mind clearly having some impact on over-stayers as at times the stretch is relatively clear, although this is variable.

the discussion on wednesday revolved around the issue of smoke, fuel types and dispersal, and that the density of boats moored in the stretch contributes to this problem. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s response seemed to suggest that CaRT are moving towards an idea of 'winter rules' which will prohibit double mooring during the winter months in the stretch. it was also clearly established that winter moorings are not available on the Noel Road stretch.

On the question of the 'no double moorings' rule, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is currently [REDACTED]ant that this rule was never enforced, and that it is now superceded, although when and how is not clear. We will struggle to try and demand enforcement of this whilst the management don't support it. However, the suggested 'winter mooring ' rule may well be the way to get round this.

there is a problem that water craft are exempt from the smokeless zone rules - which is a national legislation issue - [REDACTED] is attempting to engage in this separately. We discussed the possibility of including a rule in boaters' licenses that only smokeless fuel should be burned. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] objected that his officers are not trained to know the difference, [REDACTED] suggested that LBI EH officers could provide the evidence needed. this is the key point where we need CaRT and LBI to work together. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are keen to do this, and both agreed that a CaRT license term, supported by LBI Environmental Health, could be enforceable.

The proposal is that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will arrange a meeting between the[REDACTED]elves, myself as your local Councillor, CaRT head of waterways [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and head of Boating [REDACTED] [REDACTED], to hammer out an agreement on how we are going to update CaRT's licensing regime to respond to the current pressure on the waterway. The intention being to hold this meeting in early April, at the end of the winter season, in order to get a workable regime in place before next winter begins.

I appreciate that the pollution issue is particularly difficult at the moment, which is partly to do with the current environmental conditions of no wind, for which I am not sure I know the name. Please be reassured that I am focused on achieving a long-term solution that works and that will stick. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are fully in agreement with this approach.

Best regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

24/02/2013

Winter Rules??? Double parking should not be allowed in the summer, either. The rare space offered by water in mid city is eaten into by its use as a parking lot. Smoking , densely parked caravans at the rear of city houses would not be permitted.

I am glad that the exemption of water craft from smokeless zone rules in built up areas is now recognised as a national legislation issue. It is an anomaly which should be addressed.

Boat parking, with its attendant spinoffs of litter, pollution and noise would never be allowed in the Noel Road cutting today. It is only permitted for reasons of custom. Given the proble[REDACTED] it causes, CRT should consider banning it completely.

Thankyou Cllr Klute for taking the matter seriously.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25/02/2013

Dear both, thanks for the constructive meeting last week. I write to confirm that we will continue with our enforcement programme for the foreseeable future. Further that once we have passed this winter period we will be having a meeting to discuss how we will proceed in the future. CRT will look at how we can work with you to develop a robust and coherent strategy to deal with the many issues at this site and hopefully improve the environment for your residents

Regards

[REDACTED]

28/02/2013

Dear Martin - thank you for keeping us posted about your meeting with the relevant CRT and LBI people with respect to our continuing problem [REDACTED] with pollution from diesel engines and fires on boats moored - often double parked at present - in this narrow gully behind our houses.

However, as this week has progressed, more boats have arrived, initially establishing continuous double parking along the whole stretch, and now extending to TRIPLE parking. There are now 10 boats moored within a short distance of the back of my short g [REDACTED].

While those within CRT and LBI with responsibility and power to protect us from harmful levels of diesel and burning fuel fumes appear to condone this appalling state of affairs by failing to do anything effective to control the numbers of boats moored (the level of contamination of the air we breathe is of course related to the numbers of diesel motors and fires - each boat makes a contribution to these every day), the inhabitants of closely adjacent houses have had their health concerns ignored or set aside, even after bringing the situation to the authorities attention for the past two years or more. I would like to point out that within the next couple of weeks the neighbours on one side of my house, with three small children under 6 years old, will have another baby that will be exposed to this toxic atmosphere unless something is done quickly.

IT IS NOW TIME TO ACT - THE SITUATION IS SCANDALOUS!

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

28/02/2013

Dear Martin,

Thank you for keeping residents informed about negotiations with C&RT.

It does sound as if we may in the future get some relief from the high density of boats and the resulting pollution and for I'm sure everyone will be most grateful to both you and [REDACTED].

However as [REDACTED] says below, the 'daily sighting and penalties on Friday' policy is not working at present. There are 14 boats in total, at least two overstayers [REDACTED] and two boats which have returned after staying last month [REDACTED] The area is also scattered with litter. Bins are full of small bags of rubbish and there is even a television dumped next to the bin!

It seems [REDACTED] obvious that if C&RT are to start a new regime of stricter enforcement, the policy needs to be shouted out with clearer signage stating all the rules now being flouted. The signs should state

☐ 7 day stay only per annum

☐ Maximum 8 boats at any time

☐ Smokeless fuel only

☐ Single mooring only

☐ Immediate penalty for non compliance

☐ No excessive running of generators/ engines .must not cause a nuisance to residents

This would be fairer for boat owners as they would be forewarned.

Before the Olympics all boaters heard that certain parts of the canal were closed to them and complied. C&RT can easily use the same line of communication as well, and declare that Islington Visitor Moorings are only for temporary stay no more than one week in a year and all residential boat owners (i.e. not true visitors) using the stretch will be fined.

As you yourself have stated it should not be for us to have to help C&RT to gain the boaters compl[REDACTED]ce through their community consultation. They are licensing the boats and receiving fees and are ultimately responsible to make sure that the boat owners don't cause a nuisance. Besides this is a VISITOR mooring and by that definition should have different boats every week and we could not possibly meet every owner to discuss the rules.

It is a disappointment that C&RT are not enforcing a single mooring at once. Without that rule we are liable to continue to have double moored boats at IVM as there are now such a high number of boats without moorings in our area. This can be just as polluting summer or winter as they all now tend to be residential and many use their generators on a daily basis.

Forgive me for being a little despondent but the only concession that see[REDACTED] to have been achieved so far is that we may have single mooring during next winter and that licensing rules may be adjusted to help to deal with the smoke problem. For enforcing these changes we will have to rely on C&RT w[REDACTED]s, working only office hours, who do not have a very good track record. We are still liable to have large numbers of boats running generators and taking up valuable green space, with no facilities dealing with their rubbish or anyone to tackle proble[REDACTED] at night time, weekends and holidays.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

28/02/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I think you should add the 8am to 8pm rule to your list below. It is not permitted to run engines or generators after 8pm (except for moving boats) and I think this is one of the easiest rules to monitor. We should be asking CRT about their procedures for renewing licences. I suspect that this is done semi-automatically, via a standing order, direct debit or whatever. It would be better if it required a signature or similar commitment, to ensure that all licensees are fully aware of the rules. At the moment they probably try to plead ignorance because the system is too impersonal.

Regards, [REDACTED]

28/02/2013

Every single bin along the full stretch of canal from The tunnel right up to wharf road where I walk each day are overflowing. With rubbish everywhere - a environmental health issue - attracting vermin and increasing fox populations. Most of it is clearly generated by the boats particularly between Danbury street and wharf road. At the bottom of the steps to the latter about 15 full rubbish bags have been left there all week whilst the steps the[REDACTED]elves are strewn with litter and full dog waste bags. What a shame that the management of what should be a beautiful urban oasis - to be enjoyed by all - has been handed over to an organisation which appears to possess neither the resources or the will to fulfil its responsibilities in this regard or indeed any other.

What happened to the idea of a resident w[REDACTED] to lock gates enforce rules around the clock. LBI must enforce takeover of refuse collection from C&RT as they have proved incapable of managing it. The situation is a disgrace.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

01/03/2013

The attached photographs may corroborate emails from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I saw the mountain of black bags [REDACTED] referred to as well but did not photograph them.

I am a big fan of the boating community in general and I can see that fly tippers or inconsiderate lunchers may play their part in some of this mess. But the evidence for dense mooring and potentially dangerous refuse accumulation is clear. The rubbish in my "litter" photograph is clearly more than sandwich wrappers. I think there has been an improvement and would also like to thank Martin and [REDACTED] for their efforts. Still, the canal side hardly remains the oasis it should be. Finally, there was a clear smell of acrid fumes in the stretch last night at 8.30pm (I couldn't capture that with my camera!). I know we keep getting this feedback that the rules for the river are different from the rules for the road but from a public health point of view the distinction is nonsense. I would not want to be the one using this explanation in a court of law if any of my children gets sick. This pollution issue may not have the national kudos for some versus the plans to expand Heathrow airport but the environmental principle is the same and right on our doorstep.

Again, thanks to all those who are spending more time on this than I am. The effort is appreciated.

01/03/2013

In the space behind our houses (most with children - a total of 11 children in all) where there is room for three single moored boats, at the end of the shortest g[REDACTED]s at the Danbury St end of the terrace, there are now 10 boats double and triple moored, pinning those nearest the towpath that arrived first - mostly longer than 7 days ago. Since it is now Friday and things will not improve for the weekend unless action is taken, I suggest the CRT enforcement officers get here ASAP, as well as [REDACTED], since that combination worked wonders in January.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

01/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to refer the litter issue to colleagues in our residential environmental health team, as they may be able to take enforcement action against C&RT for accumulation of waste. Could you confirm it's ok to pass on your details?

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

01/03/2013

I don't want to get dragged into a big bureaucratic wrangle and I have the safety of my family to consider. I don't mean that too sound too paranoid but I am sure you can appreciate that involvement in disputes can become nasty in a way I wouldn't want.

However, if it's simply a matter of passing on the photographs I took and seeking an honest description of what I saw, I am happy to do that. I don't feel I have an axe to grind on this one but equally a pile of rubbish is a pile of rubbish. I'd be a little more comfortable if I were referred in concert with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who raised similar issues, assuming they approved on their side of course.

Many thanks for your efforts, [REDACTED]

01/03/2013

That's fine, I completely understand how you feel. All the complaints that you make to us at the council are strictly confidential and at no stage would we disclose your identity to C&RT or anyone else.

I'll pass on the photographs and background information to my colleagues and then we'll let you know what happens.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

02/03/2013

[REDACTED]

i think its time we looked at some other kind of enforcement here as clearly this is causing the residents in Noel Road some distress and interfering with their quality of life. if we are going to have moorings then i think we could look a number of options here such as summer moorings only, that would reduce the pollution and an element of noise. failing that we could switch the moorings to the other side of the Canal which may reduce pollution as the Narrow Boats are at the moment far to near the Noel Road residents G[REDACTED]s and if switched there is a road on the other side which give distance to the residents in Vincent Terrace and less intrusive.

Personally however drastic it may seem i would go for a total ban on canal boats in this residential area as its an invasion of privacy, noise pollution, atmospheric pollution, and potentially a fire risk. This is not to say that we cant still increase enforcement along the whole canal, in fact i would support this completely, this is an addition to the proposals. if we switched a single mooring to the other side, we could look to install electric meter points from the road reducing the need for generators and wood burning appl[REDACTED]ces, supply sufficient refuse collection points, supply water points, and have this section of roadway maintained by the street cleaners.

i am not advocating a use of both sides here, just simply suggesting a number of options such as, we terminate the moorings in this section of the canal, or reduce the moorings to summer only with strict enforcement, move the moorings to the opposite side of the canal with increased enforcement and look at supplying electricity meter points, refuse collection and water points. and explore this section being maintained by the street cleaner.

See[REDACTED] quite sensible to me

Cllr Gary Doolan

02/03/2013

Dear All

Please see attached licensing conditions for canal boats including moorings, which are clearly nor being applied in islington. i think you will find that the the C a RT are failing on many counts here. There is a specific mention of health and Safety and refuse collection which clearly is not being adhered to and the CaRT have a duty of care regarding health and safety of residents and should be protecting them from pollution, noise, and vermin which would cause a potential spread of deacease. With these rules so clear, if residents were to take legal action the canal boat trust would clearly have difficulty defending any clai[REDACTED]. whats the point of having regulations and then failing to enforce them when it is clearly necsary?

Cllr Gary Doolan

02/03/2013

Dear Gary,

Thank you for these suggestions. The idea of a permanent ban on moored boats see[REDACTED] rather drastic, because it will be unfair on the well-intentioned visitors who obey the rules. Sadly, these types of boater rarely get a chance to use the facility due to overcrowding and overstaying. Perhaps we could consider a temporary suspension of all mooring boats until a solution is in place. (This would not really affect genuine visitors because they already feel excluded).

The most qualified organisation to comment on this is the Inland Waterways Association (IWA). Their regional chair (Paul Strudwick) (copied) has written some proposals for addressing the current mooring crisis, and I will try to get hold of a copy of his document.

I am trying to understand how and why the situation has deteriorated so much in recent years and it would be useful to get feedback from people who have known the area for a long period. I think that the visitor moorings were first established in about 1993 and they were well run until about three years ago. The harsh winters over the last three years have added to the problem[REDACTED] because boaters are burning more fuel. There is no longer a mooring w[REDACTED] in evidence; and CRT have very limited resources these days. The population of continuous cruisers has risen sharply in the past ten years (based on national figures) and I think a disproportionate number of these boats have migrated to London. Many people are choosing to live on a boat, not because they are interested in navigation, but because they see it as a low cost solution to the housing shortage. They are being ill-advised, not only by existing boat dwellers but also by people such as Grant Shapps (who once suggested houseboats as a solution). Some of these people are vulnerable and I think it is very irresponsible of others to encourage them to live on vessels without advising them fully about rules and their duties to maintain their engines, dispose of their waste, etc. This problem did not happen overnight and it is unrealistic to try to resolve it in an instant; and that is why the IWA is proposing a phased reduction in boat numbers and a redistribution of mooring sites.

There are other explanations for the sudden overcrowding, such as a westbound migration of boats that were moved away from the Olympic zone; and more recently there was a mass exodus from Victoria Park after 17 boats were burgled one weekend. I can imagine that once people discover convenient locations such as Noel Road they are unwilling to return to their previous zone, and if they hear rumours that enforcement is ineffective then they never move on.

I appreciate that most of the local residents are not too interested in the above details, but I hope that it helps us to understand some of the causes of the mess we are in. Clearly it needs a joined up solution, and that can only happen when all the facts are in the open.

Regards, [REDACTED]

02/03/2013

Dear Gary

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] said he would try and get you a copy of the Inland Waterways Association's Proposal for addressing the present problem[REDACTED] on overstaying moorings. As he has copied me in I have assumed he wants me to send you a copy.

As you can see we propose (section 5) that for Noel Road visitors mooring boats (except hire boats) should only be able to visit twice in any year. Unless this type of rule is set and clearly shown on the signage for the mooring we believe it is virtually impossible for C&RT to stop boats overstaying given the present legal framework they operate under.

Regards

Paul Strudwick

Chair Person

02/03/2013

Paul, it is my understanding that CaRT can and are enforcing overstaying with a £25/ day penalty after 7 days on the Noel Road stretch. I do agree though that the time period until a return visit is allowed should be agreed and displayed.

The pollution issues are the most troublesome and the most complicated.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

02/03/2013

Martin

Yes CRT can put a daily charge for mooring at Noel Road Visitors Mooring if you exceed the stipulated 7 days stay. My understanding is that CRT can not charge a penalty (fine) just a mooring fee if you overstay where they have set a limit on mooring below 14 days. Thus if C&RT were to close the mooring and place No Mooring signs along the stretch they would have no way of charging for mooring there. You can't charge a mooring fee for mooring if you say "No Mooring". The non payment of the mooring fee is then a civil debt. If you stay more than 14 days then C&RT can start procedures for non-compl[REDACTED]ce to the Guidance for Boaters Without a Home Mooring. The legal situation around all this is a mess. When the various Acts that cover all this were written no one envisaged this situation.

Regards

Paul Strudwick

03/03/2013

It is wishful thinking that CaRT are enforcing the 7 day overstaying rule. A significant number of the boats currently double and triple moored along this Noel Road stretch have been here more than 7 days. The diesel fuel and other pollution is very bad, caused by the excessive number of boats. I have never received replies to my question of how many overstaying fines have been imposed recently, despite requesting this information under the FOI. I suggest this be obtained and stated clearly as evidence of appropriate action within the remit of CaRT being taken.

It is not clear to me whether the rules set out in the undated draft document, A Proposal for Reducing Overstaying Boats in the London Area, kindly sent to us earlier today (see below, attached), are now approved/due to be implemented. The signage identifying this stretch, as stated in the report on page 3, under point 5, as limiting mooring to 7 days, for two visits per calendar year (Regents Canal, Islington Tunnel Mouth To Danbury Street Bridge, 7 days, 2 Visits per calendar year) has not been put into place. If 'only a single line of mooring is permitted' was added, that would bring the number of boats to 7 or 8, which would significantly improve the noise and fume pollution situation, as would the enforcement of the 7 day rule.

I see from the draft document that the idea of having a w[REDACTED] boat to help with enforcement is approved, another helpful move that we have been pressing for. When will that be put into place? I see no reason for delaying it.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/03/2013

[REDACTED]

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA), who produced the proposal last December, is a registered charity, which advocates the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland waterways for public benefit. Our members' interests include boating, towpath walking, industrial archaeology, nature conservation and many other activities associated with the inland waterways. We work with navigation authorities, other waterway bodies, a wide range of national and local authorities, voluntary, private and public sector organisations. We campaign and lobby for support and encourage public participation in the inland waterways.

This proposal was developed in the context of the increasing number of craft appearing on the waterways system around London and the resultant congestion, visual impact, shortage of permanent and visitor moorings, and proble[REDACTED] with security, policing, pollution and waste disposal in the area. It was intended to start a debate among waterway stakeholders on ways we could work towards reducing the impact of these craft on local communities and other people who wished to visit London.

We are lobbying and working with C&RT to try and find a solution to this problem which we believe will have to be London wide, and based on something like our proposal.

Regards

Paul Strudwick

03/03/2013

Paul, I agree the legal situation is a mess. That is why so many people are expending so much time and effort trying to extract a workable common sense solution from the mess.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

03/03/2013

Paul,

Thank you for sharing your proposal for a solution to the present proble[REDACTED] with high density mooring on London's waterways. Having lived next to Islington Visitor Mooring for 17 years I am very distressed by the rapid deterioration in this important amenity for Londoners. This morning I walked from Angel to the Lea Valley and was horrified by both the numbers of boats and the amount of rubbish dumped in and around the towpath (see photos). The towpath area opposite City Road basin is being used as a bookshop with seating covering the towpath and collecting rubbish. This is a conservation area and local residents are restricted in making changes to their homes but watercraft may appear as floating rag and bone merchants. Clearly there is now a high level of irresponsibility amongst the boating community and a lack of regulation.

I was very pleased to see that you suggest new signage to be essential in implementing stricter enforcement. Earlier this week I suggested with regard to Islington Visitor Moorings

It see[REDACTED] obvious that if C&RT are to start a new regime of stricter enforcement, the policy needs to be shouted out with clearer signage stating all the rules now being flouted. The signs should state

o7 day stay only per annum

. Maximum 8 boats at any time

oSmokeless fuel only

oSingle mooring only

oImmediate penalty for non compl[REDACTED]ce

. No excessive running of generators/ engines .must not cause a nuisance to residents

This would be fairer for boat owners as they would be forewarned.

I did omit the 8am-8pm no generator use which is also necessary. (Thank you [REDACTED] for pointing that out) I feel that with such high numbers of boats in the immediate vicinity given 7 days twice a year, the mooring will still be overcrowded. Once a year with a strict limit on numbers would be more likely to work. At some visitor moorings I understand that visitors need to reserve a place. This could be used for IVM and would be fairer for true visitors.

One area of change that is not discussed in your proposal is the level of pollution produced by engines, generators and fires. Many boats operate poorly maintained and sited generators producing a very high level of noise and air pollution. Is it possible to insist on a reasonable standard for this machinery (in the way that cars are restricted from polluting)? There are already licence regulations for the burning of fuels but they do not take into account the nuisance caused by boats using smokeless or smoky fuel in confined spaces in a densely populated city like London. I propose that an amendment needs to be made to your proposal to help deal with these problems [REDACTED]. I agree with Gary Doolan and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that a temporary ban on mooring at Islington Visitor Moorings would be appropriate given that the 'daily sighting and penalties on Fridays' regime does not seem to be sufficient. There are still double and triple moored boats at LBI today filling my house and g[REDACTED] with smoke. Residents should not have to continue suffering until a solution is found.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

03/03/2013

I can confirm [REDACTED]'s observations of today's situation, including there being no change in the overcrowded mooring of boats in the gully behind our houses (double and triple moored, the same boats that were there on Friday morning).

Putting up the signage would clarify the situation for all concerned - can that please be effected right away - we initially requested this weeks, if months ago.

The litter situation is a public health hazard, as is the level of pollution by fumes from diesel engines (yes indeed, many are poorly maintained and very noisy) and burning combustible materials.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - this morning our homes are being filled by the most awful smell of what see [REDACTED] to be burning rubbish. I suspect the stove of one of the boats is burning something entirely unsuitable for this location. Can you please investigate? The smell is do bad that I don't think I can remain in the house much longer this morning. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

The pollution due to generators has now spread as far as my house- this is definitely a deterioration. Since it see [REDACTED] we have a legal case, perhaps we should request contributions for starting an action?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

The offending boat is painted red and blue, with a crate of bottles on the roof. Its chimney is pouring out dense smoke. It is moored close to my house, and the Danbury St end of this gully, where the g[REDACTED]s of our houses are very short. This boat has been moored here for more than two weeks. Surely this is a strong case for immediate enforcement? [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] - this morning our homes are being filled by the most awful smell of what see[REDACTED] to be burning rubbish. I suspect the stove of one of the boats is burning something entirely unsuitable for this location. Can you please investigate? The smell is do bad that I don't think I can remain in the house much longer this morning. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

This significance of this observation of pollution comes from the resident of a house near the Colebrooke Road end of the terrace, i.e. with a much longer g[REDACTED] than those of us at the Danbury St end. It is evidence of the rising level of polluting fumes to which we are currently being subjected. Could someone from LBI please come down here to see what is going on?

[REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I spoke with the boater - his number is [REDACTED]. He tried to tell me that he was burning smokeless fuel and he'd only just put it on and all I could see was the kindling he'd used to light it. After some discussion, I advised that he should only be burning smokeless fuel, he agreed to do this. When I passed by a short while later he had changed his fuel and there was no visible smoke. He said also that he'd been there for a week so we agreed that he would be moving on soon. I'll raise this with CRT also.

Regards

04/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

Can you please confirm that the boat is the one in the attached photo (apologies for the poor light in the picture).

I will speak to the Canal and River Trust (CRT) about your complaint, if you experience any further anti-social behaviour from the craft this evening can you please call the noise patrol service on 020 7527 3229. The service operates on Sunday to Thursday from 8pm-2am and on Friday and Saturday from 10pm-4am. As well as this behaviour being a potential statutory nuisance it is also a breach of their licence conditions, and CRT have the powers to move him on or even remove his licence entirely.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Dear Gary,

The idea of moving the moorings to the Vincent Terrace side of the canal has been discussed; for this to happen there would need to be works done to remove the railings from that side and then replace them on the opposite side. This option would allow slightly more space for dispersion of smoke but it's possible the noise issue could be worsened.

The biggest obstacle I've found in trying to deal with this case is the lack of relevant legislation and therefore we're rel[REDACTED]t on C&RT to have stringent and enforceable licensing conditions. Currently these visitor moorings are occupied by residential boaters without them having to pay for the facility or comply with any of the normal rules we would expect to see on a residential mooring. I understand that on this particular stretch of the canal the mains power facilities are not suitable for installing charging points, so some infrastructure works would be required to provide electricity here. However, I think this would be a good investment as it would completely take away the necessity for burning fuel or running diesel engines, and therefore solving the pollution problem. CRT are not prepared to fund this without permission for permanent residential moorings which I know both the boaters and residents do not want.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Hi there and thanks for attending.

If the photo is indicating the boat with the Pirate Head flag then yes, that's the one.

Could you let me know who to call if the noise starts up after 2am?

I'll write a detailed email regarding the events of last night and get it over to you all later.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

If the noise starts outside of service hours then let us know every time, we can arrange for officers to conduct a pro-active visit whenever necessary.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

OK - will do.

I'll collate all the issues since the boats arrived on Friday and maintain a diary type log for you and the CRT. I'll do it tonight.

Thanks for going today, it's a shame that a couple of rogue elements can spoil the environment for so many people.

All best

[REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I can confirm that none of my boating acquaintances want to see these moorings converted to residential. This would deny thousands of tourists the opportunity to stop overnight at the Angel. I want to take this opportunity to differentiate between two types of boaters - those with home moorings and those without. I believe the visitor moorings are designed primarily to cater for boaters who have already paid for home moorings elsewhere and who need a relatively safe place to pause their journey. These are the users who will suffer the most if the visitor moorings are lost. (Typically, those without home moorings have chosen a higher risk lifestyle that requires them to spend most nights on open towpaths; they can still use visitor moorings but only for a fraction of the time they spend cruising).

Another point I want to mention is that I have started to enquire about restricting visitors' stay to 48 hours instead of 7 days. This would give more visitors the chance to explore the Angel and it would reduce the proportion of static boats that need to run their engines.

Regards, [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

This is all very well, but what must be taken into account is a means of limiting the NUMBER permitted to moor in this gully to 7 or 8 visiting boats. Since enforcing even basic rules appears difficult for CRT, our request that a w[REDACTED] boat be present to ensure the visitors adhere to the rules needs to be part and parcel of the arrangement. Both of these aspects have been repeatedly put to CRT/LBI and others, but we have been given no assurances about either. The w[REDACTED] could also address both the litter issue and locking the towpath gate at nights. Bearing in mind the current chaotic situation with overstaying boats, more than twice the number possible to accommodate if moored in a single line, with the resultant unacceptable level of all sorts of pollution, following Gary Doolan's other suggestion, of suspending all mooring until signage has been prepared and put up would certainly be the best option. This would provide an urgent motivation to sort out infighting in CRT, and a much needed breathing space (literal and metaphorical) for residents currently being subjected daily to toxic levels of diesel and fuel combustion fumes, and, as we were this morning until [REDACTED] restrained one offending boater, burning foul smelling material in his stove - it smelt as if it might have been shredded tyres. [REDACTED] came to see me at my request, and was bowled over by the stench in my house.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I like this idea. It would send a clear message to everybody that things have spiralled out of control, that the writing is on the wall for people who think it is acceptable to abuse the system and it would hopefully give confidence to holidaymakers and other visitors that one day they will be welcome again in Islington.

However, I am not sure how easily this could be enforced, so I am copying in Roger Squires and Paul Strudwick (of the IWA) in case they are able to manage our expectations.

I am totally puzzled why the Canal and River Trust is not jumping at the opportunity to recruit a permanent warden. This would not only put an end to the embarrassment of unenforcement, but it could also provide a modest income for the trust, because a warden could be offered an affordable permanent mooring in return for his/her services.

Perhaps somebody can explain to me why it is so complicated to implement something so obvious?

Regards, [REDACTED]

04/03/2013

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] hi,

Good speaking with you both earlier. Thank you for listening to my concerns about the anti-social behaviour evidenced by a group of people in the boats currently tethered to the mooring points east of the canal lock on Regents Canal opposite City Basin. The boats concerned are the barge with another one tied to it and which flies a pirate flag, I'll refer to it as the Pirate boat. The [REDACTED] and the Book barge. These seem to be the principal ones causing the nuisance. The majority of this group were here in December and last summer which was when I first alerted Islington Council and the waterways authority about some of the issues in evidence.

The [REDACTED] wasn't involved then but the kids on it were in daily attendance.

March 1 2013

On returning from work the boats in the attached image were moored. At about 6pm two lads from one of the boats, I believe it was the one identified in the image as [REDACTED] rowed over to Crystal Wharf. Crystal Wharf is primarily residential apartments but the whole of the area at water level is occupied by the offices of Stanton Williams. The lads moored outside Stanton Williams and clambered up to windows then starting spitting and making a nuisance of the [REDACTED]elves. There is no public access to this area so they were on private property. That night a large open fire was lit on the tow path and immediately became an area of congregation. This fire burnt long and bright, the fire service attended but the fire stayed lit. You can see from the photograph that the fire was lit next to the boundary wall of the School next to the Canal. Also you will see from the photographs that the motorbike operated by the Book Barge was driven along the tow path. The noise and fire continued into the night. At around 7PM I called the Canal & River Trust's emergency number, spoke to an operator who took details and suggested someone would call me back. Such a call I have not received.

March 2 & 3

A chain saw was operated on the public tow path to cut logs for the fires, the motorbike was driven and the sound system on the book barge was operated at an intrusive and anti-social level throughout the day. The fire was lit on the tow path at night.

March 4

At about 2.30AM, the men from the Pirate boat were chopping wood on the tow path and playing music loudly, waking residents of Crystal Wharf and no doubt residents of Bridgeside Lodge. The latter is a specialist care centre caring for people over 65 and for those with severe neurological impairment and spinal injuries. This continued for about 30 minutes. At about 4.30AM we were again woken by a roaring motor accompanied by loud music and shouting men on board the Pirate boat who steered their vehicle from the mooring down the canal in an easterly direction. They returned just after 6am, roaring their engine to re-moor, still shouting, playing music and generally regardless of their environment, which is primarily residential.

I am not minded to approach any of the individuals concerned as on previous occasions the man on the book barge, when asked kindly to turn down the music during the day, issued platitudes but continued to operate his speaker system at an anti-social volume. The men on the Pirate Bay seem to evidence behaviour I've observed in those experiencing psychotic episodes. In fact their behaviour in the small hours of today was so far from acceptable that I am led to believe that some form of intoxication was partly to blame. The lads on the [REDACTED] are aggressive with no obvious responsible adult nearby caring for them. This last point is in fact very sad as both lads have no speech and seem to be profoundly deaf, the girl and the younger lad with them have speech and hearing. It's this family group that caused a lot of nuisance last year. It's apparent that they do not attend school as they are in evidence during school hours, this was reported to me by a neighbour. Our neighbours are elderly and like us feel quite threatened and exposed to this behaviour. The canal and tow path around us have become no go areas for many of us and a blot on what should be an area of calm - especially during the night when demanding jobs require a restful sleep.

I'd very much appreciate it if you could advise of steps that either of you will or we should take to restore the otherwise enjoyable experience of living on Regents Canal and to end the unacceptable and anti-social behaviour of some individuals impacting others' lives.

I understand that I should receive confirmation of receipt of this complaint within 5 working days and an action plan within 20 from the Canal and River Trust but advice on which organisation can take ownership of these issues would be appreciated.

On behalf of my neighbours I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - the same boat has lit up with the same evil smelling rubbish and thick clouds of smoke as when I called you out yesterday. I've had to stop the desk work I'd started at home and to go out - I can't stand the smell. So much for CRT's promise to move this boat on - it's been at the same mooring for more than two weeks, and he even admitted to you yesterday that he'd been there more than 7 days - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

The noise and smoke issue has to be dealt with under nuisance legislation, this requires that authorised officers witness the nuisance from the property that is being affected and then assess whether a statutory nuisance exists. The difficulty here is that it's not always the same boat, so we could serve a notice on one person only for the boat to move on and be replaced by another doing exactly the same thing.

I honestly don't know about the cost of installing meters, but I could ask some questions and find out. There is a mains power cable that runs through the towpath, but it's 4000 volts so not suitable for a charging connection as yet, some further work would have to be done.

Regards

05/03/2013

Good morning.

Just to keep you in the picture.

Last night between about 10 and 11pm three adults from one of the boats took the dinghy out. They then rowed over to Crystal Wharf where one of them got out and mounted the glazed area in yhe front of Stanton William's Offices. I then heard the woman in the boat shouting about seeing a security guard when the man got back in the boat. He was clearly intoxicated. They were all shouting and screaming. They then rowed around the basin for a while before returning to their barge which had in this time left its mooring for a while and returned.

The shouting ceased at about 1130.

I will keep you up to date but please do let me know if this your preferred method of being kept informed.

Thanks

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I'm now back home. The clouds of smoke are no longer being emitted by that boat, but it is still very much there and showing no signs of leaving. I think it highly likely there will be another smelly performance tomorrow if it is not moved on today - could you please get CRT enforcement on to that, and/or a member of your team to tell him he must desist, reminding him that he assured you yesterday that he knew he'd overstayed and was about to leave. My house still smells strongly of the earlier smoke cloud - I think I'm going to have to go out again - another morning of work at my desk shattered.

[REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Please see the two email below received today from a resident on Noel Road. I spoke with this boater yesterday after I'd witnessed nuisance from the wood smoke coming from his boat. He eventually agreed to burn smokeless fuel which resolved the problem. He continued burning wood again this morning, but I was unable to attend - I did leave a voicemail on [REDACTED]'s phone. The boat number is [REDACTED], I couldn't see a name. I intend to serve an abatement notice on the occupier if he is burning again tomorrow. Can you provide me with any details of the boater? He did tell me yesterday that he'd already been there for 7 days, the complainant says it's been longer, are you able to move him on today?

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Can someone please explain to me the logic behind the 8-8 rule ?

It seems [REDACTED] to assume that our houses are empty during the day. But there are a number of houses at the bridge end with the short, low g[REDACTED]s whose occupants work from home.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Apologies for not having responded sooner I'm on my own in the office today and had meetings for most of the morning.

I've left a message for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about this but not yet had a response, also I've emailed [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and asked for more details about the boater so that I can serve a notice on him in the morning if he's doing it again. Also suggested that they just move him on.

I'll prepare a notice this afternoon and pass by tomorrow morning, I'll call you when I'm in the area. [REDACTED],

Yesterday I spoke to a boater who was running his engine and he says he tries to only do this during the day when it's likely that people will be out. I assume that the 8-8 rule was set for this very reason, to reduce the potential for nuisance.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

05/03/2013

There has been no improvement of conditions at Islington Visitor Moorings. Like my neighbour whose email is below, I have also had a smoke filled house on a daily basis and the sound of generators and their fumes has been very bad, particularly on Sunday afternoons. I identified one source of bad pollution yesterday, [REDACTED] and photo is attached. Today there are 16 boats and 4 of them are overstayers! Boats [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and a pale blue boat not showing a licence number. [REDACTED] has been here over 11 days and was also here in January. They are all clearly residential boats and are not complying with their licence agreement saying that

4.

Visitor moorings are not provided for extended periods of use by boaters needing to stay in the same place for work or other domestic reasons. Please consider the needs of holiday makers and leisure boaters, and if you need to remain in an area, make arrangements with a local moorings provider.

The pollution coming from boat [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has to be seen to be believed. I have attached a video. I spoke to the owner who said he was greener than those in houses using electricity.

The ongoing rubbish dumping and polluting being allowed by the Canal and River Trust is a disgrace. This is a conservation area and one of the few green spaces in this locality.

We desperately need a mooring suspension until new measures are put in place.

Best wishes,

05/03/2013

I can only concur with [REDACTED] - the smell today is appalling and I cannot stay in my house to work. Maybe they are burning green rubbish, but it is an acquired taste - [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

[REDACTED] - please see [REDACTED]'s email - we desperately need a moratorium on mooring in the gully, so that we can have a breathing space. I plan to go back to the Paddington Basin today to photograph the CRT notice for that visitor mooring, stipulation 7 days followed by fines of £25 per day for overstayers, and a requirement for single line of mooring only. Until that notice is set up and plans made for enforcement in this gully (including a w[REDACTED] boat for example - the current CRT enforcement team simply hasn't got the will or the way to do this job on an effective basis), there should be no boats moored here.

[REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Yes, the smells have been very bad quite recently. I actually looked about the house because I thought there might be a 'slow burn' somewhere in our house. But no, happily no difficulties here but true pollution from the boats outside. It was quite nasty for a prolonged period.

Also, difficulties are still arising with over-flowing bins....but no surprise as the boats just dump their rubbish into or around the bin meant to deal with people sitting on the benches enjoying the canal. We now also have a Christmas tree which has been dumped. This appeared in the last couple of days. I agree that the pollution is unacceptable and it beggars belief that we are left in the situation we are.

[REDACTED]

05/03/2013

The boat (?boats?) at my end (tunnel end) were burning something foul at midnight.

It must be obvious that there are a significant proportion of boaters who pay no regard to any set of rules or

prohibitions and only immediate and drastic action will suffice.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Having just walked the length of the canal from the tunnel entrance to the Wharf Road Bridge in my lunch hour - I can confirm double and triple mooring along that entire length. In the city road basin it now somewhat resembles the Occupy protest camps that blighted St Paul's and Finsbury Square last year. I notice that the recent signage - presumably added by C&RT - stating Community Craft Mooring only - has resulted in weird and wonderfully decked out boats spilling a total jumble of half wrecked beds chairs and tables all over the canalside - selling anything from cups of coffee to secondhand books - with notably few buyers it must be said. One boat was belting out incredibly loud reggae music whilst the owner of another was practising circus style bill whip cracking on top of his boat - sounding like firecrackers repeatedly going off. All of this directly opposite a high dependency care home for the elderly which had most of its windows open - presumably so it's residents can enjoy the spring air and sunshine not a cacophony of noise and noxious smoke. Is this really the vision C&RT has for this stretch of canal - I mean really??

What was a peaceful stretch of canal with seating where people could sit and enjoy the view, their lunch or whatever - is now some kind of travellers community with the whole space and environment totally taken over by them. The view is blocked by triple moored boats the air is polluted by multiple smoking chimneys the peace is completely shattered.

It is interesting that C&RT can suddenly place new signage effectively endorsing and encouraging some kind of floating travellers flea[REDACTED]et - to the utter detriment of the area and the permanent residents of Islington - but find it impossible to put up simple signage regarding double/triple mooring etc that might bring canalside and local residents some relief from these preposterous conditions.

It's pretty clear to me that C&RT have scant regard for the residents of the area - and its time for others to step in and restore some proportion before this escalates further.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

05/03/2013

In 1992 British Waterways applied to Islington Council for planning permission for 8 permanent moorings at Islington Visitor Moorings. Please find attached a letter from the Islington Council detailing the response from the Secretary of State. The number was later reduced to 6 but still refused. Amongst other points it was refused for

"their excessive numbers and total size would result in over-intensive use of the canal which would be detrimental to recreational and leisure users of the water area and visitors to the public open space." and

"it would adversely affect the character of the Conservation Area and visual amenities of the surrounding area" and

"The proposed moorings would be detrimental to the amenity of nearby residential occupiers by reason of their excessive numbers, noise and disturbance"

Why does C&RT now think that it is reasonable to have almost three times that number?!!

05/03/2013

I should have added this is also right in front of the primary school playground - loud music all day, smokey fires and polluting generators - from about 8 or 9 boats on this short stretch.

Can LBI tolerate this - not to mention the springing up of an unlicensed [REDACTED]et selling amongst other things food and drink - all happening in the middle of Islington?

I think it's time to include lower Noel Road residents, the school, the care home not to mention permanently moored boaters in City Basin - in asking what they think of all this!?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - the offending boat was still firmly in place when I left Islington for a meeting at Imperial College late this afternoon. I really don't see why you couldn't serve a notice on him today, since you witnessed yourself his breach of regulations on Monday morning, and several residents, in addition to me, witnessed it again this morning (Tuesday) and reported it to you. Why just wait until he gets away? It is this sort of prevarication that encourages other boaters to ignore the CRT rules and the complaints from LBI residents. I will be understandably furious if I'm driven from my desk at home (yes, a number of Noel Road residents actually work from home, so the 8-8 rule fails to protect our interests) for a third day running tomorrow (Wednesday). I have deadlines to meet with my work, which requires peace and concentration.

I stopped off at the Paddington basin on my way to the Hammersmith Hospital this afternoon, and took the attached photo of CaRT's notice of the conditions for visitor moorings there. We in Noel Road would like the same notice to be posted in the gully between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street before any further boats are moored here. The current accumulation, many of them overstaying boats, needs to be moved on ASAP so that we can have a breather before a proper system of regulation is set up. This needs to be limited to 6 boats (see LBI documents sent round by [REDACTED]).

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

06/03/2013

Leaving aside intemperate responses, all the residents are seeking is a rationalisation, clarification and enforcement of the rules designed to allow peaceful co-existence of those who live, go to school, work near or use the towpath as a place of quiet open-air recreation. It is one of the few open air spaces available for Islington residents, and as such is valued by them. We do not wish to see it turned into a noisy place where rubbish replaces wildlife.

As far as the stretch of the towpath through this gully is concerned, familiar to me from having lived in this house since 1977, the first damaging changes started three or four years ago when double and then triple moorings went unchallenged, despite being in contravention of the existing BWB rules. We complained, having assumed that the same rules had been taken over by CaRT. We were certainly never consulted about any changes to these.

Along with double and triple mooring came the de facto conversion of visitor moorings into illegal residential moorings, with boaters flouting the 7 day limit and those in authority failing to obtain compl[REDACTED]ce. LBI is also involved, since bone fide residential moorings do require planning permission. [REDACTED] has circulated the council's decision not to grant permission for these, for which the planning committee provided the reasons, at the same time stating that this gully is suitable for only 6 visiting boats to moor at any one time (given the slow dispersal of engine fumes due to the enclosed geography).

We now look to LBI, working with CaRT, the latter possibly delegating some of the necessary tasks to the local authority to which we pay substantial council tax, to sort out the current noise, fumes and pollution issues so that the canal can be returned to a place where we can enjoy peace. Those who want noisy entertainments can readily find them elsewhere in the city - in licensed premises and larger open air spaces. This one is too small and too precious to relinquish.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

06/03/2013

Hi there,

Just to let you know that when I returned from work at about 18:15 last night there was very loud music being played from one of the boats tethered to the flank of the Pirate barge. This continued for some time so I called noise abatement who went to site at about 22.20, at least that's when they called me. The music had stopped by then. The rest of the night and morning was quiet.

Thanks and all best.

[REDACTED]

06/03/2013

Dear All,

I've finally caught up on all the emails and I have a few things to add and respond to.

Firstly, regarding the smoke from boat no.[REDACTED] we have to witness this from the property being affected, we also are required to take a reasonable approach which in effect means we give the perpetrator an opportunity to stop; having spoken to him on Monday and explained how his behaviour is affecting residents surrounding him then I've exercised the reasonable part. The legislation requires that the nuisance is witnessed by the authority to be confident that it still exists and the action taken is justified; we can't serve on evidence provided by someone else, however residents do have the option of taking their own action under section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

We've received other complaints about noise and anti-social behaviour from the "Pirate boat", this is being dealt with as a separate issue by the noise and anti-social behaviour team [REDACTED]. Any incidents relating to the activities of individuals associated with that boat should be reported by calling 020 7527 7272 as soon as the noise starts; the case officer is, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of CRT is dealing with this also.

We all noticed a reduction in the number of boats moored in this location earlier this year, however it all seems [REDACTED] to have gone back to "normal" now with 14 boats moored on most days. They are generally the same boats all the time so not genuine visitors at all. This is not an acceptable situation as the potential for nuisance has again increased. I have grave concerns about health impact, particularly as we've been suffering a pollution episode since mid-February so those individuals that are considered vulnerable (the young, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions) will suffer even further with the added smoke from the boats. I am dedicating a lot of time to dealing with this and I would ask anyone that is affected by smoke from these boats please call me when it's happening and I will do my utmost to come down and get them to stop. My numbers are at the end of this email.

The Paddington sign is interesting, and I can't quite understand why a different approach would be taken in another borough. I understand from my colleague in Westminster that they have received complaint about boats burning diesel next to the hospital but this was dealt with quite expediently by CRT.

Kind regards

06/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Whilst I appreciate the strict rules that control how you take action against serious breaches of the rules, you might consider the evidence from residents living in the slip stream of the smoke, e.g. a photo or video, as being reliable, if it is a situation of re-offending in the way as that witnessed by you within 24 hours.

However, a more important point I'd like to make is to ask you not to consider (and certainly not write) of 14 boats moored in the gully as being 'normal'. That number is more than twice the number the LBI planning committee considered appropriate when they evaluated the application for moorings (as copied to you by [REDACTED] - please let us know if you've had difficulty in opening this important document).

With respect to the situation in the Paddington basin, where things have been brought under control following the same sort of complaints we have been making here, surely you should explore the

manner in which the involvement of another authority was brought in to provide help? I ask this since it is clearly something required in Islington; CRT clearly can't cope by itself.

I'm only copying this to you, Martin and [REDACTED], as I don't want to flood people's mailboxes, but the issues I've raised concern us all.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

06/03/2013

[REDACTED],

There is no hysteria. This is a crisis. It is hugely embarrassing for the CRT, distressing for the residents and is damaging the image of boating.

This subject will almost certainly be raised at the CRT user group meeting next Wednesday evening, so I hope that an enforcement spokesperson will be present.

Your comment below (implying time management constraints) has highlighted a major problem with resources within the CRT, and since enforcement is an activity that can never be outsourced to unpaid volunteers I would like to know why this was not flagged as a serious issue prior to the transition to charity. If anybody can spare the time to review the type of questions raised in parliamentary committees last year then I suggest that they read this report

[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/c\[REDACTED\]elect/cmenvfru/uc1890-i/uc189001.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/c[REDACTED]elect/cmenvfru/uc1890-i/uc189001.htm)

On the plus side, the CRT is getting free advice from medical experts who are directly affected by the increased pollution, at a time when air quality is very high on the council and GLA agenda. So I suggest that you ask a colleague or adviser to read carefully through the details of these e-mails, preferably before next Wednesday's public meeting.

Regards, [REDACTED]

06/03/2013

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the clarification.

Not being prone to hysteria myself - I should clarify that with regard to the 'Pirate Boat' my point was more one of why is it there at all? There are now boats triple-parked directly East of the lock into City Road Basin where previously there were none. The Pirate Boat is the worst offender - they were running a loud and noisy diesel generator actually on the canal path directly beneath the school when I walked by just now. On top of which it is such an eyesore - as is the adjacent floating bookshop - double decker height and huge. The latter has been there for months now.

This was a reasonable not hysterical email asking why LBI and C&RT have apparently authorised the effective setting up of a floating flea [REDACTED]et with so many boats using the selling of a few ite[REDACTED] of questionable worth - they were selling bra's yesterday! - as an excuse for being in this designated 'craft mooring' only area. It was better without any mooring - why change it? It is sited between two environmentally/Pollution sensitive sites - being an elderly care home and a school.

I was trying to make the point that C&RT seem to find the time to set up such questionable initiatives - along with the appropriate signage required - without any thought for the consequences to the local environment. All the bins are overflowing again and rubbish bags dumped at the bottom of the steps. Yet they only have time to take 'cursory peeks' at the legitimate concerns of local residents and exchange patronising emails with each other on the subject. This has been an illuminating insight into the prevailing attitudes there. So now these community craft moorings are established - without it see[REDACTED] any legitimate mandate from anyone - we can only deal with them by making complaints to the noise and anti-social team. That just see[REDACTED] farcical to me - this was a wholly predictable consequence of a ridiculous idea that has led to immediate proble[REDACTED] arising for everyone. Why not just get rid of them!

I would ask how long can these Community Craft Boats stay there and strongly request that if they are to stay that single mooring only be allowed. Otherwise as the summer approaches and word gets out it will inevitably grow into an uncontrollable situation. The question still remains why allow it in the first place?

Kind regards.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

06/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Apologies for not replying sooner.

It is currently Nation boat check and I am out of the office 4 out of 5 days .

I was however out on site today in the Islington area and I have patrol noticed the above craft for not burning smokeless fuel.

When I go through the sightings to confirm how long craft has been in situ , and it has been on site longer then the stated 7 day he will be moved on and invoiced..

I am out on site again on Friday and if the craft has been overstaying I assure he will be moved on .

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

it is now just before 7.30am and the gully is filled with evil smelling smoke that's seeping into our homes. This time it appears to be a boat about half way between Colebrooke Row and Duncan street. It is not the previous offended this time (but why is he still there, after admitting to

[REDACTED] on Monday that he knew he'd overstayed, but was about to leave?) and I cannot from my bedroom see which boat it is, but I can certainly smell it - and so must those living closer.

Bearing in mind the close, foggy morning, with no wind, I suspect the smell and/or smoke will still be evident in an hour's time. Could you please investigate?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

I raised some direct questions in my last email - to which I might quite reasonably expect some answers - namely:

Why has the 'Community Craft Mooring' stretch been set up - allowing some kind of unlicensed travellers [REDACTED]et to spring up?

Whose permission did that require?

Have the environmental aesthetic and pollution issues been considered given its siting between a school and a care home? There are a very large number of boats there now - all running generators and burning smokey fuels?

How long can boats moor there?

Is double triple mooring going to be tolerated/allowed or if not enforced against?

Are C&RT going to be permitted to tr[REDACTED] this stretch of canal in the same way as they continue to do in the Noel Road/Vincent Terrace stretch?

Why are LBI not taking direct action to deal with these issues - particularly the rubbish?

Why are residents never consulted on these significant changes to our direct local environment?

I would also like to ask - does C&RT have total carte blanche to create such eyesores and environmental disasters.

When are the bins going to be emptied - they are still overflowing everywhere with rubbish from these boats and their bin bags are piling up at the bottom of the stairs. This is an unacceptable place for these boats to dump their rubbish. So who is responsible for clearing up their mess?

I also wonder if our MP is ever going to wake up to a problem occurring in her constituency affecting large numbers of her constituents and find the time to even make a comment - I note she is on the mailing list - but have never seen her comment or get involved in any way.

If those at LBI and C&RT that are on this mailing list can't answer these questions - then can they kindly direct me to someone who can? Although one wonders why I should be chasing up the clearing of piles of rubbish!

Best regards.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

07/03/2013

Just to let you know that I'm pleased to report that there was no anti-social behaviour last night. I've also noticed that the open fires on the tow path have not been lit for two nights and the motor bike is not parked on the tow path.

Regarding the children on one of the boats, are social services aware of the issues around them?

Thanks very much.

[REDACTED]

07/03/2013

[REDACTED],

I will try to answer some of your questions, but please note that I have no authority to do this, so some of my responses could be educated guesses.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Head of Boating) is on leave this week, and so is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (London Waterways Manager). I think you need to send your questions to the general enquiries desk (enquiries.londonxcanalrivertrust.org.uk) and they will forward it to the appropriate person.

The purpose of the 'Community Craft Mooring' is to allow community boats such as Angel II and Tarporley to pick up and drop community groups, including disabled people. It provides enough room for a single boat and it is not for general use. I do not know whether any boaters were consulted about this; if a boat stays here too long then it might cause an obstruction near the lock entrance.

Please note that boats should not be moored between the lock and Danbury Street unless their owners are filling up their water tank or waiting to use the lock. There are no signs painted on the towpath to remind boaters, because it is assumed that they know the rules.

The traders should have special licences. They are collectively referred to as the Floating [REDACTED]jet and they move between Mile End, Broadway [REDACTED]jet, Angel, Camden Town and Little Venice. Some of them are very popular with passers-by, for example, the Sandwich Barge, which has its own website.

http://www.thesandwichbarge.eyeballenterprises.com/The_Sandwich_Barge/The_Sandwich_Barge.html

The floating bookshop is also well established; here is an example of its press coverage:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/9124067/London-Book-Barge-A-bookshop-to-float-your-boat.html>

But I cannot explain the circu[REDACTED]tances of the pirate boat.

In principle I am in favour of the floating [REDACTED]et, because they provide a service, they can make the area safer and it is in their interests to keep the surrounding area clean. They even bag up the rubbish when the bins are full. But in practice some of their standards can be disappointing (for example, use of amplified music and smoke emissions).

I am not sure of the mooring rules here but my personal view is that private boats should not be moored here, because they prevent bona fide traders from operating.

The most obvious solution for the rubbish disposal is to collect it by boat, but CRT and the council claim this is too expensive. This see[REDACTED] very defeatist and it does not take into account all the budding volunteers who want to help with canal maintenance.

Whoever is responsible for the bins at the moment, it is about time they realised that they need to employ extra staff at weekends when visitor numbers are highest.

I have copied in Roger Squires (IWA) who might be able to correct or confirm some of my comments.

Regards, [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

Thank you [REDACTED] - this is most useful and has clarified the community craft mooring definition.

I too have no objection to a few boats selling books and sandwiches. It is when 6 other boats moor up alongside with no obvious purpose other than to create noise mess and pollution that I object to.

It's also a very poor choice of location for a floating [REDACTED]et in my opinion and should residents not have been consulted on random decisions to site something like this directly outside their homes and/or schools? Can you imagine if a street [REDACTED]et suddenly appeared on Danbury Street without reference to any of the residents. The Canal appears immune to all planning or consultation processes.? As we know enforcement is historically pretty much ineffective and this appears to be an open licence to pitch up here knowing they are unlikely to be moved on. Can it really be a fact that the 'Pirate Boat' has a licence to trade?

Totally agree with you about the rubbish situation.

I am going to stop banging on about this now - but will follow your suggestions in ter[REDACTED] of contacts.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I've spoken with the anti-social behaviour team about this. As they've not witnessed any incidents related to the children they can't make an official referral. They've advised that you report to social services what you've seen and your concerns so that they can investigate further.

The team manager is [REDACTED], I've cc'd her for convenience.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

When I visited the canal this morning there were 2 boats that were pumping out wood smoke. One of them was for a short duration just to get the stove started before putting on smokeless fuel but the other one was really bad, he'd put wet kindling onto is stove so of course it wasn't going to burn efficiently at all. I warned him that this bad practice will result in enforcement action if its witnessed again.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] and her team were on the towpath at the time so she spoke to a number of boaters including the offender from earlier this week and gave them warnings about moving on, and also about the smoke nuisance.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Just to let you know I got your messages yesterday afternoon, unfortunately I was in a meeting in the City until 5:30 so couldn't answer my phone. I have logged your complaint though, please continue to let me know whenever something else happens.

Regards

07/03/2013

Many thanks [REDACTED] - that visit of yours this morning was well timed. The smell persisted for about an hour or so, then gradually diminished as the morning wore on. The boat that had created evil smelling smoke on Monday and Tuesday morning this week (and admitted to you that he was an overstayer) IS STILL HERE. I do hope it that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] acts effectively to get him moved on before the w/e or we risk another horrible two days when nobody can be called in to deal with problem[REDACTED]. The boaters know this, and take advantage of it, so weekends can be hell - have been, for the last two.

If overstayers were charged the £25 per day that CRT clearly indicates for those using their visitor moorings in the Paddington Basin (see photo below) that would serve as a powerful motive to move overstayers on. Think of the effects of the LBI car parking w[REDACTED]s! It is clearly no good just talking to overstayers; you have their licence numbers, CRT can act on the basis of their own observations, perhaps linked with yours. Money talks.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

07/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for letting me know. Today has been particularly bad as I opened my windows just before a boat started up its fire(having checked that there was no smoke beforehand) by the time I realised, my house was smoked out but the boats chimney was not showing much smoke so I didn't call you. However, my roof[REDACTED] smelled and I had a head full of it, the effects of which lasted some time. Another boat did the same later. When they start fires the amount of smoke can be 3 times as much as normal. The worst time is at night and it is really getting me down.

We have a bad group at present and its not surprising that those overstaying are the worst polluters. They are [REDACTED] (with horrendous engine noise and bad smoke), pale blue boat with dark blue trim, [REDACTED] (today's culprit), [REDACTED] (very bad smoke), [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (bad smoke). What worries me is that they have now moved one or two spaces and I expect they think it is now ok to stay another week.

I saw notices on some boats so [REDACTED] has been along but I don't think C&RT are fining them or they wouldn't overstay.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

08/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I was alerted to smoke by a strong smell of it a short while ago. Smoke is coming from the chimney of the boat you cautioned on Monday, who repeated this on Tuesday. Please serve a notice on him today - it is due to get much colder over the w/e, and so likely to incite boaters to light fires. It should be made quite clear that those mooring in here cannot burn wood (or

other smoky material), even to start fires - the fumes hang around in the gully and drift into our homes, stinking them out for hours at a time (as happened yesterday, with culprits witnessed by you). The still weather conditions amplify this, and this is the usual state along this sheltered stretch of the towpath.

Please come and see/smell for yourself.

[REDACTED]

PS my computer address book has lost your phone number - can you please send them to me again.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/03/2013

Hi all,

I would like to echo the complaints sent to you on 4th March by my neighbour [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The behaviour on the boats in question is completely unacceptable.

Furthermore I would like to report that from approximately 2pm this afternoon they have been playing music from their boat at an unacceptably loud volume, which is incredibly intrusive to all neighbouring properties as well as members of the public that are walking along the tow-path.

I have been informed that they have already been warned about their behaviour, however this afternoon these warning have clearly been completely ignored. I look forward to hearing back from you with respect to further steps that should be taken to ensure that this issue does not continue.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I am glad that you have now had time to read the emails describing how conditions have continued to deteriorate on this stretch of the towpath over the last few weeks.

However, there have been unwelcome new developments over the w/e, after the overstayers moved on during Friday had left. They have been replaced by even more moored boats - currently there are 4 quadruple moored behind my house, one of them clearly a trading vessel (surely it should not be moored in visitor mooring space - it arrived over the w/e). It is now running its very loud diesel engine (it has been idling for nearly an hour), adding a plume of fumes to the gully already with the remains of smoke from burning wood this morning. There are also double moorings within sight.

We are simply asking for there to be clear signage of the rules for mooring in this gully, i.e. a single line of moored boats, (thus limiting the number to 6 or 7 as suggested by LBI) with NO burning of wood. Such signage should clearly state the 7 day visitor mooring rule, remind boaters not to create disturbance or otherwise spoil the environment (e.g. by littering) so close to residential accommodation, and to observe the 8pm-8am ban on running engines. Enforcement of these existing rules is the first step to any further discussion. The limit on a single line of mooring is clearly stated in an earlier BWB document (sent to you by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) and neither we or any other interested party have been consulted about changing it. The CRT notice at the Paddington visitor moorings clearly states these rules, adding that overstayers will be charged £25 a day.

Enforcing that charge at the Islington Visitor moorings would have yielded CRT many thousands of pounds, just in the last few months. I understand that my colleagues at the St Marys Paddington campus of Imperial College contributed to making clear the need for clear signage and a single line of mooring to protect patients and doctors from noise and the dangers of uncontrolled pollution. We have been asked to be patient about amelioration of the current unacceptable conditions, but I would like to point out that we have been waiting since 2011, but since then, when we made our first requests to CRT to address the new-at-that-time illegal double and triple mooring in this gully, the situation has only got worse, and environmental contamination has reached levels that pose serious health risks, especially to young children and elderly people. We cannot continue to hold our breath. We are not talking about consensus, other than the urgent need to apply the existing rules, making them quite clear from the signage displayed.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

11/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to add to my neighbour, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s requests that as C&RT are unable to enforce existing regulations at present and the Islington Visitor Moorings continue to be overcrowded and with unacceptably high levels of pollution and littering, there should be a mooring suspension until further measures are implemented. Residents of Noel Road and those using the towpath have had to endure 2 winters with unacceptable pollution and should not have to put up with another wait for changes to be made.

Further more, as w[REDACTED]s are unable to identify whether boats are using smoky or smokeless fuel, future regulations should include a ban on using stoves and running engines/generators whilst stationary at this location. As you know the location is a culvert and traps pollution or funnels it directly into houses. We are often unable to open our windows or use our g[REDACTED]s, in winter because of smoke and in summer because of generator or engine fumes and noise. Boat dwellers would need to use gas for heating and [REDACTED]ing for their short term stay or moor elsewhere. It is unacceptable for vehicles on water to be subjecting local residents to pollution which would not be acceptable on roads.

IVM has the status of an Islington green space (one of the few locally) and a site of nature conservation. Using the space so intensively, as a permanent residential mooring (in effect because as one boat leaves another replaces it) is not compatible with this status and is damaging the sensitive ecosystem and the health of local residents. In 1992 the Secretary of State for the Environment ruled that the location was not suitable for 6 permanent moorings, but today we have up to 15 boats regularly moored here.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

11/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED], following our meeting I have been giving some thoughts as to how we can progress enforcement against craft burning non smokeless fuel.

As I mentioned our enforcement officers are not experts and would be uncomfortable and unqualified to give evidence on this issue in a court of law.

However you and your team are qualified, so if you issued notices against the craft and copied the enforcement officer in on the notice, we could save it in the file we keep for every craft. If we find a craft has more than one of these notices we could use this as evidence of either 'nuisance' or breach of ter[REDACTED] & conditions and proceed against them. Clearly if the issue was challenged in court then you or your team could be called as an expert witness.

Think about it and come back to me.

By the way [REDACTED] is back and we should have a date for our meeting in the near future

Regards

[REDACTED]

11/03/2013

Hi there,

Just following to my phone call this morning and this afternoon to the CRT.

I understand that the matter is in hand but not having had a call from the CRT or an acknowledgement regarding the recent escalation I was getting a bit concerned that the response from the CRT isn't perhaps what I, my neighbours and those impacted by the less than desirable behaviour could reasonably expect. In fact I seem to have only had one communication from the CRT since reporting this matter over a week ago. I've just spoken with Katie at the CRT London Customer Service operation who has informed me that she is handling the case and will call me later today. I look forward to hearing from [REDACTED] with some more information.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/03/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

We would only ever issue one notice. We take a reasonable approach to enforcement in line with the councils policy. So once the nuisance is witnessed we will speak to the boater and advise that they are causing a nuisance thus giving them the opportunity to change their behaviour or there might be some unavoidable situation, if we witnessed nuisance again then we'd serve notice. The law does require that we serve notice immediately but in practice this is not always considered reasonable.

I spoke to two boaters today, one switched to smokeless fuel the other said she was burning this but there seemed to be something wrong with her stove and I suggested she clean the flue. When I went back later there was no smoke.

I'll get a date in the diary.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11/03/2013

Hi all,

Below is a record of the behaviour Sunday MArch 10th, Saturday was calm

The noise reached a crescendo at about 14:45 Sunday so I went to ask the people on the boat to turn it down, which they did but increased it again as soon as I left. They have in fact set up record decks on the towpath next to the barge and erected large external speakers. All of this can be seen in the attached photographs. The conversation was civil and hand shakes were exchanged but it was obviously platitudes in a bid for me to leave as soon as possible. Unfortunately whilst asking them politely to turn the volume down a rather spaced out individual announced his presence by using several expletives as well as threatening behaviour and language towards my partner, his words were " What you going to do about (in reference to the noise) , you want to f***ing fight about it? "I'm unsure if he is part of the group on one of the boats, as the two men on the boat from which the noise was coming seemed to distance the [REDACTED]elves from him. He did however say he was living on the boats. He was barely coherent.

About 45 mins later the music was so loud it was not possible to hold a conversation in our flat. I went to ask them again to reduce the volume, the conversation was cordial but I stressed that if the volume was increased again I would have no option but to call the relevant authority. The music was turned down .

Round about 16:30 the people on the boat lit another fire on the tow path, photograph attached.

By 17:00 the noise levels had increased again so I called noise abatement where the call was logged as Ref F1777998 at 17:13 with [REDACTED], the officers called to site very quickly as they had received other calls complaining. The music was turned off. By

18:25 the noise was again at an unacceptable level so I called noise abatement and was given another reference FI778013. The noise patrol officers very quickly arrived at our flat and were very helpful. In the 15 or so minutes from their arriving the noise levels had risen again and one of the officers called someone connected with the boats and asked them to lower the noise. The music was then turned off and we heard no more from them. All in all a period of about 7 hours of intense noise. This included the use of a noisy generator which at times was masked by the music. The attached images whilst unclear do show the external speakers, the mixing deck and the tow path fire.

I've not yet heard anything positive in ter[REDACTED] of how to best deal with the anti-social behaviour, the noise is causing me, my partner and neighbours stress and anxiety. As a result of the behaviour of the aggressive person on the boat my partner now feels unsafe. Could you please let me know what the Islington Council and the Canal and River Trust are doing in to be pro-active in dealing with the proble[REDACTED], rather than just taking note.

I have cc'd one of my neighbours who has also been in touch with you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/03/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

Thanks for the call earlier, appreciated.

I can confirm that the book barge is still moored up as are a number of other barges. I'm not aware that any have moved on and the one that I thought had gone, [REDACTED], is now just sandwiched between two others.

As you are aware I'm a bit concerned by what did appear as the lack of a joined up approach by the CRT, I now gather that you deal with the boats carrying on some form of business and that [REDACTED] who I spoke with but for whom I don't have a direct email address, is dealing with the boats where no trade is taking place. In future I'll ensure that all emails go to all parties but if you could let me have [REDACTED] email address it will ensure this is the case. From the point of view of my neighbours and me it would be best if we had one point of contact to communicate with rather than several. Whilst we are keen to resolve the problem and provide whatever assistance we can it is very time consuming and at times frustrating not having any one individual take ownership of the issue. As mentioned to you on the phone Islington Council have been excellent but with ultimate responsibility sitting with the CRT there is only so much they can do.

It is appreciated that due process has to take place but I am concerned that if the approach isn't robust from within and between the relevant authorities the problem becomes more entrenched as the perpetrators of the anti-social behaviour are only too aware of the limitations and opportunities the seeming lack of a cohesive response presents. I hope that now everyone is at least addressed by my correspondence on behalf of Crystal Wharf we can look to a more joined up approach.

You mentioned that there is to be work undertaken to the tow path abutting the boats, will this in itself result in the boats being asked to move on? I can also confirm that it is understood that the barges have been present for at least 14 days, is this within the time frame set out for temporary mooring?

The residents of Crystal Wharf have chosen to live here because of the amazing location on the canal, up until recently a relatively tranquil spot in the heart of London but the seating area and tow path abutting these barges have now become something of a no-mans land due to the behaviour of a few irresponsible people.

I will be away from March 14 but [REDACTED] [REDACTED] , also resident at Crystal Wharf will no doubt keep you, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Islington Council, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at CRT, once we have an email address for her.

All best

[REDACTED]

13/03/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

All was quiet last night which was great, no unattended fires and no serious noise. I was home too late to see if the book barge had moved on though. With regard to the book barge, as long as the doesn't repeat the incidents we had last year with loud music and the motor bike we have no issue with him plying his trade in line with CRT guidelines.

Having received a call from the anti-social behaviour team at Islington Council yesterday morning I was under the impression that I'd receive a response to my email and the questions within it to you of March 11th. Is there one on the way as I'd like to be able to let my neighbours know what process and progress is being made?

I look forward to receiving a response today, if this is not possible please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13/03/2013

Thanks very much for your reply, appreciated. I'm glad that CRT has acted to move them on , I'm just sorry we have had to experience the stress and anxiety that the problem has caused and will possibly be created for residents close to where the boats will move to.

The meeting with [REDACTED] sounds like a great idea to establish a robust and thorough response for the few boat owners who spoil the environment, when indeed there are a great many owners who also want to live in peace and quiet.

My neighbours and I would be keen to know what the approved mooring period is for the mooring points in question.(Those that the Pirate Barge etc are currently moored at). Is it two weeks? It would be useful information to have as no doubt the boats will return and it's enforcing this aspect that will have the quickest impact if their anti-social behaviour is repeated.

I'm sure [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will be in touch if the barges, and especially the Pirate Barge, have not moved on Friday.

Thanks for your help and I look forward to enjoying the canal without the anti-social behaviour.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

18/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The boat in the photo has been filling my house with smoke and has an abundance of chopped wood. Please can you ask the owner to stop or move on?

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18/03/2013

This is the same boat that I reported filling my house with smoke yesterday - and there was a repeat performance this morning. I'm attaching the photo I took. Please ask it to moor elsewhere if it wants to burn its wood. [REDACTED]

19/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Thank you once again for your email. In my last reply I promised I would send another email once I had met with Defra.

I have now discussed this with Defra as part of various consultations on the Clean Air Act revision process. They recognise the limited powers currently available to the Mayor and local authorities and have agreed to consider this as part of their deliberations. I will continue to push the issue in my meetings with them.

Re: the PLA my next regular meeting is not until April but I will raise the matter when I meet with them then. I think [REDACTED] is also planning on raising this with the London Waterways Commission.

In ter[REDACTED] of trying to identify a nearer term solution, its possible small amounts of funding could be available either from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund or other sources to put in place additional signage at the locations of concern or for other measures to raise awareness. Obviously, this would be for the London Borough of Islington to lead but I'd be happy to attend any meeting to identify some kind of solution.

Having read both your and [REDACTED]'s emails, I appreciate this is having quite an impact on your quality of life and would like to do all I can to help.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

20/03/2013

The boat which is very smoky and piled high with chopped wood is [REDACTED]. The green boat is [REDACTED], also smoky and an overstayer. There may be fewer boats here at present but they continue to impact upon residents by running generators for extended hours and well after 8pm and having smoky fires.

[REDACTED]

22/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - the two 'smoky boats' - the red one in the photo we sent and the green one next to it, are still moored behind my house, clearly overstayers - I thought you were dealing with these earlier this week? Double mooring has now reappeared, with the commercial boat that I complained had spent the last two weekends moored here, reappearing and mooring alongside the green overstaying boat. It is now making the most infernal noise running its ancient diesel engine. If you don't get down here this afternoon we will be facing another weekend of noise and pollution - please save us from that.

I have had a letter from our MP, Emily Thornberry, responding to me and various other neighbours in this stretch, attaching a letter sent to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who I believe works with you, asking questions about signage and enforcement.

We are so weary with suffering from disturbance and pollution, having in the past co-existed perfectly well with a limited number of boats, single moored. Please return us to this situation as a confidence inspiring prelude for dealing with the wider issue of diesel fume pollution.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

25/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I am writing to confirm everything said by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in her email. Our houses in the terrace are among towards the Danbury Road end, where the g[REDACTED]s are very short and closer to the towpath and canal because the terrace is built stepping down the slope of the gully from the Colebrooke Row end, so funnelling of smoke and fumes into our houses.

The pollution and noise nuisance from diesel engines is directly proportional to the numbers of moored boats - the gully was deemed to be suitable for a limit of only 6 moored boats following an earlier LBI enquiry. Uncontrolled double, and occasionally triple mooring has allowed this number to rise to over 20. A single line of mooring, with enforcement of the proposed rules by a resident w[REDACTED] would restore this precious space to its designated use as a site of nature conservation, in a London borough woefully short of open spaces.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

27/03/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you for your reply to various points raised in my emails. What you describe as the process of recording boats moored in this gully (between Colebrooke Row and Danbury St), and dealing with overstayers, sounds logical, but I have to say that it doesn't always happen that way. There is also the continued problem of boaters burning smoky fuel at all times of the day and night (at night this is particularly noxious) and ignoring the 8pm-8am ban on running diesel generators.

During last week there were two overstayers, one very wide boat with a red roof piled high with wood and a more conventional width narrow boat moored on the Danbury St side of the larger vessel. Both were moored here for more than two weeks, the owner of one of them admitted as much to [REDACTED] when she challenged his burning of smoky fuel one morning after I'd drawn her attention to this everyday nuisance, created by both of these boats. I understand that you gave notice to each of them for overstaying a few days later, but it was several days again before they left, the green one on Saturday and the red one on Sunday - but only after running his diesel generator until 9pm on Saturday evening.

We cannot expect you and your team to be on duty to deal with these infringements after hours, but they happen all the time, and are a source of irritation and pollution. I do not understand why you do not install a warden boat along this stretch, as we had a few years ago. This worked very well, as he was able to deal with problems by speaking immediately to the boaters infringing the rules. They knew he was on site, and that they could not take advantage of the sort of occasional visits to which you and your staff are limited.

I am copying below a detailed log made by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and sent to me and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], of boats moored along this stretch over a period of many months, up to the beginning of this year. It would make sense for you to compare this with your records, and see where there are gaps. You should also note the antisocial behaviour by certain boat owners with respect to burning smoky fuels, running noisy generators, including after hours, and of abusive conversation (of which I have been the victim on more than the one occasion overheard by [REDACTED]). The incredible noise and smoke made by the commercial vessel of which you are aware needs to be dealt with - it often spends the best part of a day in the gully, shattering any possibility of peace, and then moors here overnight, or indeed, over the weekend.

The question of whether double moorings are permitted in the gully is in dispute. It only started happening two years ago, and the BWB website explicitly forbade it. As interested parties, we were never consulted about any change in the rules, and would have resisted any. This gully is not suitable for more than 6 or 7 boats - an LBI planning committee ruled that several years ago, and the basic geography of the gully has not changed - it allows the accumulation of pollutants which then drift into our houses. This is a health hazard.

Please continue your vigilance in spotting and dealing with overstayers - they contribute substantially to the overcrowding. We also appreciate your plan to deliver a letter to all crafts moored in the Islington Visitor moorings advising them of the ter[REDACTED] and conditions, when you are here this week, also making them aware of the rules about burning only smokeless fuel. But this is a constantly changing population, and delivery of such letters will be necessary on at least a twice weekly basis, to take newcomers into account.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

03/04/2013

There is a high density of boats moored in the gully and we've been subjected to a lot of diesel noise and fumes, and the burning of smoky fuel, especially at night, under cover of dark. At the moment there is a large blue boat at the bottom of my g[REDACTED], thick smoke pouring from its tall black chimney. Please would you do something effective to make it clear to boaters that when mooring in this gully they cannot light smoky fires?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/04/2013

Along with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I am also suffering from a smoke filled house. This attached photograph shows Whittington Myth with smoky chimney though the photo doesn't capture how very smoky it was. The night time can be very bad as many of the boats are using wood. Easter weekend was most unpleasant. Boat [REDACTED] was particularly bad.

Please make them stop.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/04/2013

I think this makes the point that we absolutely need a w[REDACTED] boat on this stretch to deal with breaches of the rules as they happen - office staff cannot do this. However, proper signage would also help - has there any progress about getting this done?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you very much. They will have no excuse for breaking the rules then. However many of the boats now moored at IVM have a lot of wood on their roofs and the temptation is to use it especially under cover of darkness. Perhaps they could be encouraged to move on?

As [REDACTED] has said, a resident w[REDACTED] nearby would help after hours. We don't understand why this practical solution has been dispensed with.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/04/2013

I am not the only resident on this stretch of the canal in a gully where pollution can hang undispersed for long periods. Ironically, double parking is often (as it is now) at its worse at the Danbury Street where are g[REDACTED]s are shortest. There are strong arguments for banning mooring of boats at this end, let alone allowing double parking.

04/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

It see[REDACTED] that your message about not using wood didn't get through or is disregarded. Boat [REDACTED] is pouring out smoke directly into my home this evening. My family and I have had to sit in a smoke filled sitting room for too many evenings now. This is a big health hazard!

[REDACTED]

05/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

I am out on site today. I will ensure this boat is dealt with.

[REDACTED]

06/04/2013

[REDACTED], we have a meeting in the diary on 16th April with CaRT to try and thr[REDACTED] out a permanent solution to the noel rd proble[REDACTED]. This will include proper signage, but the signage will need to reflect what we manage to get CaRT to agree should be enforced. I have my wish-list which I will be pushing strongly. We will also be seeking amendments to continuous cruiser licenses to include words on not causing noise or air pollution.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

07/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has continued to use smoky fuel this weekend both night and day, disregarding any notification from you. Neither of the boats who we informed you were a problem have moved. Surely if they were found to be breaking the rules they should have automatically had to move on even if they had not stayed the allowed 7 days (which they have). These boats are given too many chances to improve their behaviour at residents expense. We have had to once again sit in smoky roo[REDACTED] inside and when wanting to enjoy the sunshine had to sit in a smoky g[REDACTED]! [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

07/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I can confirm this horror - it has lasted all w/e, clouds of smoke and fumes driving us from our g[REDACTED]s and seeping into our houses. I saw thick smoke coming from the chimney of the boat that [REDACTED] has complained about, at 11am (when I took the first attached photo), 1pm and again at 3pm this afternoon, when it filled the gully with a dense smog.

Now at 5pm other boats have joined in - I have just photographed the currently offending one at the bottom of my g[REDACTED], two of my neighbours' young children can be seen playing in their g[REDACTED], exposed to this pollution (third of the attached photos).

Double parking has added to the substantially to problem - there are four boats overlapping close to my g[REDACTED] - see attached photo (second one). There are another four flanking these, bringing the total to 8, so in addition to those burning smoky fuel, the fumes and noise from that number of diesel engines pounding away, one after the other and/or in unison, destroys the chance of any period of peace during the day. It is like having a line of double-parked lorries in the street in front of the house with their diesel engines idling - I suggest you try to imagine it, and what the response of the authorities would be. Such activities are banned in residential areas in central London.

There is an urgent, immediate need to ban double parking and install a resident w[REDACTED] boat so that instances of rule breaking can be dealt with swiftly.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

07/04/2013

I have said it before, and I will say it again, but why is pollution bad between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. and not so bad between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. when people are taking advantage of the daylight to be outside or, in several Noel Road cases, to work professionally from home?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] is still having smoky fires, which fill our houses and last night ran the rattly generator until after 9pm disturbing our peace. Why have you not sorted out this problem when you promised to last Thursday and again on Friday? Could you please inform me and my neighbours what has been done and why it is ineffective?

This inability to deal with problem boats who are blatantly breaking licence agreement rules proves that Drastic Changes need to be made to the management of boat mooring at IVM.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

08/04/2013

Indeed yes - on both accounts - I heard the alarm and it's highly likely that the smoke level we were subjected to over the last three days from wood burning stoves on the boats was the culprit - Whittington Myth has been the most persistent of these, and being moored close to the Danbury St end of the gully where our gardens are the shortest of the terrace exacerbates the pollution going into the houses. Hammering and sawing wood on the towpath by people going in and out of these boat for hours today adds insult to injury.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], PLEASE ACT to stop it!!!!

[REDACTED]

09/04/2013

From [REDACTED].

The boat [REDACTED] is also back having over stayed last January December and October.

09/04/2013

[REDACTED] - this is flagrant - can you come down now to witness it so an appropriate charge can be made? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

09/04/2013

The boat moored next to [REDACTED] is linked in some way to its neighbour and on Sunday I saw the woman who was 'reluctant' to speak to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] cross over and enter [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thank you very much for your well-focused work on this longstanding problem. However, I do think we mustn't lose sight of the need to include a single line of mooring in the revised rules. If double parking is allowed, names/registration numbers of the outside boats frequently cannot be identified for enforcement purposes (as you discovered yourself the other day) and in summer particularly, double parked boats tend to attract people who want to party on the roofs of their boats (and adjacent towpath), jeopardising the privacy and peace of those of us with very short, low-lying g[REDACTED]s at the Danbury St end of this gully. Again, many thanks for what you are energetically trying to do - best wishes - [REDACTED]

12/04/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I know that [REDACTED] is around the London area today and will not be able to access her emails probably until Monday. However, I've spoken with her and she will speak to the owner of the boat when she's in Islington this afternoon.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

15/04/2013

Hi there [REDACTED] and thanks for getting back to me on this.

The [REDACTED] did move on but to the other side of the lock but I didn't hear any loud music etc or any other anti-social behaviour emanating from the barge. All was quiet which was great on such a lovely day when the canal and tow path were bustling with activity.

On a separate note I was wondering if you know anything about the Willow tree that has been cut back, the one over hanging the blocked off part of the lock? My neighbour informed me that this was done without consent and is part of a project to tidy up this section of the lock. Could you let me know please.

Thanks very much for your attention.

All best

[REDACTED]

25/04/2013

Dear Martin,

Thank you for informing me about your recent meeting and the progress made.

The new measures of signage, an extra LBI w[REDACTED] and a rewriting of the licence regulations should make it very clear that pollution will not be tolerated. It will be easier for LBI environmental officers to caution boat owners against polluting our green spaces with the joint authority implicated in the new signage and with a new EH w[REDACTED]. This is definitely progress.

However, I do have a few questions. I am confused as to why double mooring should be allowed in the summer. The boats are still running their generators almost as often and do use their fires at night. The conservation area and green space is still looking more like a parking lot and there is no provision for the rubbish collection so the high number of boats will put undue pressure on this delicate environment.

Without prosecution I don't think these measures will have much impact on boat owners who wilfully break the rules, especially at night. Was there any discussion of how to judge when a fire or generator is a nuisance? As the severity of the pollution varies

depending what is burning at any time, it is difficult to judge. Many cases of pollution happen after 6pm when boat owners return from work and no w[REDACTED] is on duty. Will there be someone available to police this in the evenings if necessary?

[REDACTED] suggested that electricity might be installed and the use of fires and generators be banned. This see[REDACTED] to be the best and most sure way to deal with the situation and the grant offered by [REDACTED] at the GLA could go towards this if approved by C&RT. Has this idea been disregarded or is it running parallel?

I am, and I'm sure my neighbours are, very grateful that you have dedicated so much time and energy to this issue.

With thanks and

Kind regards,

[REDACTED].

26/04/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I wanted to update you on the point about electricity. When we met with CRT last week I put this option to them and they explained that not all boats are able to run their heating on electricity so some would still have to burn solid fuel. The only advantage to us of having electricity there would be so that we can ban burning and running of engines but if this isn't possible then it may be pointless. They said that only a small number of cruiser boats could operate on electric only and we felt that this would then create a non-official permanent mooring, so this isn't what's been asked for in the funding bid.

CRT did say however that they would look into the costs of providing this so that they can consider it for the future if appropriate.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/04/2013

Dear Martin

Thanks for documenting our discussion last week so comprehensively. I think it's important for all recipients of the message to understand the qualification that we explained during our meeting, namely that while these are actions which appear sensible and reasonable to us, they need to be subject to consultation with other stakeholders. The way that you have presented them suggests a 'done deal behind closed doors' which is bound to cause concern, particularly amongst the wider boating community. We particularly mentioned the need to take advice of our legal department on changes to licence ter[REDACTED] and conditions and our 'better relationships' forum which is looking at the same kind of issues. As it happened, this group (which included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) met last night and most of the actions on your list were reasonably well received.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED], our new boater liaison manager has just completed his first week in post and will soon be in a position to begin work on the various initiatives. It will be helpful if he and [REDACTED] could meet up soon to discuss this further. In the meantime, please would you circulate a clarification to the status of the actions?

Thanks and best wishes

[REDACTED]

27/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for updating me re the point of electricity not being installed.

I am disappointed to hear that the opportunity for funding is not being used for a more definite resolution to the pollution problem. We seem to hit a brick wall whenever C&RT are required to make any real changes.

As C&RT sanction polluters they should be doing more to encourage their licence holders to maintain and upgrade their boats and bring their vehicles in line with road vehicles which have had to adapt their engines to lower harmful exhausts since the 1970's.

To me it see[REDACTED] logical that residential canal boats in London will eventually be required to use other for[REDACTED] of energy and electric points will be need to be installed to accommodate this. How else will the large number of boats be able to stay within the law when the Clean Air Act is applied to the waterways?

Boats unable to 'plug-in' would still be able to stay for short times as I understand -(BW staff told me this years ago) that they should only need to use their generators every few days to charge their batteries. As IVM is only a short term mooring this would encourage boats to move on and consider fitting their boat to use electricity.

If proper enforcement is in place it is not valid to suggest some boats would be able to make a non-official mooring at IVM. Surely their electricity could be turned off if necessary? Why is everything being done to accommodate the boats and the welfare of residents and visitors being placed last? Since Friday, Boat [REDACTED], (its licence plate is suspiciously shown back to front), has been moored at the end of my garden with its noisy rat tat tat engine running for long periods and well beyond the permitted times (11.30pm last night, for example). The changes proposed would not stop this pollution happening after hours and it is impossible to police the issue without a resident w[REDACTED].

When the pollution from cars idling outside schools is seen as serious enough to necessitate campaigns to prevent it, it see[REDACTED] ludicrous that large numbers of boats are able to idle larger diesel engines for much longer periods in densely populated areas. I'm sure that you would like to include the canal in your Islington specific walking/cycling map highlighting less polluted routes but parts of it are often very polluted, especially in winter.

You have been doing an amazing job and I'm sorry to lambast you about things that you are no doubt aware of. But when you suggested installing electricity it did seem like a ray of light at last.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

28/04/2013

Dear Martin - together with my neighbours living in houses in the narrow gully between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street (IVM), I share all of [REDACTED]'s concerns and support her completely reasonable arguments, reiterated here for the umpteenth time. C&RT must be held accountable for setting and enforcing mooring rules that address both the nature conservancy status of this vulnerable site and the public health issues affecting those of us, both old and very young, created by pollution from smoke and diesel fumes. The levels created by the huge number of boats that have over the last two or three years been allowed in double park are unacceptable. Allowing twice and sometimes triple the number of 7 boats officially recommended as the limit by LBI doubles and triples the pollution. That simple and self-evident equation has been ignored.

The starting point needs to be a single line of mooring at all times of the year in this Islington Visitors Mooring site, with clear definition of the term 'visitor' as a boat staying no more than 48 hours in summer or 7 days in winter, with a 'no return for 6 or 12 months' rule clearly stated and enforced, with a resident w[REDACTED] boat to deal with out-of-hours proble[REDACTED]. According to the C&RT's rules for 'continuous cruising' licences, there is also a basic rule not to cause disturbance, e.g. loud music/noise/barbeques in densely populated areas as well as local rules set to limit pollution and nuisance at night e.g. not running engines of moored boats. At the moment most of the boaters mooring here in IVM are masquerading as 'continuous cruisers' but in fact living on their boats with jobs in and around the city and using the site as a residential mooring, and just moving from place to place along the canal when forced to. They pay no mooring fees or council taxes. The number of these boats has increased well beyond the number of residential moorings available because C&RT has issued too many continuous cruising licences. The driver for this may have been to generate income, but apparently not enough to staff the enforcement of mooring rules. The opportunity to

increase income by collecting the £25 per day charge of overstaying boats has apparently been ignored. I have repeatedly requested from C&RT under FOI rules for the number of times charges and/or fines have been enforced but have never received a reply, so I can only assume none have been collected. As we know locally, enforcement has been patchy.

A single line of mooring allows for rapid identification of boats who often conceal their licence numbers by double mooring, and thus evade being recorded by the C&RT system of patrol officers. This fact may not be appreciated by senior management but instances are often seen by those of us on the ground or with better sight lines from the upper storeys of houses, as confirmed by [REDACTED] on one or another of her many visits to this site when called out to investigate pollution.

[REDACTED] and her team, as LBI officers responsible for pollution in the borough, have spent inordinate amounts of time (and therefore ratepayers' money) in a 'fire fighting' effort to deal with incidents in this gully over the last year. Both she and you, Martin, as our councillor, have also tirelessly engaged with exploring ways of dealing with the issue strategically, via C&RT, the Mayor's office and other bodies. Your best efforts have been systematically undermined by the priority given to the boating lobby by C&RT, to an extent that makes one conclude that this organisation is not properly constituted to take into account the public health issues of those exposed to uncontrolled pollution by boats. They have hidden behind a screen of apparent exception to generally enforced measures to limit diesel and smoke pollution, citing waterways as being 'highways' and therefore exempt, although diesel vehicles on the roads are now subject to emission standards that few if any boat engines meet, and bone fide London residences have not been permitted to use smokey fuels for fifty years. C&RT have ignored the possible route for IVM of using local rules in especially sensitive areas, although examples of this have been found by us at the Paddington Mooring site, close to St Marys Hospital. C&RT claim that this is because they have received help from another organisation for enforcement of the single line of mooring there, but LBI is currently providing help at the IVM site, presumably at ratepayers expense.

Once the IVM site has a single mooring rule posted and enforced, then the question of what source of power is permitted should be addressed. Clearly smokey fuels are not, although even smokeless coal only reduces pollution by 60%, and the smell of those fumes are very familiar to nearby residents in their bedroom [REDACTED] on winter nights. The offer for help with provision of electricity has been batted away by a Luddite argument from C&RT implying that boats will for ever remain beyond twenty-first century pollution rules. On health grounds (the NHS can no longer afford to treat preventable diseases, and the health risks of smoke and diesel pollution are well documented in the medical literature), there is a strong case for only allowing the mooring of boats in this gully for those with enough power in their batteries for their short length of stay at IVM. That is what we need to press for.

Sincerely, and with thanks to you and your team for all the efforts you have made and are making.
[REDACTED]

29/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I do share your frustrations with not being able to resolve the pollution problem in the canal by providing electricity. As you know I consider this to be the most logical solution in this area. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of CRT is still going to enquire further about this option to find out how much it would cost and what works need to be done for it to be possible so I haven't written it off; long term I still believe this is the way forward. However as something desperately needs to be done now to stop wood burning and reduce the need to run generators in this area, it was not appropriate to include the electricity option within this grant application. We know that a main trunk cable runs below the towpath but this is far too powerful to be used for electric charging points; so some works would need to be done and this type of work requires an investigation. I'm told by colleagues in highways that this will take 3 months before a quote can be issued.

Again I agree entirely with your point about making the polluter responsible and this is something I'm discussing with our legal team. We have to go through the steps to negotiate with CRT and give them the opportunity to resolve the problem before we can consider any legal action against them. We've gone through 2 winters without an actual plan from CRT so this will be the 1st time they're actually making proposals to deal with this issue.

Currently there is no legislation to make boaters conform to lower emission standards, and whilst I and many other officers have suggested the waterways are covered in any update to the Clean Air Act, there is no guarantee that this will happen. This decision remains in the hands of Defra and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The consultation for

stakeholders has just ended and there is to be a more formal consultation in Summer 2013, followed by a 2nd public consultation in 2014 which is to have more detailed proposals. I predict that with this timetable in mind no changes to the act will be made until at least 2015.

We would like to include the canal and the surrounding area as integral parts to walking and cycling routes across the borough and I accept that especially in winter the canal towpath is not in fact a "less polluted" route. It is therefore essential that we do all we can to reduce emissions now and we cannot afford to wait for the act to be changed or for a plan to install electricity which will also take some time. Residential canal boats are required to use electricity, but the boats that moor at IVM are cruisers and not residential.

I hope that licence conditions will be changed as requested and these are enforced, if CRT fail to do this then we need to review again with legal what options the council has to pursue this issue through the courts to ensure that public health is protected.

I'll take a walk down later and speak with boat [REDACTED].

Kind regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

29/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I received a complaint from a resident at Noel Road about a boat that was running their engine at 11:30pm last night. I went and spoke with the boater earlier today who said that wasn't possible because he'd been working all day and didn't get home until 2am and he didn't switch his engine on until 7:30 this morning. I reminded him about the 8am-8pm rules and he agreed to comply.

The boat itself seemed very poorly maintained and I wondered if you could look into this a bit further to make sure everything is as it should be in ter[REDACTED] of its general maintenance.

Thank you

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

29/04/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I've raised this with CRT, the boat itself see[REDACTED] in a really poor state of condition so I've asked them to look into this also. he's now moored alongside the canal but his number is still not displayed correctly. Will let you both know when I get a response from CRT, in the meantime I'll be around again tomorrow and please let me know if there are further incidents of noise late at night and/or unacceptable levels of smoke.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

29/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your careful and considerate attention. This boat was running its engine at 11.30 on Either Friday or Saturday night. I've lost track now.

Of course the pollution problem is so much better than it was in winter but just one boat can often shatter the peace and this morning it has been one after the other. [REDACTED] has also been complaining to me about this boat. As you probably noticed it has its licence plate back to front, no doubt to make identification difficult.

Many thanks once again,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

30/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I am out on site tomorrow so I will move him on .

Kind regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

30/04/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I would like to add my very great concerns to [REDACTED]'s. These generators are a cause of huge amounts of noise and pollution and really do need to be banned entirely for use by boats mooring in the gully ESPECIALLY with respect to the dozen or so houses close to the Danbury St end, whose short g[REDACTED]s are made unusable by residents when the motors are running. PLEASE put this at the top of your priority list with respect to LBI monitoring - I fear that we have no reason to have confidence in CaRT action on this, and it is the health of Islington residents that is being put at risk, for which your department has responsibility - please help us - [REDACTED] PS the baby of the family living in the house next to mine was born a week ago - there are three other young children in this family who are at risk from these fumes - it is not right that their lives should be blighted in this way.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

01/05/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for forwarding the letters.

I've just left a message for [REDACTED] about boat no [REDACTED] and asked her to move him on. If the noise from his boat is affecting your living conditions then yes it could be considered a statutory nuisance; we'd have to take into account time of day, duration and whether or not it's a reasonable activity.

I do understand your concerns about the plans being made to resolve the proble[REDACTED] on the canal and I will raise these with CRT.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

01/05/2013

Thank you [REDACTED]. The boat has now gone

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - these are recurrent proble[REDACTED] calling for urgent adoption of the single mooring rule and a resident w[REDACTED] boat to deal with infringements after hours - these occur almost daily and are a cause of despair at losing our precious evening peace, and the use of our g[REDACTED]s now that summer is at last here.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Yes that's correct, the major problem is noise and smoke. We've had complaints about litter along the towpath but only from yourself about it being in the water. The Canal & River Trust have advised they are dealing with this but I'm not convinced that any action has actually been taken as yet.

I assume that it's still a problem and there's no change?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Yes, it is still a problem I'm afraid.

Your thoughts on possible action to rectify would be most welcome.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

09/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

We need to identify the main source of the rubbish. I'll speak with colleagues in Camden and CRT and get back to you.

Regards

09/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I'm told by a resident on Noel road that rubbish in the canal is still a problem. I did pass on your details to him to contact you.

Can we try to identify the source of the rubbish? And in the meantime can you arrange visits early in the morning (around 8:30am) to see how severe the problem is?

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

09/05/2013

Thank you [REDACTED]

I appreciate your response to this problem.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/05/2013

Dear Martin, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - there are currently 6 boats TRIPLE moored at the end of my g[REDACTED]. The noise and fumes from diesel generator engines are intolerable. I cannot use my g[REDACTED], and even with all the windows of the house shut I can still hear continuous engine noise and smell the fumes. It is MOST unhealthy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11/05/2013

[REDACTED], I am very sorry to hear that the pollution issues still seem to be getting worse, in spite of the improvement in the weather. This suggests to me that the pressure on these moorings is increasing very rapidly, and that CaRT have something of a crisis on their hands.

Unfortunately, as we are learning, it is largely down to the will of CaRT to deal with the issues, due to the hole in the environment legislation. I will continue to press them for more vigorous action.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

11/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - this evening one of the six boats moored behind my house ran its diesel generator engine until after 10pm this evening - what plans so you have for dealing with this abuse? Interestingly I had a Noel Road neighbour for dinner who witnessed this - her house is further up the street, where the houses are higher above the canal, with longer g[REDACTED]s. She said they do not hear this sort of racket in her house. Maybe this is a case of limiting moorings to the top half of the gully, and banning them altogether from the bottom half, where the effects are all too apparent.

[REDACTED]

12/05/2013

I have been saying this all along.

It would be a way for C&RT to keep half the Noel Road gully for short term mooring without infringing the noise and pollution quality of life of the bridge end residents with their low, short g[REDACTED]s.

I would have thought C&RT would jump at the chance to implement this.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12/05/2013

One of the boats at the back of my house was again running its generator engine way past 8pm this evening. What is the point of having basic rules if they are ignored the whole time and no action is taken by those supposed to be enforcing them - this w/e has been a nightmare.

[REDACTED]

14/05/2013

Dear All

I am very unhappy to hear that you had to endure a weekend of anti social behaviour from the boats moored in ISLINGTON. I have my data checker out on site today and he is aware of the issues that you faced over the weekend. I have asked him to report back to me if any boats are triple berthed and if so what boats they are.

Please be assured that I will deal with them .

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

14/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - There is currently nothing on the signage to indicate that triple berthing is not permitted, so how can boaters know this? It is like shutting the stable door after the horse has left to send data checkers round on a weekday (today is Tuesday) when the proble[REDACTED] reached a peak over the w/e. This always happens, at weekends and evenings when your office is closed. It is pointless to speak to the remaining boaters, who according to the 7 day rule, are likely to be gone by next w/e. This is shifting population of boaters (hence the term 'continuous cruisers') and you need to have a 24/7 means of enforcement present, like the previous BWB w[REDACTED] boat, in a sensitive stretch like this one, where local residents since CaRT took over management from BWB have become longterm sufferers from levels of noise and fume pollution that would be illegal on the streets in front of their houses.

Not just triple berthing, but double berthing too needs to be clearly signed as not being allowed in this gully between Colebrooke Row and Danbury Street. At the Danbury Road end the g[REDACTED]s are very short and much closer to the water/source of pollution from boats, and there is a strong case for banning any moorings so close to these houses, where, as a matter of fact, 5 of the 8 families affected have young children, one of them with 4 youngsters under 7, including a new baby. But it is not sufficient to specify single berthing only - we need a w[REDACTED] boat on the site to make sure that each wave of newcomers (who arrive daily, 7 days a week) are following the rules.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

16/05/2013

There are now 10 boats (6 of them double parked) moored in the part of the gully behind the shortest g[REDACTED]s (at the Danbury Road end). Several of them have VERY noisy diesel engines, and one or more of them are running at almost every hour of the day. The windows of the back of my house are vibrating with the noise, making it very difficult to work (reading and writing in my case since I do most of my work from home). The diesel fumes make it impossible for me to use the g[REDACTED].

I suggest you come along and see/hear/smell for yourself.

At least one of these boats lit a smokey fire yesterday evening.

These conditions are disagreeable and health threatening - please expedite single moorings here, and instal a w[REDACTED] to help with enforcement.

[REDACTED]

16/05/2013

I too have been suffering with the high numbers of residential boats with generators run daily for hours at a time. When the boat [REDACTED] runs its generator for hours as it has this morning it is particularly disturbing.

Tomorrow it will be a week since the vast number of this lot of boats arrived, and we expect that they will move on. But we have had to put up with the nuisance for a week and have the prospect of more arriving. This is an intolerable situation.

[REDACTED]

16/05/2013

[REDACTED] [REDACTED], I usually allow the enforcement officers to respond direct but on this occasion I thought I should respond to you. Clearly the situation at Noel Rd is ever changing and we cannot be there to experience what you are. However I was in London for a meeting on Tuesday afternoon and took the opportunity as I often do to see for myself the current situation.

It is fair to say there were around 12 craft there at the time, a number were double breasted and one was triple breasted. One craft was running a generator but I could hardly hear it from the tow path. All in all at the time of my visit I considered the situation fine.

It is important to remember that whilst we are in discussions to change a number of things at the mooring. The current situation is that double or triple berthing is allowed as long as it does not obstruct navigation. We will continue to work with the local authority, the waterway and local residents to improve the situation . I realise the importance of these issues to you, but the way to achieve a long term solution is to work together to achieve this change, not by adopting a sticking plaster approach whereby the enforcement officer has to drop everything in response to every misdemeanour. [REDACTED] understands the issues at this site, visits regularly but cannot achieve much more at the moment..

Regards

[REDACTED]

16/05/2013

[REDACTED], thanks for responding. It is my understanding that evenings and weekends are much more problematic than weekdays during the day. So the situation on a Tuesday afternoon may not be as challenging as at these other times. Thanks.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

19/05/2013

For at least a week (I have no time to keep accurate time) Fosse and Barton have been moored in the Noel Road gully. They have been joined by other vessels , so at times there has been triple parking.

Today there have appeared THREE black binbags, one of which is partially open, at the end of my short g[REDACTED] , presumably because the boaters have no where else to leave their garbage.

What is the C&RT policy on garbage from the boats?

Yours in despair at C&RT's apparent lack of interest in improving the situation, which they have known about for at least two years. I am at a loss to understand how they can avoid their responsibilities. Do they get any government or official funding of any kind?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19/05/2013

We have met with CaRT in the last fortnight, along with LBI officers, to challenge them on their failure to keep the refuse cleared. They have agreed to increase collections from 5 to 7 days per week. Although this may well not be sufficient.

They will need to up the frequency of their collections until the problem of overflowing bins is solved. The council does also have certain enforcement powers in this area, if needed. But we are hopeful to achieve the improvements by negotiation.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

19/05/2013

Dear Martin - thank you for following up on the rubbish collection, but the other matter raised by [REDACTED] is also one of great concern, i.e. overcrowding of moored boats, now both double and triple parked. There were 17 moored in this gully by yesterday afternoon. The resultant diesel fumes are overpowering since each boat runs its generator engine a couple of hours a day (some of them for longer, many poorly serviced so pumping out huge quantities of pollutants and noise). I was forced out of my g[REDACTED] yesterday by the fumes, and again today, despite very much wanting to spend time there in this lovely weather. Some step MUST be taken about this source of contamination. I suggest that if CaRT refuses to set up a 'single mooring' only

rule, at least for the bottom half to the gully (Danbury St end) where the g[REDACTED]s are short and on lower ground than those close to Colebrooke Row, that ANY boat moored in the gully should be forbidden to run generator engines. At the moment the triple mooring problem is much worse close to Danbury St.

Thank you for keeping on our case - I think you realise only too well how the problem has escalated to new heights in the last couple of months - LBI I suspect will have to take a lead on this, to protect the health of residents from toxic fumes.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

22/05/2013

Dear Gary - this is heartening news - thank you for your efforts on our behalf with respect to rubbish collection. I suspect that the only way to bring the responsibilities of the Canal and River Trust (CaRT) management to their attention in an effective way is through the legal system and the threat of fines. Maybe this successful move with respect to rubbish collection can be followed by others to deal with noise and diesel fume pollution.

We continue to suffer badly from the environmental pollution caused by overcrowding of boats moored in the narrow gully between Colebrooke Row and Danbury St. CaRT insist that double and triple mooring here is permitted, although for the years I've lived here, since 1977, a single line of mooring only was allowed by BWB, as set out on their website (now declared 'outdated' by CaRT with no indication as to who authorised the change - we were certainly never consulted). There are now 15-20 boats moored in a stretch that was deemed by LBI during the course of an earlier planning application to be suitable only for 6 boats to be moored. As a result we are subjected to a level of noise and diesel fumes that is health threatening, since each boat runs their diesel generator for up to and sometimes more than two hours a day. The short g[REDACTED]s near the Danbury St end of the gully are particularly vulnerable, as they are lower down, i.e. closer to the water than the longer ones at the Colebrooke Row end. We have been unable to use our g[REDACTED]s because of these fumes, which also drift into the house, since the warmer weather arrived.

LBI's environmental team, on which [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is working hard, have been attempting to help, along with Martin Klute, who chairs the relevant LBI committee, but it see[REDACTED] their powers are limited and this serious problem continues unabated, with CaRT merely producing arguments to justify their inaction. Taking them to court over this issue might be the only way forward, but it requires bold action by LBI on behalf of us as Islington residents (i.e. council tax payers, whereas boats pay no such tax, and seem free to pollute our environment). We have been keeping our local MP, Emily Thornberry, informed by copying her into our emails, which are becoming more and more frantic as the noise levels and pollution rise. There is an uncontested CaRT rule for boaters, shown on the signage in the gully, that they should 'not cause a nuisance to neighbours'. This is clearly being ignored. They also flout the rule that engines on moored boats should not be run between 8pm and 8am, again, on the signage - often they go on until 10pm, making our evenings a continuation of the daytime racket. CaRT merely say that if we let them know which boats are responsible, 'they will speak to them'. As these infringements occur after dark, and boats are supposed to move on after 7 days (another rule that is frequently broken) it see[REDACTED] quite wrong to ask us to turn ourselves into a policing patrol. Anyway, the 'continuous cruising' licence plates on double and triple moored boats cannot be seen from the towpath. CaRT make no response to our request to install a w[REDACTED] (i.e. a boater moored here with responsibilities to deal with infringements) - again, we once had a w[REDACTED] under BWB management, and that worked fine.

I'm copying this email to my neighbours most affected by these proble[REDACTED], and to the LBI people who have been trying to help, as well as our MP, whose knowledge as a lawyers may help in dealing with this matter.

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

22/05/2013

Thank you for forwarding the email regarding litter collection from Gary Doolan.

Fascinating. It seems C&RT will only respond to official/important bodies.

So are the residents to expect no action on the boats triple parked at the bridge end of the canal who use the temporary Noel Road moorings as a marina/pied a terre/ parking lot/ home?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22/05/2013

The boat [REDACTED] is still moored at the bottom of our g[REDACTED]s, and making a great deal of noise and fumes - right now for the second time today - please get it to leave - it has been here for much longer than 7 days - [REDACTED]

22/05/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

I was on site about a two hours ago , the area at that time was incredibly peaceful , there were no fumes and no noise .I stayed on site for a good half an hour to see what was happening and if I could identify any crafts being anti-social

The whole of the Islington Visitor Moorings were so peaceful that I could hear the birds tweeting. I even phoned my supervisor so he could hear how peaceful the area was.

On another note yes the craft [REDACTED] has overstayed , and was issued with a patrol notice by myself to move on.

I must add that boats are allowed to run there generators between the hours of 0800hrs and 2000hrs.

If they run out of these set times than there are causing proble[REDACTED] and will be dealt with by me.

As I've just mentioned the craft has been patrol noticed to move on so it will be gone by the latest tomorrow.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

I can confirm that the boat [REDACTED] was running its very noisy generator at the time that [REDACTED] emailed, and for the second time today. It has been running its generator every day from just after 8am and after 5 pm for about 90-120 minutes since it arrived over 12 days ago. I personally pointed out that it is causing a nuisance at least a week ago. So why has it not been asked to move and in fact been allowed to overstay? I understand that you 'patrol noticed' it last Friday but why should that mean that it can stay until you next visit? Has it been fined for over staying? Can you please outline to me what exactly you deem to be a nuisance? As I pointed out to you yesterday by email, you seem to think that having up to 9 boats in close proximity to homes with their generators running for up to 12 hours a day to be reasonable. The rules state that boats must not run their generators outside permitted hours or use smoky fuels and 'not cause a nuisance'. Just exactly what would be deemed to be a nuisance? Surely running a very noisy generator for long periods would be deemed to be a nuisance?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

31/05/2013

Hi [REDACTED]

Ref your phonecall just now, I've spoken to our environment manager and the message is that unless there are visible signs of oil leaking into the water, there is no environmental risk. If there is oil pollution, we would have known and dealt with it right away. So assumption is there is no environmental hazard. Similar applies to if the boat is causing obstruction in any way. In these circu[REDACTED]tances, as the boat is not our property, we could not and would not lift it out ourselves. It is the owner's responsibility to do this.

I'm sorry that the complainant did not get a response from us. If you were able to find out how they made the report to us (eg date and time of call to which number) this would be helpful. The best number for the public to call is 03030 404040 - if this is used, we can track progress through the organisation.

Hope this helps.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

31/05/2013

Thank you [REDACTED],

I've attached for your reference photos of the boat taken this afternoon. I noticed gas bottles and petrol container on board neither of which seemed to be leaking as yet. The boat is full of water and is sinking. Also there is a strong smell coming from the boat, as we have residents that overlook this part of the canal I expect we may get complaint relating to smell nuisance.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

31/05/2013

Hi [REDACTED]

I picked up call from [REDACTED] who hadn't been able to reach anyone in London on this. Perhaps you could consider when you're back on Monday?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

02/06/2013

Dear Martin - I'm emailing you this in case you happen to be in the vicinity now. Our w/e has been [REDACTED]ed by double parking of boats in the gully and a great deal of noise and fumes, with diesel engines going on at all times and loud parties on the roofs of boats - the four at the back of my house had a joint one yesterday, and I had to go out to escape. If this is not nuisance I don't know what is.

An incredibly noisy diesel now being run by boat [REDACTED] behind both [REDACTED] and my houses is now driving us mad - the people on the boat (on the roof and in the cockpit), have raised rude hand signs to us when I asked them how long they proposed to keep it running and refused to talk. They look set to keep it going just to annoy us. If a third party such as you were to speak to them, they might realise they needed to modify their behaviour - and prevent the noise.

Please help if you can - [REDACTED]

02/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] has been moored at IVM for well over two weeks and this afternoon ran its very noisy exposed generator for over two hours spoiling the Peaceful Sunday. See movie below with sound on. [REDACTED] requested that the owner stop but he ignored her. I had friends visiting and we were not able to use our garden and dine outside as planned but had go inside and shut the doors and windows.

It is almost always the overstaying boats who are inconsiderate of their neighbours and cause a nuisance. At present there are three overstayers, [REDACTED]. If the enforcement was more strict, these sort of proble[REDACTED] would not occur so often. Please can you get these boats to continue cruising?

This morning I also walked the canal towpath as far as the Lea Valley. We had to step over rubbish littering the towpath from the Islington canal basin all the way to Broadway [REDACTED]et. It consisted of bottles, broken glass, cardboard boxes from inflatable boats etc. Inflatable toy boats were floating at many locations. Apparently there had been a canal festival! The aftermath was

obviously seriously problematic for walkers and cyclists, especially families with children. It see[REDACTED] as if the towpath is getting out of control! I will send photographs as it was extraordinary.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

The video of the boat [REDACTED] running its generator was taken about 6pm on Sunday. To be sure which boat it was, I later walked past the boat and took the attached photograph showing the generator exposed and placed high up on the deck. This was the reason that the noise was so bad. It was turned off just before 8pm.

I understand that you are implying that if the generator is being run within the hours allowed that there is no offence. Can you please outline to me what exactly you deem to be a nuisance? You seem to think that having up to 9 boats in close proximity to homes with their generators running for up to 12 hours a day to be reasonable. The rules state that boats must not run their generators outside permitted hours or use smoky fuels and 'not cause a nuisance'. Just exactly what would be deemed to be a nuisance? Surely running a very noisy generator for long periods would be deemed to be a nuisance? When I have discussed this in the past with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], she said that boats with particularly loud generators or who run them too often should be asked to move as they are a nuisance. This point needs clarification.

[REDACTED] is still here today as well as the other two definite overstayers, [REDACTED].

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear all,

To clarify, if the engine of any boat is so loud that it affects another person's living activity it would be deemed a statutory nuisance. If we were to take enforcement action we'd need to consider the reasonableness of the activity or whether something could be done to prevent the nuisance at proportionate cost.

With a boat such as this, once they've moved on it's likely that they will just be causing a nuisance somewhere else.

Regards

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope your well, and enjoying the sunshine !

I am on site tomorrow . So I will hang around for a while to Listen to see if this is as bad a noise as its being put across as .

As long as the generator isn't be run after the stated times it is not a breach of the ter[REDACTED] and conditions.

I have seen the video that was sent in , however as [REDACTED] stated the video was taken at 1800hrs in the time that generators are allowed to be used.

I do understand that some generators can be noisy (especially the older models) however as far as I'm aware as long as they are not being run at awkward time and within the time frame allowed they are not causing any breach of T&Cs... I will speak to my supervisor regarding this one. As I'm not sure about the level of noise it should be using , and if it would be deemed as a nuisance .. Leave it with me

I have had a look at the sightings and the craft will be overstaying as of today so I will when on site tomorrow Patrol notice the boat to move on.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - what about noisy parties stretching across the roofs of double and triple moored boats, and smelly barbecues set up on the towpath by boaters for themselves and their visitors? The noise and smell of these activities prevent us from using our gardens, driving us indoors on sunny afternoons and evenings in summer.

Surely these are statutory nuisances too? How can we deal with such things when they occur out of office hours? Surely responsibility for allowing overcrowding of moored boats that inevitably leads to these lies with the CaRT? Limiting the moorings to a single line, with a maximum of 6 or 7 in this gully, would diminish the risk of it happening.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

All of these events have the potential to be a statutory nuisance, other than the issue of burning non-smokeless fuel, all other nuisance activities should be considered as if they were coming from another house. As you know these need to be witnessed from in your home.

The Anti-social behaviour service should be used to deal with this - 020 7527 7272, officers are available from 5pm on Saturdays and from 4pm on Sundays.

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I realise that your statutory enforcement powers are limited, and it is good to have the anti-social behaviour service contact number for reporting nuisance in the evenings on Saturdays and Sundays. But presumably similar problems [REDACTED] are still designated as statutory nuisances during weekday evenings, as well as during the daytime (weekends being the worst for us then). What can we do then to call for help at those times? The police are not really an option unless physical violence is observed - they have other more pressing problems [REDACTED] to deal with.

With thanks for your help - [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

The Anti-social behaviour service is a 24 hour number, the officers start work at 4pm during the week also, so before this time during the week call me.

I'm still visiting pro-actively aswell.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - thanks for letting me know. I'm hosting a meeting of scientific colleagues here this evening, starting shortly after 6pm. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll be able to sit round the table in the basement with the back door into the g[REDACTED] open. We can only do this if there are no noisy, smelly diesel engines being run on nearby boats. Our discussion meeting is scheduled to continue until about 9pm.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Unless any of the boats are moved before you arrive this evening, you will be able to see double mooring at the back of the last 12 houses in the terrace, closest to the Danbury St end of the gully. It has been a relatively quiet afternoon so far (engines running on some boat(s) towards the Colebrooke Row end of the gully), so I fear it may not be quiet for our meeting this evening at this end. I hope I am wrong. It is possible that the boaters have been forewarned of this visit - as must have happened on the day of the BBC visit last week, when it was unexpectedly quiet.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for informing us about the LBI anti-social behaviour service and Jenny [REDACTED]'s visit this evening. Is there any point in residents being present to talk to Jenny [REDACTED]'s? Perhaps [REDACTED] has arranged for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to represent residents.

I have placed on dropbox some video and photographs showing some of the worst incidents of pollution that I have captured at IVM. If you would like to use any to illustrate your points about the problem, you can view them through this link. I know it is difficult to show how bad the problem [REDACTED] can be when the site is viewed on a balmy summery evening like tonight.

04/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I've now had to close my back door because a boat near the back of my house (and closer to [REDACTED]'s) has started up his incredibly loud, smelly engine. If you come soon you will get the full force of it and maybe even [REDACTED] will realise what we are up against - [REDACTED]

Unless any of the boats are moved before you arrive this evening, you will be able to see double mooring at the back of the last 12 houses in the terrace, closest to the Danbury St end of the gully. It has been a relatively quiet afternoon so far (engines running on some boat(s) towards the Colebrooke Row end of the gully), so I fear it may not be quiet for our meeting this evening at this end. I hope I am wrong. It is possible that the boaters have been forewarned of this visit - as must have happened on the day of the BBC visit last week, when it was unexpectedly quiet.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

04/06/2013

the noisy generator was turned off sometime just before 6pm and it is now going again at full blast - the noise and fumes are awful - please come back to witness it. My colleagues are here now, but we will have to close the back door and windows - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] - I've now had to close my back door because a boat near the back of my house (and closer to [REDACTED]'s) has started up his incredibly loud, smelly engine. If you come soon you will get the full force of it and maybe even [REDACTED] will realise what we are up against - [REDACTED]

Unless any of the boats are moved before you arrive this evening, you will be able to see double mooring at the back of the last 12 houses in the terrace, closest to the Danbury St end of the gully. It has been a relatively quiet afternoon so far (engines running on some boat(s) towards the Colebrooke Row end of the gully), so I fear it may not be quiet for our meeting this evening

at this end. I hope I am wrong. It is possible that the boaters have been forewarned of this visit - as must have happened on the day of the BBC visit last week, when it was unexpectedly quiet.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

08/06/2013

Having briefly thought that double line mooring might be acceptable in the summer months I have returned to the view that single line all year round is as much as this congested area can stand. I will continue to press for this.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

09/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

I agree with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that the level of noise and fumes from generators, DIY and parties this weekend is not acceptable. Generators have been running continuously for hours. This evening, boat 518854, which should have left today has run its pounding generator for 2 and half hours (before 8pm), filling the gully with noxious fumes. I presume this means that it intends to overstay! I don't expect that boats moored adjacent to my property to be completely silent, but the disturbance has barely let up all weekend. I did endure the noise and fumes yesterday in my g[REDACTED] in order to appreciate the sunshine. But I have suffered with a sore throat and cough. We need something done about this ASAP. Can we not have the changes to mooring regulations suggested in place this summer?

There is a lot of breeding wildlife here at present, birds, bats and even a rare colony of wall lizards. Quite apart from the damage to human health, these vulnerable creatures should be protected.

The boat [REDACTED], which has been here since before 25th May, ran its generator for hours and spent this afternoon doing DIY with the radio playing loudly. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] witnessed and spoke to the owner last Tuesday about its excessively loud generator, when here on the GLA walkabout. The excuse was that it is broken down but with its engine now functioning it should move on. It makes a mockery of the term 'visitor mooring'. It could have been towed away by another boat but is very comfortable staying at IVM.

The boat [REDACTED] is also still overstaying since before 25 May.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

09/06/2013

Dear Martin - what we have been subjected to this weekend is completely unacceptable. It is a matter of urgency to get CaRT to take action on this, firstly, but removing overstayers, especially when they have been cautioned, like boat [REDACTED], as witnessed and cautioned by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on Tuesday last week (and which immediately after they left resumed the running of the offending engine, as I reported to you that evening), has continued to remain and offend. Secondly, it is quite clear that a single line of mooring needs to be instituted immediately, especially with summer coming on. The stagnation of excessive amounts of fumes in this gully is causing acute respiratory distress, as well as risking long term health effects. CaRT moorings in the Paddington Basin have been reduced to a single line, after representations from Imperial College with respect to patients and doctors at St Mary's Hospital. Appropriate signage to this effect has been posted there, and needs to be replicated for IVM.

Sincerely, and in some distress, for myself and my neighbours - [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

I hope you had a good weekend.

Following our conversation late Friday I just wanted to give you a brief update on the position regarding the flotilla moored next to the tow path

Friday night we experienced considerable noise and had to contact the anti-social behaviour team at Islington,. They called at the boats but by this time the noise had reduced with just a low level from the externally mounted speakers and on the [REDACTED] and no more drumming on the externally erected drum kit also on the [REDACTED].

Saturday - what a great day for the canal river trust to have so many representative distributing information on the tow path, this really helped as we had no noise or anti-social behaviour until after they had gone. The noise levels rose to an unacceptable level around 11pm when again I alerted the anti-social behaviour team at Islington Council.

Sunday - more boats seem to have joined the group and there was considerable use by a group of what appeared to be children of a small inflatable dinghy with an outboard motor. They were running this around the basin in a fairly wild manner. No appreciable noise issues.

As the Canal and River Trust were out in force on Saturday I won't send you the photographs I have, as you will know from your colleagues what a mess the canal has become, in fact one of the community boats had to ask the owner of [REDACTED] to move one of the boats moored next to him as it was blocking their access to and from the lock in addition to the mooring point for boats waiting to enter the lock.

Please note that the majority of the boats arrived on June 5th and the [REDACTED] on Friday June 7th so I'm assuming the two weeks they are allowed to stay starts from these dates. I have date stamped photos evidencing the arrival dates.

All best

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

If this is the boat with a note in the window saying the gearbox will be fixed "asap" I think they need to be incentivised to get the repair done now.

Can we not tow it away on the basis it's causing an obstruction? Drop them at a boat yard and charge them for the service.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

10/06/2013

I am thrilled with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s mention of the wall [REDACTED]ards as two appeared on my g[REDACTED] wall last summer and I hope that they will appear again. Surely everything should be done to protect their existence which is obviously due to the very small but very special environment offered by the canal cutting. Is there some official way of notifying the authorities of their presence? [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

In view of the complaints we received regarding anti-social behaviour on the canal in addition to the noise and smoke from the visitor moorings can you please advise what actions the Canal & River Trust propose to take to ensure this stops.

I have grave concerns about the current activities on the canal and how the behaviour of some is affecting our residents and the other boaters. We've not yet heard back about whether our funding application was successful but regardless of this we still need to maintain some control of the issues on the canal that seem to be getting worse.

Our Anti-social behaviour service received complaints on Friday and Saturday, the call on Saturday came in at midnight; officers visited in the early hours of Saturday night-Sunday morning by which time the music was lower and spoke to the owner/occupiers of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and advised them to ensure music was kept low.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Really sorry to hear that you had to experience this level of disturbance over the weekend. I've written to the Canal & River Trust to ask what steps they are taking to ensure this kind of behaviour stops, I had photos from someone at Friends of Regents Canal also.

Will keep you posted on progress.

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

All,

Somebody has offered to pixellate the faces in my photos to allow them to be circulated more widely.

I am not angry with the citizens doing the monitoring, since there are no signs to warn them not to. But I think the time has come to educate people to appreciate but not interfere with navigation and to get the navigation authority to declare some sensible rules.

Regards, [REDACTED]

10/06/2013

It is now nearly 8.30pm and a boat near the back of my house has its diesel engine still pounding away, filling the gully (and bedroom) with fumes and noise. I suggest that a concerted effort be made to point out the basic rules to boaters mooring in this gully - a single notice on the wall is clearly insufficient. All boats moored here should be leafletted at least once a week - by the same CaRT staff checking on registration numbers, with leaflets setting out the rules, including the 8pm-8am ban on running generators. Since boaters are an ever moving population, there is no point is just talking to a few of them from time to time.

Please so something effective, soon, to stop our summer evenings as well as the daytimes being ruined by diesel fumes and noise.

[REDACTED]

11/06/2013

Jan,

We received calls about it over the weekend but haven't witnessed a nuisance as yet. Jeff spoke to the people on the barge about the complaints at around 1am on Sunday, there were people drinking but no alcohol sales witnessed, he spoke to the security at Crystal Wharf and gave him details for the ASB reporting line. ASB spoke to them on Friday and saw a drum kit and speakers on one of the boats, but no loud music taking place. Info passed to [REDACTED] who was liaising with licensing. Will ask ASB to task, particularly at weekends.

[REDACTED]

13/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for bringing these latest incidents to our attention. I'm very sorry to hear that things got out of hand, but I'm pleased you were able to address the immediate issues through sending officers to site.

We've tried to contact you this week to discuss the steps we are taking, however, I understand you're currently on leave. As we mentioned in our voicemail messages, when you return we'd like to discuss a proposal for bringing forward the measures in the funding proposal so that there is a presence on the ground as soon as possible, working with boaters in a constructive f[REDACTED]ion. We can also re-visit the proposals for joint signage and mooring restrictions.

For your information, we will be leafleting the boats on that stretch before the weekend to remind boaters about considerate behaviour.

Let's touch base on your return.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

14/06/2013

[REDACTED] hi.

Just to let you know that other than the rowdy nature of some of the adults and youth involved with the boats it has been quiet. Yesterday the [REDACTED] moved away and early this morning [REDACTED] went. There has been some rubbish left behind but perhaps the other boat owners are going to handle this.

No one from any of the authorities has contacted me since your email on Monday. Is it possible to have some form of written response containing an action plan going forward? It does rather seem that other than initial acknowledgements there is little else. Did you get to speak with [REDACTED]? I look forward to hearing from you.

All best

[REDACTED]

15/06/2013

[REDACTED], the broader concern is what appears to be a general escalation of various sorts of antisocial behaviour on and around the canal, not just from boaters. It is not clear to me that there is any process in place to deal with this?

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

16/06/2013

[REDACTED] hi

It see[REDACTED] that the majority of the barges have moved on but the cabin cruiser remains. It's become a playground for the children who we've informed you all of previously behaving incredibly badly and intimidatingly. Just this afternoon we've seen them throwing coffee cups into the canal, a bicycle and just now using a barge pole as a javelin. On the latter point it was thrown into the canal and fortunately not the busy towpath. We've not seen a responsible adult near this craft today and as we've seen it towed by ropes pulled by the children I'm assuming the engine does not work.

I look forward to hearing from [REDACTED].

The picture attached is of the cabin cruiser which has been here since June 4.

All best.

[REDACTED]

17/06/2013

Attn: Canal and Rivers Trust:

I reported the overstaying boat, [REDACTED] on June 10.

It is still there today, June 17.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/06/2013

Dear All

Apologies for my late response , I have just returned from holiday.

I granted this boat an overstay as it had engine issues , whilst out on site on the 7th June I spoke to the engineers that were fixing the problem.

I have sent the owners an email toady stating that I have given them a sufficient amount of time to sort the engine out and they now need to move out of the visitor moorings at ISLINGTON. I have given them the option of me arranging a tug or them or they remove the boat the[REDACTED]elves . However I have clearly outlined they need to move .

Kind regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for taking steps to clear the IVM of [REDACTED] for genuine visitors. The owners of [REDACTED] seem to be using the location for their boat renovation as is an unusual flat blue boat with large glass windows (no number showing but here since before 8/6 so overstaying now).

Other overstayers are [REDACTED] (since before 2/6), and [REDACTED] (since before 25/5). So that makes 4 out of the 12 boats here today overstaying. Of course this means that these boats need to run their generators for long periods, therefore disturbing residents. It also gives other boats the idea that staying longer is acceptable.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19/06/2013

Good morning,

I am also a resident in Crystal Wharf, and a neighbour of [REDACTED]'s.

I would like to re-iterate the concerns that [REDACTED] has detailed below. Over the last few weeks, since the arrival of the boats specified, there has been a significant increase in anti-social behaviour on the towpath. As well as the behaviour [REDACTED] has mentioned below, I would also like to add that there have been large groups of youths gathering around the white boat (shown near the fire on the photos) that I have witnessed fighting amongst the [REDACTED]elves, gathering late into the night (on Sunday night I was woken at 3am by noise coming from that boat) and making the towpath a more intimidating place for passing members of the public.

My concern is around the long-term solution to deal with this type of behaviour. Whilst I appreciate that these boats are only allowed to moor for 2 weeks, the problem is only being moved elsewhere on the canal. Furthermore they are then able to return later in the year.

I am interested to hear your thoughts and actions.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

19/06/2013

Good morning [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Thanks for bringing these incidents to our attention. [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] has forwarded your previous correspondence and I have discussed the issues with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She is on site on the Regents this morning and will be hitting your area in about 30 mins. I highlighted your complaint, and she suggested you call her asap on [REDACTED] to discuss any further information you might have that would identify the boaters involved or anyone else associated with the boat.

For your information, I'm the new Boater Liaison Manager for London, and it falls to me to co-ordinate an approach for managing the towpath more effectively across London. I have been in discussion with LB Islington, our Enforcement Team and our Waterways management team to explore specific actions and longer term management of the issues.

In terms of the actions we are currently taking, our enforcement team undertakes daily sightings to address overstaying, and other breaches of towpath regulations and licence conditions are picked up [REDACTED]. A number of boats are in the enforcement process, although this won't immediately be apparent from looking at the boat. We are working with boater representatives to improve boater behaviour, and are developing signage and information packs to reinforce these messages. I dropped off letters to boats on the visitor moorings last week, highlighting the need to respect the residential area and our powers of enforcement. We can widen these letter drops to cover more boats. We have also applied to the Mayor's Air Quality Fund for a resource to work with the boating community to implement improvements to environmental standards of on-board equipment such as engines, stoves and generators.

I hope this reassures you that we are concerned about the impact of boater behaviour on neighbouring residents, and that we are working hard to develop more effective management of these issues. Please contact me if you'd like to discuss further, or if you have any thoughts on specific actions that might improve the situation,

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

24/06/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

As you know we didn't receive any of the Mayors funding for the Canal project; I have a meeting scheduled with CRT on Monday 1st July about the next course of action.

Since I've been sitting next to [REDACTED] I've learnt a bit more about the CCTV service and wondered if this was an option to help with the anti-social behaviour issues on the canal that we've had to deal with lately. This option was raised with CRT previously but they dismissed it due to the management implications.

Please let me know what you think, and if you'd like to put a proposal them.

Regards

25/06/2013

[REDACTED],

As discussed, letter we delivered to boaters on Islington VMs (to City Road lock) for information.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

25/06/2013

[REDACTED] hi

Just to let you know that despite some of the boats having moved away the white cabin cruiser is still there.

Over the last few nights a fire has again been lit on the tow path by one of the boaters, I don't know which. Last night a motor bike was being ridden frantically and noisily along the section of the tow path from Danbury St to Wharf Rd, this was well after midnight. This combined with the fire made the tow path a no go area and a huge disturbance to residents. In the end I called the police who attended.

[REDACTED]

25/06/2013

Dear all,

I just wanted to let you all know that as we were unsuccessful with the Mayors grant fund I am re-submitting the application to Defra. The details are exactly the same as what we'd previously agreed. The fund is only £2m for the whole country so I'm not very confident about it being awarded to us but I didn't want to submit the application without letting you know first. The deadline is on Friday, and the successful applications are notified on August 30th.

Regards

25/06/2013

Hi all,

Lastnight the behaviour on the towpath was once again completely unacceptable.

I too was kept awake by the group that had gathered near the boats, and the final straw for me was when the motor bike was repeatedly ridden up and down the towpath, resulting in me calling the Noise Pollution phoneline. This was at 1.15am, reference FI 849 877. Whilst on the phone the police arrived (which I now know to be a result of [REDACTED]'s call).

Again tonight a crowd has gathered in the same area, once again with a fire on the tow path.

Whilst I appreciate the work you are currently doing to help improve the behaviour of boaters along the canal, it is fair to say that the notices / leaflets are having no impact, therefore they need to be tackled with a response appropriate for the level of disruption they are causing. These boats have been on the canal outside our homes for over 2 weeks and over this period, the behaviour has got worse not better. From my perspective, I cannot see that any action has been taken to give me any form of comfort that this will improve going forward.

Please can you let me know the specific actions that are being taken in order to control the behaviour of these boaters. If there is anything that you need from me to assist the process I will be happy to oblige.

[REDACTED]

25/06/2013

Hi all,

I'd like to reiterate [REDACTED]'s point that an action plan that can be shared with us will be an important step forward and one all the impacted residents of Crystal Wharf and environs would like to see.

Despite repeated emails with supporting evidence and 'phone calls we are still in the same position with daily and nightly disturbance, the creation of a no-go area in an otherwise peaceful area and the wanton destruction of the tow path and amenity areas, seemingly observed yet unchallenged by the Canal River Trust whose responsibility this tow path and canal falls to. The night time disturbance is creating undue stress and anxiety and now the weather has improved we are trapped as opening a window brings smoke and noise pollution.

Having spoken with [REDACTED] last week I was hoping that a written response would be received, the lack of communication from the Canal and River Trust is no longer acceptable nor tolerable, just like the behaviour of the few socially irresponsible boat operators wreaking havoc unchallenged. On numerous occasions I have been informed that the lack of information is as a result of data protection laws, now I must ask which laws you are specifically referring to. As has been highlighted only too recently sighting these incorrectly may not in fact afford protection from the law.

Indeed why can't this area of the tow path be isolated, at least at night by placing gates at the Danbury St and Wharf Road entry points? This would certainly reduce the numbers who congregate in the area and is the way it's managed on the Noel Rd stretch where there are permanent moorings. It may also prove off-putting for those anti-social boaters whose behaviour is a magnet for others seeking the kind of lawless behaviour evidenced and documented.

[REDACTED] - please respond with what your enforcement team have in place to manage the problem and the enactment plans; enforcement implies action. The breadth of your responsibility in the [REDACTED] of area covered is I know extensive. If beyond manageable level then perhaps more support from your senior management team could be called for.

[REDACTED] - I understand that your role does cover these some of these issues, the courtesy of a full and frank response will be appreciated that addresses the individual concerns and issues arising.

[REDACTED] - Could you please let us know what Islington council is doing to manage this problem and avoid it in the future.

We look forward to hearing from you all with a co-ordinated response.

26/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see emails below about anti-social behaviour along Regents Canal. Can you please advise on what action can be taken immediately.

Can we arrange a pro-active monitoring by the ASB team this evening? judging by the details in the complaints should this be co-ordinated with the police?

I'll speak to CRT to see if they can be moved on, however these individuals have been here before so we still need to find a long-term solution. I have spoken briefly to [REDACTED] about an option for CCTV - do you think this is an option?

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I have a meeting scheduled with the Canal & River Trust for Monday 1st July to discuss a long term plan about these issues. In the meantime I am discussing with the anti-social behaviour team about what can be done immediately; I will get back to you as soon as I've spoken to them; please bear with me on this as they work mainly nights.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/06/2013

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] will do what she can but the best way to approach it is to get the MAGPI officer in Community Safety to take it into their agenda. This way we can set up a proactive approach with all parties. I've copied in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to help.

In the meantime, if CRT will pay, we can do regular ASB patrols - the routine service is really to respond to complaints although we will do some patrolling to help. Getting CCTV is a longer term option and they would definitely have to fund this -[REDACTED] is speaking with Hackney as they too have problem[REDACTED] - but we might be able to put up a temporary camera if there is evidence to support that it would help.

Jan Hart

Service Director - Public Protection

26/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your call. I hope you found the discussion useful and constructive. I welcome your suggestions for improved communication with residents and looking at potential options such as locking access gates. I will investigate similar actions elsewhere and report back to you. As I explained on our call, and in my email last week (18th June), the most successful approach is likely to be multi-agency, and [REDACTED]'s approach to the ASB team is welcome. We will report back to you after our meeting on Monday.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Do you know if the boats on question are still moored in Islington? To provide some immediate respite can we get them moved on?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Hi I have checked and we don't have enough information at the moment. Will let you know as soon as we can.

Thnx

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

This evening could you please use the noise and anti-social behaviour (ASB) service if at any stage you see any unacceptable behaviour. We are considering options for a long term strategy to deal with this issue but ultimately the Canal & River Trust are responsible for managing this area. I've collated complaints received about anti-social behaviour on the canal and we will be insisting that CRT take action to resolve this so any further evidence from yourselves between now and next Monday when I meet them would be really helpful.

Together with the police, the ASB can take steps to resolve daily issues but we cannot prevent it from happening in the future without CRT taking a lead. I'm sorry I can't help any further at this stage but I will do all I can to insist that CRT take a different approach and keep residents informed.

Also, have you contacted your ward councillor, Martin Klute or your MP, Emily Thornberry about this? Both are aware of the current problem [REDACTED] at Islington Visitor Moorings and Cllr Klute especially has been very involved in discussions with CRT and it would help to keep him up to date.

I'm happy to pass the information on with your permission.

regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Thanks for passing on this information.

South MAGPI was this afternoon so I got a chance to raise the issue with partners and police. I have already contacted the complainants to organise a site visit and I'll be monitoring via the South MAGPI.

Will keep you posted

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

26/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

We now have another boat running a very noisy generator for long periods a few times a day. The generator is exposed and he runs it at full power so that it is very noisy. The boat is called [REDACTED] and is a white launch. Please could you ask the owner to move or stop running his generator?

It would be useful if there was some sort of rules banning the use of exposed generators in residential locations as this is becoming a regular problem.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

26/06/2013

I also experienced the full blast of this boat's noisy motor today - please could it be moved on, and rules about not causing a disturbance to neighbours be enforced.

I've just come home this evening to find double parking re-instated behind my house and a noisy party being held across the roofs of the boats. After few days of relative quite from a single line of boats, the re-appearance of double mooring and the attendant noise is very unwelcome - and certainly disturbing - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

All

I am trying to set up a meeting where the three boroughs of Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets along with Canal & River Trust all sit down to get a uniform approach to looking at complaints from neighbours adjoining the Regents Canal in relation to smoke ,noise and litter ,in addition it would be good to discuss ideas on mooring strategies for the boroughs.

I wanted to keep the meeting as small as possible hence I have not invited others from the boroughs but if you feel you would like to invite someone else as well please let me know.

Please let me know which if you can make a meeting on 15th July or 19th July between 10am and 1pm either day, location would be at our Docklands office, 420 Manchester Rd London E149ST

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

We've had some serious anti-social behaviour issues on the canal recently, including fires and motorbikes on the towpath. Have a look at the email below about a meeting being set up by the Safer Neighbourhood team, would you or any of your colleagues like to be involved in this so that we can get a co-ordinated approach?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

Thank you for the call earlier, much appreciated.

18:00hrs on Weds July 3rd works for me and I'd be happy for you and those meeting to meet at my home, please let me know if this would work for you.

In the cc's of this email are the contacts we have to date worked with.

[REDACTED]'s contact number at Islington Council is [REDACTED] and she is meeting with the CRT on Monday July 1st [REDACTED] at the CRT is the Boater liaison manager [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is the enforcement officer for CRT but I don't have her number to hand although I can get it later if you need it.

Please note that the issues are not new, they have been ongoing for a year and I have photographs and many emails to the CRT and Islington cataloging them. Not all are as a result of the few anti-social boaters that moor up here although a great deal of it see [REDACTED] to be. Some of the behaviour is no doubt a result of the area being unlit, generally not patrolled and with no CCTV. Please also bear in mind that the tow path section towards the Kings Cross tunnel and also backing onto Noel Rd is in fact locked at night on the Noel Rd and Vincent Terrace sides.

I look forward to hearing confirmation of Wednesday's meeting.

All best

[REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Dear all,

I went by the canal earlier today and noticed the petrol generator on board [REDACTED] there was no-one on board at the time. Can you please use the noise service if it starts up later this evening on 020 7527 7272.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - yesterday it was throughout the day that this boat ran its motor. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I'll pass by again tomorrow to see if I can witness it. Is there any particular pattern to the time it's run?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - no, there's no apparent pattern, unless [REDACTED] has noticed it - the boat is also close to her short g[REDACTED]. Thank you for responding to our concerns.

I would like to add that the usual pattern of increased double mooring towards the w/e is again building up and threatening us with more noise and pollution. Having enjoyed a few days of peace at the beginning of the week with only a single line of boats moored here, we know how much difference that allowing double mooring makes - this needs to be impressed on CaRT, who have been unwilling to respond to this simple fact of life.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

27/06/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - the very noisy engine we've been complaining about has just started up again - [REDACTED]

29/06/2013

[REDACTED], if you can't discuss individual cases, can we please have some performance stats on, for example, % of levied overstaying charges paid/ collected each month since the beginning of the year. Thanks.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

Chair: Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Planning Committee B

01/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Pea green has once again started up its very noisy generator. I have been away so unable to inform you of other times. It has now been running for 15 minutes but from past occasions I expect it to go on for another 45 minutes.

Please do your best to make it move. It must have been here a week now.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

01/07/2013

Excellent.

I have a meeting with CRT at 1pm today, I'll find out what's happening with [REDACTED], do you have any other urgent issues that you'd like me to raise?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

01/07/2013

I may be too late now [REDACTED], but if you get this, please ask them whether these exposed generators are acceptable within their rules and regulations. If so, then we need a rule for this gully that they are not allowed to be used here.

See you tomorrow,

[REDACTED]

01/07/2013

Good afternoon all,

Confirmation of our site visit to the canal on Wednesday evening at 6pm. We will meet at [REDACTED] apartment before visiting the site. Address is [REDACTED]

So far I have received confirmation of attendance by police and Cllr Klute. I am awaiting response from counterparts in Hackney and reps from Canal and River Trust.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

02/07/2013

Hi[REDACTED]

Hope this finds you well. When we last met I know you said you had proble[REDACTED] along the Regents canal as do we and we both agreed this was a long-term problem over the years.

Over the weekend we continued to have more anti-social behaviour with the moorings. A meeting was already arranged by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to meet the local councillor, the Canal and River Trust to try to resolve this issue and come up with a long-term solution.

I was invited to the meeting and explained about the historical proble[REDACTED] of the canal regarding drug deal, robberies and sexual offences. I also explained about our conversation regarding putting CCTV along the tow path somehow. Clearly cost is the main thing for the Canal and River Trust. They have asked if we would have a general figure. They are certainly interested in the idea especially as they are now advertising winter moorings. Some of the winter moorings are concerned about crime/safety.

You have far more experience in this and I know you were talking about the Predator and using your infrastructure. Have you any ideas around this.

Regards

02/07/2013

[REDACTED]

Thanks for inviting us to this meeting. Unfortunately it falls at the same time as the London Waterways Partnership's annual public meeting, so I am afraid I won't be able to attend. However, I may be able to join you later after the meeting if you are still on site, so will give [REDACTED] a call.

We had a useful and constructive meeting yesterday with [REDACTED], Cllr.Klute and representatives from Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and CCTV, so I trust they will be able to feed back on our discussions. Otherwise, I hope to pick up with you at a later date.

Should any other residents wish to join the Partnership's public meeting and hear about their approach to a strategic plan for London's waterways, please feel free to join us at Wolf Olins, 10 Regents Wharf, All Saints Street, N1 9RL from 6-7pm.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

02/07/2013

I can confirm that this boat was making a huge amount of noise with its engine/generator this evening as I prepared family dinner - this is an intolerable situation, and needs to be addressed.

[REDACTED] has been moored here for well over a week, during which time you have received a number of complaints about its engine - why has nothing been done? This boat is also now over-staying - yet another example of this commonly reported failure to observe the CaRT rules. Has it been billed? If not, why not? But we would rather see that it is directed to leave this mooring.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/07/2013

As discussed when we met. Can we please make vigorous efforts to move this boat on. As you can see from the below, perception of the effectiveness of CaRT enforcement against the troublesome minority has not changed.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

03/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I completely agree, there is a huge contradiction in legislation that currently allows idling of engines to continue on the canal yet it's prohibited on the roads. The main problem in this location is the lack of infrastructure for boaters to charge electrical ite[REDACTED] without running their engines.

The problem with Peagreen is that they have a stand-alone generator that is very noisy. I've not heard it myself as yet, and every time I walk down to visit the boater is not on board.

[REDACTED], can you help?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

03/07/2013

In response to [REDACTED], I would like to point out that the information referred to about clean burning stoves is from a business selling stoves.

Even taking into consideration the advances made in stove technology, the burning of wood is still extremely harmful to health. A study by the BMJ made in Tasmania found that a reduction in air pollution from wood burning stoves was associated with a significantly reduced risk of death. This is in Australia where population density is not as high.

<http://group.bmj.com/group/media/latest-news/reduction-in-air-pollution-from-wood-burning-stoves-associated-with-significantly-reduced-risk-of-death>

So in the densely populated area of Islington, it see[REDACTED] sensible to discourage residents from using stoves be they on land or water. According to recent newspaper article

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/property/interiorsandshopping/9839432/Everyone-loves-a-wood-burning-stove-but-are-they-bad-for-us.html>), wood burning stoves are becoming very

f[REDACTED]ionable, especially in Islington. [REDACTED] pointed out last night that these comfort fires are a significant contributor to air pollution in London.

Camden council website has clear advice on wood burning stoves, including a requirement for wood burning stoves to be registered.

<http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/environment/air-quality-and-pollution/air-quality/guidance-on-wood-burning-stoves.en;jsessionid=5FC7EF0420A36DFF9AFB46D3B2E43D01>

Perhaps Islington could have a similar requirement.

Canal boats often do not have alternatives to using stoves or the money to upgrade what they have already. However it see[REDACTED] sensible that they should be banned from burning any smoky fuels in built up residential areas. As [REDACTED] has pointed out, there are non-residential areas where they could moor.

The issue of idling by canal boats was not raised last night. This is as much if not more of a contributor to air pollution as cars outside schools. Surely they can be compared to lorries idling in the street. Canal boats often idle for up to 2 hours. With the density of boats we now have in close proximity to residential houses, this is a serious health hazard.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

03/07/2013

I concur with everything that [REDACTED] has said in her email. The public health aspect of burning either wood or even smokeless fuel, and that of diesel fumes from idling engines, is well documented. Canal boats moored close to residential areas, especially like the terrace in the gully as the canal emerges from the gully between Colebrook Row and Danbury St, if allowed to run their engines to charge batteries, are a significant health hazard to people living in these houses, particularly young children and older people. There are many households here containing people in these high risk groups.

[REDACTED]

03/07/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

Thanks for arranging and attending the meeting this evening, it was really useful and I hope we can move forwards as discussed.

Just to let you know that another fire is burning on the tow path this evening with a group of people congregating around it but otherwise concealed by the darkness afforded by the area.

[REDACTED] kindly called with the contact number he mentioned so we'll use that when the team are on duty Thurs-Sat nights.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All best

[REDACTED]

03/07/2013

Thanks Martin,

I've reported this [REDACTED] on the ASB line and she gave me a log number of F1856786. I have taken a photo too that is date and time stamped.

All best

[REDACTED]

03/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

It was good to meet you too. Thanks for the contact details, I'll certainly take you up on your offer of help should the situation arise.

Things have been pretty quiet on the canal towpath outside our home since [REDACTED] arranged the removal of the mooring rings but I wish CRT would put up a 'No Mooring' sign. I am forever having to ask boaters to move but they always point out there's nothing to say they can't moor. Perhaps you could raise this with them please?

We are also concerned about Winter Mooring. Although the 2013/14 proposals omit King's Cross this year, there are always chancers who have no intention of paying mooring fees but who wish to spend winter in the centre of town for free. These are the boats which hole up along our stretch and cause a fog of pollution hanging over the canal for weeks.

Another problem is that it is not just the fuel they are burning which causes the pollution, but the constant running of diesel motors and generators for hours on end.

Steve, my partner has had a double heart bypass, an aortal graft and suffers from symptoms similar to COPD, so last winter was pretty dreadful for us with so many boats moored. I wrote to

[REDACTED] who helped by

stating that no one in this day and age should have to put up with the kind of pollution we were suffering, especially someone with breathing difficulties. I think his comments may have helped us in the decision to remove the mooring rings.

I feel that you have to shout very loudly before CRT will do anything. I am also very concerned that although we seem to have had some success, there are others along this stretch who, for one reason or another have not been so lucky and are suffering similar pollution levels.

I'd like to add my congratulations for the impressive show you put on last night, I meant to say it in the pub but sorry I forgot!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

04/07/2013

ear [REDACTED] Klute

Thank you for your email regarding the overstaying boat [REDACTED].

Please be assured that I will be attending all visitor moorings on the REGENTS canal tomorrow so will be dealing with this boat for overstaying in ISLINGTON .

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/07/2013

Dear All

I attend that location on Saturday and spoke to all the boaters that were in that vicinity .

I also spoke to the two young chaps that were staying on board the white dawn craft.

I have warned them that the sort of behaviour that has been displayed will not be tolerated .

I would like to add that I have enforcement process on two boats that are moored in that location and am currently dealing with them . Due to data protection I can't disclose which ones but I would like to assure you that I am dealing with them.

I am sorry that it may seem like nothing is being done, However I would like to add that enforcement action can take up to 6 months . So it's not a short process.

My contact number is [REDACTED]

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter with me personally.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope your well?

I am on site tomorrow so I will move him on as he's now overstaying by 48hrs.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

04/07/2013

Thank you [REDACTED]. Do you know why he needs to use the stand-alone generator rather than the normal engine?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

04/07/2013

Dear all,

Please see the attached article seen in today's Islington Gazette. Whilst I'm absolutely in favour of communities working to improve the landscape along the canal and to encourage and safeguard wildlife I do have concerns about the suggestion to allow people to "use the space for barbecues and social events".

We are working tirelessly to resolve the issues of anti-social behaviour and smoke/noise nuisance from the activities of a minority of canal users; it does not help our job at all if the Canal & River Trust then go and encourage much of the same without any provision for control.

Can you please clarify how such events will be managed? and if there is a route for objection then I would like to raise one. Specifically: the canal is already a heavily polluted area in Islington. We have declared an Air Quality Management Area that covers the entire borough and for this reason BBQ's should not be allowed on the towpath.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

x

04/07/2013

Oh dear. I am all for recording wildlife , weeding parties, litter picking etcetc and it would be lovely if more people took ownership of the canal in the sense of keeping it lovely for everyone.

But barbequeues?? That is an absurd idea on a narrow towpath -- even if copious supplies of water are to hand to put out any fires. I imagine I am not the only person to think so. All this must be very irritating for the Council .

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

04/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - out in the open countryside, with no residential housing close by, and the towpath wide enough that a barbecue gathering would not block it for walkers or cyclists, it would be fine to have a barbecue. There are very few places on the towpath in Islington and Hackney where these conditions are met. The use of this narrow space for wildlife observation would be great, providing that these human activities did not disturb the animal wildlife or poison the atmosphere with fumes so that plants could not grow. These conditions are currently being threatened by overcrowding by moored boats when they run diesel engines, light smoky fires and deposit litter in their wake.

I would be glad to know to whom I can make my protest to the CaRT about their ill-thoughtout suggestion?

[REDACTED]

05/07/2013

[REDACTED] hi

Thanks for the police presence yesterday evening. The impact was possibly greater than you imagined. When two of your team were talking with the group of youths at The Wharf Road end another group of shouting, smoking, absinthe drinking youths by the lock took a few minutes to realise what was going on and soon disappeared. We know it was absinthe because they took it out of the box which they proceeded to throw in the canal. A few mins later we saw a PCSO on patrol and approaching some of

the more dubious characters. I think we also spotted two covert police cyclists! They were the only bikes with lights and only cycling very slowly. I could be wrong.

No fires last night

[REDACTED]. any update on CRT actions? [REDACTED] wrote to say enforcement was in place for the overstayers, unlicensed boats but in the absence of CRT presence at our meeting on Weds or any follow up we are under the impression that there is a seeming lack of interest or resolve. Would it help you if I contact the Chair of your board to ask for better support for those of you at operational level?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

05/07/2013

Good morning [REDACTED],

I'm pleased the meeting was productive and that the police presence has had the desired effect.

[REDACTED]'s explained that where boats have been overstaying, they are in our enforcement process. We will pick up boater behaviour complaints through our liaison and licensing processes.

As Cllr. Klute and [REDACTED] were present at your meeting, I hope it was made clear that we had a productive meeting on Monday with the Council and agreed ways of addressing these issues in partnership. This involves using the Council's evidence gathering and statutory powers to back up control of nuisance boaters, as well as CCTV and syste[REDACTED] for reporting and getting the right

agency on site. Getting the right agency to deal with the incident at the right time is central to this. Last night's success demonstrates this.

I don't think it's reasonable to suggest we're uninterested or not actively doing something about this.

Kind regards

Sorar

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Boater Liaison Manager (London)

M:

05/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I'm yet to hear back from anyone at CRT about this issue, but I'd suggest writing to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] directly in the first instance.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

05/07/2013

[REDACTED] hi,

Thanks for your response.

I appreciate the restraints and restrictions CRT works under, it's just that the recent action by the police has resulted from Cllr Klute and Islington Council really getting behind residents concerns brought to them by residents such as those in Crystal Wharf worn down by CRT not seemingly leading a co-ordinated approach.

Incidents were photographed, recorded and reported to the CRT from early last year, yet it's the CRT that has been called to meetings for a multi-agency response and not itself seemingly calling for support. I'm unaware of the CRT addressing the tow path issues which for a large part of the time are separate from the boating issues.

My concern and that of the residents and tow path users is to return it to safe environment for the enjoyment of all and not just a few anti-social people.

I trust that my comments will be taken in the polite but fair manner intended. I do fully appreciate you have only been in post for a number of weeks and [REDACTED] as enforcement officer is responsible for a stretch of the canal and tow path extending over 55 miles.

All best for a good weekend and for all of us a peaceful one.

[REDACTED]

05/07/2013

Dear all,

I write to update you on the discussions the council has been having with the Canal & River Trust about the on going issues at Regents canal.

We had applied for some funding through the Mayors Air Quality Fund for financial assistance towards a programme that was aimed at reducing smoke from wood burning and diesel emissions from Islington Visitor Moorings. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in this process.

Cllr Martin Klute and I met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from CRT and discussed what action should be taken to resolve the current issues. As we've had an increase in complaint relating to Anti-Social behaviour this year [REDACTED] was also present at this meeting.

The actions coming out of the meeting were as follows:

1. Joint procedure for witnessing nuisance and anti-social behaviour to be written ([REDACTED] [REDACTED])
2. Cost of installing and operating CCTV to be provided to CRT from their consideration ([REDACTED] [REDACTED])
3. Provide cost of proactive patrols by the out of hours anti-social behaviour service to CRT for consideration ([REDACTED] [REDACTED])
4. Working group to be set up to recommend new proposals for mooring rules including length of stay (CRT)
5. Newsletter to be sent to all residents updating on actions. (CRT & [REDACTED])
6. Provide information and recommended noise levels on stand-alone generators ([REDACTED])

With reference to point 4, CRT are looking for 2 residents who can represent Noel Road in these discussions, could you please agree who these residents should be. This group ideally should meet ASAP so that decisions can be made and new rules communicated before the winter.

I will keep you updated with progress and advise of the next steps.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/07/2013

Thanks for this [REDACTED]. I'd not seen it until now.

Here is an extract from a recent email exchange...

[REDACTED]: "One question, however. What are the rules for allowing BBQs around the canal? They are banned in Hackney parks but permitted in Islington. In case anybody asks me, whose land will host the BBQ equipment?"

CRT: "We're having the bbq within the grounds of Camley Street Natural Park (thanks to kind permission from London Wildlife Trust). I've checked and the official line is that bbq's aren't allowed on the towpath, in case anyone asks."

I actually went to that event. It was well run and relied on a gas powered BBQ.

However I am not a great fan of gas BBQs either, because one of my best friends had 50 percent burns after a cannister exploded on his 50th birthday. He has since recovered but it shows that these things carry huge risks.

Regards, [REDACTED]

05/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for pointing this out.

I have already witnessed barbecues taking place on the canal towpath. On one of the few sunny weekends recently, many people were relaxing beside the Islington Canal basin part of the canal towpath and three barbecues were taking place. One of them was beside the lock!

I agree that barbecues should not be allowed to take place without provision for control. I presume they intend that the community groups the [REDACTED]elves control the events but the way that it has been promoted through the media will make people think that barbecues are allowed anywhere.

If C&RT want to allow barbecues beside the canal, they could have suitable designated areas where coin operated gas barbecues are provided. This has worked very well in Australia where other types of barbecues are a huge fire risk.

Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

05/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and others,

I'm almost lost for words after reading two separate press releases from the CRT that appear to condone groups holding barbecues on their adopted space.

Today I raised this with the CRT press officer who sent me this link to their national website.

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/adopt-a-stretch-of-canal-or-river>

Fortunately the website contains no references to barbecues. So it is a concept that has been mooted only in London press releases.

The CRT staff have clarified that barbecues are not allowed on the towpath and that their consent is required for any barbecue events on their land, but they have yet to concede that their press release sent the wrong messages.

I will continue to follow this up. If the press release contained mistakes then I want to find out what they really intended to say.

Regards, [REDACTED]

05/07/2013

In view of the current evidence that CRT are without nearly enough enforcement powers and those that they have are slow and poorly set out this is quite ludicrous. As a resident overlooking the canal at the City Rd basin I see all sorts of nefarious activities taking place on the canal and tow path, largely unchallenged. Disposable BBQ's are frequently lit, used and discarded on sight. In fact, and as you are aware so too are large fires without the CRT demonstrating any will to arrest this anti-social behaviour. Those people currently using BBQ's will continue to do so regardless of by laws when they know that for the most part they can get away with it.

Perhaps the CRT's energies and efforts would best be put to more effective management by way of improved lighting and patrols. To return this glorious space back for the safe use of the many who do respect it but are driven out by those who seek its protection as a largely secure place for less than sociable activities.

All best.

[REDACTED]

06/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see below- please could you pass this info on to waterways.

Thanks

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]x

Sent: Saturday, July 06, 2013 03:56 AM GMT Standard Time

To: Issues, NP

Subject: Re: ASB FI-858267

Cb0320hrs. Caller said group of teens approx 12 drinking smoking by canal area. Officers to attend. Officers onsite 0340hrs. Officers patrolled est no persons seen. On looking over A gate leading to canal officers could hear several voices from canal area. Officers had to go around to high st to gain access to canal area. On approach officers observed x9 young adults male & fe' carring bottles of coke & alcohol leaving the canal area back onto highway york way. Officers observed group walk towards kingscross. No intervention needed. CM12.

----- Original Message -----

From: Issues, NP

Sent: Saturday, July 06, 2013 03:17 AM

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: ASB FI-858267

FI-858267

Street Record [REDACTED]

Islington

London

Public Protection - Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy or Inconsiderate behaviour - Rowdy / Drunken behaviour

Details: There is a group of teenagers in the public space of the new g[REDACTED] created by the council opposit the Guardian news paper. They have been there since about 11pm last night and they are still there shouting, laughing, screaming and drinking. The entry is via York and head east along Regents Canal.

Reporter:

[REDACTED]

Vulnerablility Issues: No

Potential Domestic Violence Issues: No Repeat call: No

Case worksheet number: WK/201317328

Time Launched 06/07/2013 03:11

Time Submitted 06/07/2013 03:16

Customer ID 138000

06/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

It was nice meeting you both the other day and discussing how we can work together to resolve some of the issues being experienced by residents along the canal.

As discussed, if residents call the ASB reporting line to report any ASB issues we will respond to their call and make a visit if required to gather evidence and will let you know our findings. We received a call on Wednesday evening at 10.34pm from a local resident reporting that some boat owners had lit a fire on the tow path between Wharf Road near the bridge and Danbury street. On this occasion the resident asked us to just log the call so a visit was not made, but I have impressed upon the officers the need for them to attend in future to try to obtain evidence even if the caller just asks for it to be logged.

If you would like us to carry out some patrols along the tow path our charges for this would be £40 per half hour for a team of two officers to attend. Please let me know if this is something you may be interested in.

Regards

07/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] has been staying at IVM since before 25 June and each of the two weekends the owner has sold books from the boat. This is very disturbing for residents as he stands on the roof and talks loudly with passers-by for most of the day. He is now over staying. Could you please ask him to move.

Tonight at 8.30 this same boat was serviced by a service boat called [REDACTED] which had to run its engine for about 15 minutes creating a very loud noise and plumes of diesel fumes (see attached film). It must have pumped out the sewage as the smell was horrendous and long lasting. We had [REDACTED]s and were dining outside but had to come inside. This is an example of the added nuisance when boats overstay. Traders should clear rules for permitted hours of service so that they do not create a disturbance particularly in residential areas.

There are two other overstayers, a black boat and [REDACTED], both here since before 25 June. The boat [REDACTED] has a sign saying it has alternator proble[REDACTED] but has been running its generator for hours every day.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

07/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] has been staying at IVM since before 25 June and each of the two weekends the owner has sold books from the boat. This is very disturbing for residents as he stands on the roof and talks loudly with passers-by for most of the day. He is now over staying. Could you please ask him to move.

Tonight at 8.30 this same boat was serviced by a service boat called [REDACTED] which had to run its engine for about 15 minutes creating a very loud noise and plumes of diesel fumes. It must have pumped out the sewage as the smell was horrendous and long lasting. We had [REDACTED]s and were dining outside but had to come inside. This is an example of the added nuisance when boats overstay. Traders should clear rules for permitted hours of service so that they do not create a disturbance particularly in residential areas.

There are two other overstayers, a black un[REDACTED]ed boat and [REDACTED] both here since before 25 June. The boat [REDACTED] has a sign saying it has alternator proble[REDACTED] but has been running its generator for hours every day.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I can confirm that I too was driven from my garden yesterday (Sunday) evening at 8.30pm by the noise and smell from this commercial vessel servicing the overstaying boat [REDACTED].

I had gone into the g[REDACTED] to do some weeding at 6.30pm, and even then, the heat and humidity of the day had resulted in the accumulation of a level of fume pollution that had a nasty acrid smell. More diesel fumes were being added to that by moored boats running their engines. I stayed put at my task for as long as I could, expecting the engines would be turned off at 8pm, but they were not, and indeed, it has been my experience several times recently that many moored boats completely ignore the 8pm deadline, sometimes turning on engines after that, and/or running them until 10pm or afterwards.

The fumes and noise are a nuisance as well as a health hazard. However, it is not a matter for the police; it is the responsibility of the CaRT to put in place a workable system for ensuring their own rules are kept by boaters, especially in locations where their activities can adversely affect densely areas of existing dense housing. The canal goes through a number of such places in Islington, but there are others where housing is not so close to the water. CaRT appears loathe to appreciate the need for putting safeguards in place to protect residents from pollution and noise nuisance created by the behaviour of boaters who have been allowed to moor at a density not suitable for a site such as IVM. At the moment there are no officials available at weekends or after hours to appeal to deal with the frequent instances of basic rules being broken. Why has no w[REDACTED] been installed? Why has our repeated question about this simple solution been ignored, and not evening acknowledged?

Over this w/e the nuisance of having double parked boats along the entire length of the gully between Colebrooke Row and the Danbury St bridge has intensified, and with it the pollution and noise nuisance. On Saturday afternoon a party on the roof of one double parked boat close to my house turned on very loud radio music. After 20 minutes of this, during which time I was not able to concentrate on reading or writing, I asked the perpetrators, politely, to turn down the volume. One of them shouted at me to "fuck off, it's my music, I want to listen" but his companion restrained him and the volume was turned down. A less jarring experience occurred on another double moored close-by yesterday evening when it was boarded by a group of young people intent on partying. Again, I asked them politely to turn down the volume and they apologised and did so immediately. But it is quite clear that the current signage is inadequate for making clear to boaters what constitutes 'nuisance'. In the absence of an effective CaRT patrol or a w[REDACTED] this creates avoidable tensions between boaters and residents who live very close to the canal.

The IVM location is clearly unsuitable for allowing double mooring - a point that we have made repeatedly, but which has not been addressed. The inevitable doubling of fume and noise pollution makes it very difficult to use our short gardens, and our houses are also invaded by diesel fumes and noise, even when we close our windows. This is a real problem in hot humid weather, when fumes in the gully are slow to be dispersed.

It is a matter of urgency as summer sets in to put in place proper controls - reducing the number of boats here to a single line of mooring is the first step, and in doing that CaRT would start to retrieve the situation and build trust with the local community whose patience and health are being strained to breaking point.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

08/07/2013

[REDACTED]

Please see attached it seems very petty when looking at the photos and [REDACTED] has been trying to meet Justine to no avail. Do you contact details for the overall head or director involved here as we are doing what we can and the litter problem has improved. Any help will be greatly received

Thanks

[REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for informing me. It is much appreciated.

You didn't mention the black unmarked boat, but I am presuming the same applies to it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Apologies [REDACTED]

The black unmarked boat is called [REDACTED] index no is [REDACTED] . That boat will be getting invoiced as I patrol noticed it on the 28th JUNE and it is still in situ .

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - the owner of boat [REDACTED] has shown little effort in doing anything but engaging the attention of anyone who he can get to talk to him, carried out on his side in a booming tone that is very intrusive. We've now had to put up with this for two weeks - if you leave it until this Friday to issue the next notice, he'll be here for a third one, using his mooring as a selling pitch. It should be made quite clear that carrying on commercial enterprise from a boat moored at IVM is not allowed. In his case I think it very likely that he is merely procrastinating moving his boat - it is likely that he's running his motor to charge his batteries.

Your once weekly visits to IVM can give you little sense of what it is like to be here 24 hours a day, 12 hours of which each of 20 or so boats are free to run their engine for hours at a time, plus another unspecified number of hours when they are run after hours - on a daily basis. If the NUMBER of boats were limited to the 6 or 7 identified by LBI as the maximum number suitable for this site, the problem would be significantly diminished, and we would be able to use our gardens again. Those of us with very short gardens at the Danbury Street end of the gully are particularly exposed and vulnerable to fume and noise pollution. We are having a desperate time of things this summer.

[REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Please see below email form [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the Canal & River Trust.

For the record I don't think that serving notice on them is at all petty as [REDACTED] suggests. We get many complaints about the canal area and there are as number of people working to resolve these, including myself, the anti-social behaviour team, local police and now we're about to put a proposal forward to them for CCTV. The litter issue is one of many that they are not managing effectively.

Can you let me know when you're free to meet with them - I understand you're probably out of the office quite a bit so if it helps I could try to organise something.

Regards

08/07/2013

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

[REDACTED] hasn't been trying to arrange a meeting with me, in fact the reason the notice was served is because he didn't respond to my recent emails and previously said his diary was very full. I did speak to him this morning after he did respond to the notice issued (a litter clearing notice, not a notice of prosecution).

Just wanted clear my name as I don't like to be accused of being petty and hard to contact when I'm not!

Anyway, thank you for your support and we too have had numerous complaints about this from councillors and residents so had to be seen to be taking some action.

I have arranged to meet Sam on site at 10am on Wednesday this week so will let you know the outcome.

Thanks again.

08/07/2013

This takes us back to the ridiculous anachronism that the Clean Air Act doesn't apply on the waterways. And that CaRT could take it upon the [REDACTED]elves to require the same environmental standards as everywhere else in London, but they won't.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

08/07/2013

The service boat with the VERY noisy engine that make dense plumes of fumes into the gully came again today (Monday) about 6.30pm - that really does need checking out by CaRT.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

08/07/2013

Incidents this evening

1 The lock again being used as a swimming pool by children and one adult, this time the kids swam across the adjacent redundant lock, accessed the run off area next to it and proceeded to use the channel under Crystal Wharf as a water slide. Given this run off sluice is not gated, could the Canal and River Trust be deemed to be abetting this behaviour? Should one of the children be injured as a result I wonder whose responsibility it would be.

2 The little blue cabin cruiser that has been moored up for some time now has this evening become the centre of attention with many people congregating around it, those not doing so are sitting around another fire that has been lit. This time under the large tree.

A response would be appreciated from someone at the Canal and River Trust.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

08/07/2013

The fire and now drunken behaviour has been logged FI 859907 with the ASB team

09/07/2013

All,

From a police perspective there is very little we can do around youths using the lock as a swimming pool, unless someone directly affected by their behaviour complains, and by directly affected, I mean that the individual has been the victim of a crime, threat or public order situation.

There are ASB issues but I have to look at the proportionality of the ASB in light of the time of day, persons affected and the nature of kids jumping into cold water on a very hot day.

The fires being lit is a different story entirely.

The blue boat is being used as a base by two deaf twins, who reside in a nearby Street, provisionally given the work to keep them out of trouble it appears to be a focal point now for local youths to congregate at.

I have no doubt that this will behaviour will increase when summer holidays start, I am aware of it, and when shifts allow, we will deal with it in a pro-active and reactive manner.

[REDACTED]

09/07/2013

All, it see [REDACTED] to me that CaRT need to have strategies in place for dealing with low-level ASB before it becomes criminal. This to my mind is the missing link at the moment, and the reason why the situation keeps getting out of hand.

[REDACTED]athan, can we check the Social services background to the deaf twins please? Thanks.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

09/07/2013

Just awaiting details of the young people from police and will be discussing in depth at the police liaison meeting with housing colleagues on Wednesday afternoon.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]athon

09/07/2013

Dear All,

For the avoidance of doubt I don't believe it's the blue boat that the twins are using. The blue boat is a recent, as in the last two weeks, addition to the issues. It's from this boat that the people building last's nights fire and then chopping wood well into the night emanated from.

The kids playing in the lock, using the sluice as a water slide and generally being a nuisance yesterday were not the boys with the hearing issue. However, they were the usual group that have been observed countless times and whose behaviour is growing ever more brazen and unpleasant.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

10/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - on Monday evening, moored boat engines in IVM were running until after 8.30pm. Yesterday evening when I returned to the house after 10pm they were again still running. This morning I was woken just after 7am by the pounding of a diesel engine on a boat double moored beside overstaying boat [REDACTED] close to my short g[REDACTED]. How and when are you going to address the question of repeated flouting of the 8pm-8am embargo rule on running of engines? This confounded nuisance, unchecked, is spreading. The more boats that break it without consequence, the more boaters think that they can ignore the rule.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO ENFORCE IT, AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN THIS RESPECT, AS WELL AS THAT OF MOVING ON OVERSTAYING BOATS, INCLUDING 517887.

Sincerely - [REDACTED]

10/07/2013

All,

As part of my ongoing strategy to inconvenience and drive away those elements that ruin the environment for everyone else, for your information I will be seeking to use S.27 Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, throughout the summer holiday, targeting 16 years and over who drink alcohol and behave in an anti-social manner.

This basically gives my officers a power of arrest if someone is directed to leave a specific area for 48 hours and they return.

[REDACTED]athon and [REDACTED]; I would be interested in your viewpoint on the legality of this, bearing in mind the conversation we had around Islington Council directives about drinking and the fact that the towpath is controlled by the CRT.

I personally see no issue, as the towpath is a public place to which the public have unfettered access. [REDACTED]

10/07/2013

As mentioned at our meeting last week, the whole of the London Borough of Islington is subject to a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) sometimes referred to as a controlled drinking zone. Here is an extract from a previous council consultation document on what this actually means:

"What is a DPPO?

A DPPO is an area designated by the Local Authority under section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 where there has been a problem with alcohol related disorder. The order does not ban drinking in public places but enables police officers to ask people to stop drinking where they have reason to believe that if they do not, alcohol-related nuisance and annoyance is likely to occur. The Police are also able to require individuals to surrender the alcohol and any opened or sealed containers.

These powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities and are used explicitly for addressing nuisance or annoyance associated with the consumption of alcohol in a public place. It is not a criminal offence to consume alcohol with in a designated area. An offence is only committed if the individual refuses to comply with a Police Officer's request to refrain from drinking.

Penalties for this offence include:

Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) £50 or Arrest and prosecution for a level 2 fine, maximum of £500."

In my opinion the DPPO can be enforced across the whole borough.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

11/07/2013

Hi there,

I'm wondering [REDACTED] if you could ask your colleagues to increase their presence at the lock this evening during key activity levels between 18.30 - 20.00hrs . So far every evening this week the gang of kids congregating in and around the lock area has increased in number with concomitant decrease in behaviour. Just last night the following was witnessed:

1 Dive bombing into the canal in a deliberate manner to spl[REDACTED] people sitting around it.

When the kids didn't get the reaction they wanted they upped their efforts by literally throwing water over the least likely people to resist, women and tourists.

2 The same kids found a mobility scooter parked in the recessed area next the cafe, starting playing on it and then turned it over. They did then put it upright again.

3 They found some full rubbish bags near the cafe and threw these into the lock.

4 A continual barrage of foul language, screaming, shouting and generally " getting into the faces " of everyone around.

On Tuesday some of the gang again swam across the defunct lock and climbed into the area forming part of Crystal Wharf, this is private property and the action was captured by CCTV. They then proceeded to attempt to steal a football from an area in front of Canal Cottages here at Crystal Wharf before being confronted by the older lady who lives closest and the porter. I have cc'd [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the managing agents of Crystal Wharf in on this email.

[REDACTED] - would this CCTV be available for the police?

[REDACTED]- One of the gang, a particularly obnoxious and aggressive girl goes by the name of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] - Would an increased presence be possible?

[REDACTED] - can we look forward to any comment from the CRT on this or the other matters being raised? I note the behaviour is not that of boaters unless you include the two boys who are still using the unregistered white cabin cruiser as a toy and were part of the group who vandalised the mobility scooter.

All best everyone.

[REDACTED]

11/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

The name doesn't mean anything to me I'm afraid but I will take any identities that are gained from police or our ASB response team forward to consider what tenancy action can be taken. In addition I will inform our ASB response team to see if they might be able to do some proactive patrolling between 18.30-20.00. This will obviously be dependent upon other priority calls but should not be a problem.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

11/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for copying me into your email.

We do have some CCTV footage and [REDACTED] is burning it onto a CD. We will try to forward this via an email if possible so that all parties have images of these trouble makers. If we are not able to email it, perhaps someone from the Safer Neighbourhoods team will be able to collect the CD from Crystal Wharf or advise me where they would like it to be sent.

I have copied [REDACTED] into this email and also [REDACTED] as he has also been experiencing problem [REDACTED] at the head of the basin as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is aware.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

11/07/2013

[REDACTED],

I have been in meetings out of London this week so apologies for not responding sooner. Thanks for your detailed reports. I have instructed our Waterways Team to look at safety and access issues at the lock with a view to managing safety effectively and deterring this unsafe behaviour.

As I think I mentioned, we have changed our enforcement officer shift patterns to now include weekend patrols along the Regent's in response to these issues, but this doesn't cover weekday evenings or ensure staff will be at locations where ASB is taking place. I'm pleased [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are able to put more resources into this stretch.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - we'd welcome your use of additional powers on the towpath, and in principle have no objection to the use of DPPOs or violent crime reduction legislation on our property. Should I hear differently from our legal department I will let you know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

11/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you're well.

The EA are responsible for undertaking water quality testing.

I have passed on the below to our safety advisor and ops team, they will respond directly. Feel free to get in touch if I can help any further though.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

Environmental Scientist

11/07/2013

All,

I've had two officers down there today in response to a call and I have asked L/T to walk through after 1800hrs to continue the disruption.

Sadly we are a finite resource and we have been tasked a lot to deal with an increase in thefts that have been occurring.

My team are off this week but are 1200-2200hrs next week, we will resume our patrols and disruption tactics then

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

12/07/2013

Dear all,

Further in this matter I visited the building last night and witnessed firsthand the anti-social behaviour taking place.

As [REDACTED] describes below, the kids were fighting on the towpath, being very boisterous and jumping into the canal and spl[REDACTED]ing innocent members of the public relaxing on the waterside. These events are happening so frequently that [REDACTED] was actually telling me what the kids were going to do next and he was right every time.

The kids were totally out of control and are a danger to the[REDACTED]elves as much as others. They have been using the lock overflow as a makeshift waterslide which is not only extremely unsafe, but poses a public liability concern to the Canal and River Trust.

Attached hereto is another report from [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] who occupy the canal offices at Crystal Wharf. The kids are trespassing at the moment but it is only a matter of time before their behaviour escalates. We really need to put a stop to this now.

At 18:55 I also witnessed a youth, accompanied by an older woman, throw a bottle at the glass window at the Crystal Wharf reception. We will compile as much CCTV footage as possible and provide it to the police who I understand will collect it on Monday 15th July.

I am happy to meet with all concerned parties in order to agree the most robust response to this threat. We would also like to install additional security lighting in the problem areas and seek permission from the Canal and River to do so.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

12/07/2013

Hi all,

FYI ([REDACTED] I am sure this is something you are already aware of...) yesterday evening when I arrived home from work the tow path had been cordoned off around the white boat by the fire brigade, who were on site for around an hour alongside the police.

It was unclear to see what had happened, although is clearly of huge concern that the actions of these people are resulting in such consequences.

[REDACTED]

12/07/2013

All,

Our operations team will be on site over the weekend. They will be working to remove the boat as soon as practically possible. We are also looking at actions that can be taken at the lock, especially at the sluice. Our safety advisers will report on Monday.

Happy to work with [REDACTED]and others on an effective system to tackle these issues. We're meeting with representatives from a number of Councils on Monday to discuss closer links and syste[REDACTED] on ASB, crime and pollution. Will report back.

Regards

[REDACTED]

12/07/2013

Hi all.

The white cabin cruiser has in fact gone. It went sometime last night between 7pm and 10pm but I was out so did not see if it was removed by authorities or those using it as toy.

Very pleased to hear your other points.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

12/07/2013

[REDACTED]/[REDACTED],

We have received some further complaints regarding ASB along the towpath. We received a call on Tuesday night at 21:55hrs regarding 12 boats along the canal, people on the boats shouting loudly using very foul language which was alleged to have been going on for the last month. Officers attended at 22:19hrs and witnessed loud conversation and music which was intrusive in the neighbouring residents home, even with their doors closed. They spoke to 3 men and 3 women who were sat near the residents fence and asked them to move away from the fence and turn off the music which they did. They had been having a barbecue. Unfortunately they were unable to obtain any licence numbers for the boat on that occasion.

Last night whilst ASB officers were in the area near the canal between Danbury Street and Wharf Road a passer by stopped them and informed them that a boat was sinking. The emergency services were called and they pumped the boat out and the owner moved it to moorings in Hoxton further up the canal. The boat registration number is [REDACTED].

It appears that two local youths had been using the boat for the last 6 months, but the owners had arrived the previous day and reclaimed the boat from them. The other boat owners nearby believe that the youths returned yesterday and opened the valves which is what was causing the boat to sink.

The owner of a nearby café informed the ASB officers that youths had been congregating around and on this boat, bullying and harassing customers and passers by and smoking drugs, some of the other boat owners nearby confirmed this and also said they had been lighting fires and having late night parties.

It would be advisable for you to get in touch with the owners of this boat and remind them of their responsibilities not to cause a nuisance, and that it is not advisable to leave the vessel in the control of youths who have allegedly been acting in an antisocial manner.

Hopefully now the youths have been removed from the boat this will resolve some of the problem [REDACTED]. We will monitor the situation over the next week or so, and will continue to respond to any calls to the ASB reporting line. I'll let you know if there are any further issues reported.

Regards

14/07/2013

Dear C&RT Mooring Management Team,

This weekend the air at IVM has been extremely badly polluted and generators have hardly stopped over the 8am-8 pm period they are allowed. And this evening at 10:15pm I could hear a generator thundering away in the distance. Many residents have asthma and other similar problems [REDACTED] which are being badly affected by the selfish behaviour of the boating community. Something has to be done by C&RT to stop this DEADLY pollution. It is not just winter but all year long. We need a ban on the use of generators except to move the boat, and only single mooring. Some genuine visiting boats don't use their generators at all. It is always the overstayers who run their generators for hours.

Of the 11 boats moored there today, three have been here for 3 weeks and two are supposedly broken down. The boat Peagreen which was here running a very noisy exposed generator just a few weeks ago (witnessed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]), has now joined them with a "broken down" sign, making 4 overstayers! Obviously the word is getting around that if you put a broken down sign on your boat, you can stay here for weeks. I do not understand how they can be broken down but still run their generators for hours. The wide boat [REDACTED] is the worst, running its generator twice a day for 2 hours at a time. This is making it impossible to use the

g[REDACTED]s without being heavily polluted. Of course in this hot weather it is necessary to open windows and we cannot get away from the pollution.

The boat [REDACTED] has been selling books the last 3 weekends, making a lot of noise loading and unloading and standing on top of his boat talking loudly to passers-by, selling his wares. I couldn't help hearing him tell people that he may have to leave soon but would be back as soon as he could. Obviously he will try to continue staying here. If this truly is supposed to be a visitor's mooring then trading boats should not be allowed to stay and trade.

I do understand that boats break down and need repairs at times but it see[REDACTED] that they are choosing to do so at the convenient and pleasant IVM. Can they not be given a weeks grace and then towed away. After all [REDACTED] managed to go away and then return when it was 'broken down'.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

15/07/2013

It does seem pretty obvious that 'breaking down' is the latest scam to try and get round the mooring rules.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

15/07/2013

This morning bright and early the book boat man, who has been there for several weeks, is talking, talking, talking loudly and drumming up business. He asked if I could lend him some secateurs so the man on the boat next to his could cut down some of the overhanging branches from our g[REDACTED]s. I didn't know what to say: in the end I said that the tree in question, a yellow flowering mallow, belonged to No.48 and maybe they should knock on his door and ask if he minded. I was under the impression that the overhanging branches added to the beauty of the cut: I know that I encourage some of my shrubs to descend the wall towards the towpath because they look so pretty.

Also the boat next to it, closer to the bridge --and no, I have a meeting so I haven't time to go and check the name and number -- has been running its engine since early. I am sure it is within the letter of the law, as it stopped running at 8 p.m. sharp last night. It is not a particularly loud noise but it is constant and wearing and it is lovely when it stops!!

Surely C&RT, constant engine-running (and why do they have to run their engines so long??) and a shop with a noisy shopkeeper is not what you intend by short stay visitor moorings?? It see[REDACTED] to me that these boats (and double parking is back by the way) have found a convenient home for the[REDACTED]elves, are now engaged in 'improving' their surroundings, and have no intention of leaving.

Help!

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

15/07/2013

I can attest to this awful situation. The overstaying man-who-sells-books has been braying all w/e to any passers by whose attention he can get - making it impossible to sit in adjacent g[REDACTED]s to read, or even have conversation (at normal conversational volume) with friends or family. But we have also been driven indoors by the airborne pollution and noise of constantly running diesel engines from moored boats - now double moored along the entire cutting. The running of diesel engines has continued into are beyond 8pm each evening. You really need to communicate effectively with boaters to ensure this rule-breaking practice does not continue - it is certainly getting worse.

If you do not have the will and/or resource to make evening patrols by CaRT officers, appointing a resident boat w[REDACTED] from a responsible member of the boating community could be an effective way to put an end to what has become a daily torture for residents living very close to the IVM gully. [REDACTED]

15/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - I went to the meeting on Friday at the London Assembly where CaRT were represented on the panel (by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]), along with delegates from various boating communities and [REDACTED], your Tower Hamlets counterpart as environmental health officer. I was hoping that as other London boroughs affected by these issues, LBI and Hackney would also be represented on the panel, but local residents from each of these places living close to the canal were in the audience, and were allowed by the chairman, Jenny Jones, to speak occasionally. I spoke in relation to public health issues raised by diesel fume pollution, identifying myself as someone who cognisant with health issues, and with knowledge of the situation both at the Imperial College site of St Mary's on the Paddington Basin, and residents close to the IVM. I did not say directly that I was a resident - not wanting to get into off-stage encounters with boaters or hostile elements. However, x, an Assembly Member [REDACTED]x some relevant powers (unclear what they are) approached me at the end of the meeting, giving me her card and asking me to keep her posted about the situation. This I have done as you will see from the emails below, including one from her office acknowledging mine to her.

I am forwarding this to [REDACTED] and Martin, since I have named them and their office, and to [REDACTED], who has documented many instances of overstaying, overcrowding and pollution.

With best wishes - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Subject: RE: CaRT management of Regent's Canal towpath moorings

Date: 15 July 2013 10:24:37 GMT+01:00

To: "[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcsc.[REDACTED]c.ac.uk"

<[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcsc.[REDACTED]c.ac.uk>

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the office of Cllr Victoria Borwick, Deputy Mayor of London.

I will certainly pass on this email for Victoria's attention.

Many thanks

Research and Support Officer for Victoria Borwick

Deputy Mayor of London

Londonwide Assembly Member

From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcsc.[REDACTED]c.ac.uk]

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:04 AM

To: Victoria Borwick

Subject: CaRT management of Regent's Canal towpath moorings

Dear Victoria Borwick - it was good to see you in action during Friday's meeting at the London Assembly's committee room 3 on Friday. I am hoping that this setting [REDACTED]s a new and realistic approach to the proble[REDACTED] that have built up over the last year or so relating the management by the Canal and River Trust (CaRT) of towpath moorings in sensitive London locations such as those close to hospitals and places where the canal towpath goes through high density housing.

Both of these settings exist within a two-to-three mile stretch of the Regent's Canal: local management at one, in the Paddington Basin, adjacent to St Mary's Hospital, has been well managed, limiting moorings to a single line of boats and setting up effective enforcement, as stated clearly in notices on the wall. As a frequent visitor to this site, which is part of Imperial College of which I am a member. I frequently walk past these moored boats on my way to meetings, and I am always impressed by the peaceful quiet and lack of pollution there. It is however an open, naturally well ventilated space.

In contrast, the stretch of the canal on emerging from the Kings Cross tunnel, from Colebrook Row to Danbury Street in Islington, runs through a gully where smoke and diesel fumes can collect to health-threatening levels when more than 6 or 7 boats are moored (the number recommended by Islington Council, whose pollution monitoring team is headed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED].[REDACTED]xislington.gov.uk>). This can only happen when double and triple mooring is permitted by CaRT in this site, known as the Islington Visitor Moorings (IVM). The towpath here is also used by pedestr[REDACTED]s, cyclists and, when there is any space left, fishermen. It is one of the few open spaces available to Islington residents, both those living in social housing nearby and in the Georgian terraces overlooking the canal, and it is much valued as such by each community.

The IVM is bounded on one side by an Islington Council owned and managed canalside walk, with railings on the canal side and mature trees on the steep bank rising towards the road behind (Vincent Terrace), where the houses are set well back from the gully. In contrast, the towpath on the other side, owned and managed by CaRT, runs very close to the Noel Road terrace of houses. Those at the Colebrook Row end are higher above the towpath, with longer g[REDACTED]s sloping down towards the canal, but those at the Danbury Road end are very short - two or three metres - flat and much lower than those of their neighbours, so closer to the waterline and moored boats.

Many people in this terrace have been living there for many years and so are now elderly. Other houses have changed hands more recently and most of the new occupants have young families and rely on their small children being able to play safely in the g[REDACTED]s. The health of both groups of residents, elderly and young children, is being severely compromised by the current practice of allowing double and triple mooring. You can imagine the build up of fumes during hot weather. Some of the older residents already have compromised lung function, while we know from published data that asthma and cardiovascular changes are found more frequently in children growing up in such polluted atmospheres.

Islington Council (LBI officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and councillor Martin Klute <Cllr.Klutexpobox.com>), as well as the local MP, Emily Thornberry, have been attempting to help local residents over these issues but they have no powers to set the sensible limit of single mooring, or to ban the running of diesel engines from the short IVM stretch, supposedly retained for bone fide short term visitors with continuous cruising licences, i.e. not for residential boats. CaRT notices on the walls give contradictory information about how long the boats can stay and how long they must stay away between subsequent moorings. This ambiguity results in some boats merely changing places with each other when they 'move', others do move on, but only after over-staying for many weeks. CaRT enforcement is weak, based on patrol officers making a once or twice a week note of boat licence numbers and putting a notice on a boat once it has been moored for more than

7 days. They frequently cannot see the licence plate numbers of double and triple moored boats, so fail to record them. When local residents do report the overstayers, this information is frequently denied by CaRT, who only ever visit during weekday office hours, so they also miss the repeated incidents of moored boats running diesel engines outside the permitted hours (8pm to 8am), rendering the short g[REDACTED]s unusable to residents even in the evening.

LBI had attempted to negotiate with CaRT about these issues, requesting signage of the sort placed at the Paddington Basin moorings, limiting mooring to a single line, clarifying the length of stay and permitted return time, and making the requirement (an existing written rule for boaters) to refrain from making a nuisance for residents (e.g. pollution, noise etc). LBI visits the IVM frequently, and can bear witness to the very bad situation that has built up in face of ambiguous signage and ineffective enforcement. Suggestion that the affected local residents should enter into dialogue with the boaters is inappropriate since boats moored here move on, being replaced by others, often genuine holiday makers in rented boats. The older Noel Road residents are unwilling to engage in such futile dialogue, especially as many of them have been verbally abused by boaters when attempting to tell them about a problem, e.g. playing loud music, running engines outside permitted hours. Younger couples with small children do not have the time and energy to spend on pointless conversation, although many of them have sent emails to CaRT and LBI instancing these proble[REDACTED]. CaRT have until now failed to communicate effectively, and appear to have abdicated responsibility for both strategic planning and rule enforcement at the IVM moorings. If you can use your office to stir them to action swiftly, this will be extremely valuable.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

15/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] - a boat at the end of my garden has been running is incredibly noisy motor for the last half hour. From the sound of it, it must be in very poor mechanical order, but the nuisance level is truly awful. Since it shows no signs of stopping, might it be possible for someone in your office to come and witness it?

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

PS the book-selling-man has just moved from his mooring. He has of course been replaced by another boat, and double mooring continues unabated.

15/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Miraculously, 3 of the 4 overstaying boats have now left. Somehow all of their generators were repaired at the same time enabling them to leave as a flotilla... Did you visit this morning and ask them to leave? IF so thank you very much and were the boats invoiced for over-staying? I suspect that, knowing w[REDACTED]s do not patrol over the weekend, they just stayed the extra time and left before your visit tomorrow.

[REDACTED] is still here and its exposed generator has been running for hours. It is moored next to the bridge and the noise can be heard from the corner of Noel Road and Danbury Street.

As residents have explained, the weekends are the worst for pollution and noise. I request that you notice boats on Tuesdays and invoice on Fridays. That way they will need to move before the weekends, instead of thinking that they have 3 days grace. What we really need though, is a weekend patrol or a w[REDACTED] from the boating community residing nearby.

I do not understand how these boats have been able to stay for over 3 weeks, even if their engines are broken. Surely they should be given notice after 7 days and then only another 7 days if they truly do have an issue.

Best wishes,

15/07/2013

It was the noise of [REDACTED] inboard engine coming over the parapet of the bridge at the weekend that caused me to stop and investigate.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

15/07/2013

Surely there is now enough pieces of independent evidence for CaRT enforcement to act swiftly? If this boat is able to run its engine every day like this, it can be used to move the boat on. It is patently obviously nonsense to claim being 'broken down'. [REDACTED]

15/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

It was good to see you at the London Assembly public meeting. Sorry we didn't get a chance to speak.

I have spoken to our boating trade team and identified the book-selling boat as [REDACTED](thanks to [REDACTED] for supplying the index no.[REDACTED]). [REDACTED] shouldn't be causing a nuisance in the course of his activities, so he will be warned by the trade team.

We had a useful meeting with four local authorities along the Regent's today (including LBI) to discuss a procedure for sharing information and evidence so that action taken by the local authorities can be shared immediately and used by the Trust to initiate action. The officers agreed to draw up a protocol for adoption. It was agreed that where the local authorities consider nuisance has been caused, this is sufficient for us commence a process with the boat concerned. In relation to Peagreen and others who have been identified as causing a nuisance, we will target those boats for action using the evidence compiled to date.

[REDACTED] - I suspect the over-staying boats in question have moved because of our action, rather than for any miraculous reasons. We will pick up any complaints of nuisance caused in between them receiving a patrol notice and moving on a Monday.

With reference to [REDACTED]'s update note of 5th July, we have asked for two resident representatives to join a small working group(with the Inland Waterways Association and local boaters) to discuss measures that will be appropriate, enforceable and acceptable to the range of users/neighbours at the Islington Visitor Moorings. This will consider these measures in the context of our other visitor moorings too, and will consider the role of that responsible boaters can play in managing behaviour while moored. I look forward to confirmation of who will be attending.

Regards

[REDACTED]

15/07/2013

[REDACTED]/[REDACTED],

We have received further calls over the weekend about proble[REDACTED] on the canal as follows:-
12/7/13 at 23:00hrs - Caller reports music coming from boat which caller clai[REDACTED] is illegally moored at the Islington Tunnel on the public side next to Muriel street. Officers attended at 00:10 - checked and patrolled the canal way - saw five boats on both side of the canal - no music or noise coming from any of the boats - heard loud shouting and talk on the other side of the canal by Fife terrace - by the time we got to Fife terrace the crowd moved on. All clear no noise. Boat was tied up using a metal rod and railings it is moored by the bridge looked through the windows did not see anyone the number of the boat is [REDACTED].

13/7/13 at 00:56hrs and 02:34- information sent via webform as follows:- " at the back of our block is a grass area before Battlebridge Basin on Regents Canal. Part of this area has been made into a semi-circle with iron fencing that is accessible to the public from the canal. When it was built we were told it would be locked every night to prevent this type of behaviour. If you come onto the canal from Treaty St turn right it's on the right before the York Way entrance/exit. : A group of approx 8 people are in the public area at the back of our block. They are shouting, laughing & making noise. They have been there since about 9pm, it is now 0215hrs." Officers patrolled the canal at 00:10hrs Officers attended at 03:04hrs- no noise witnessed

14/7/13 at 13:27hrs- boat on Regents Canal, the owner has been drilling and planing all day and this happened all last summer and it can't continue. Called reporter back at noise had stopped.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

15/07/2013

[REDACTED], the fact that CaRT are prepared to accept LA evidence of nuisance is a positive step forward. However, the other evidence issue we need you to accept, which our housing department recognise is corroborated evidence - where sufficient numbers of people independently report to you the same problem, and that accumulation of evidence for[REDACTED] the basis for action. We discussed this with you and [REDACTED] when we met. Please come back to me regarding the Trust's position on this.

Also, you have not answered my specific question in relation to the book-selling boat: is trading allowed in the Noel Road cut or not?

Thanks.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

15/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for informing us about planned action to be taken against the boats which have been causing a nuisance. However I am disappointed that you do not specifically say that any boat has been or will be invoiced for overstaying. You talk of 'warning' Ab and 'picking up complaints' of overstaying boats. But my understanding is that you have the ability to invoice them £25 (a very small amount) a day, but not once have I heard of that action. Surely this action would be one of the best ways to discourage overstaying.

I have volunteered to be one of the two residents taking part in the working group and this is supported by neighbours. I am hoping that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has time to take part as she has considerable understanding of the health concerns and frontline experience of the unabating nuisance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

16/07/2013

[REDACTED] hi

It appears that two boats are now in breach of your own guidelines regarding the period in which they can remain moored in one area and these are the two small cabin cruisers moored by the tree between Danbury St and Wharf Rd. Again last night the users of these boats were treating the tow path as their own g[REDACTED] with BBQ's being lit, very loud shouting etc. At just before midnight a group of people who were also congregating in the area and seemingly associated with these boaters decided to up their game and use the canal for late night drunken swimming. Again the police had to be called. Could you let me know what you are doing to move the boaters on. Could you also let me know what the outcome of your meeting yesterday was with the safety inspectors you asked to look into the issue of the kids using the sluice as a water slide and the roof of the cafe area as a base for their nefarious activities. Both of which you are aware have public liability issues.

On a more positive note the removal of the white cabin cruiser by the rightful owner see[REDACTED] to have reduced the number of incidences of anti-social behaviour by a small number of the children involved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All best

[REDACTED]

16/07/2013

Thank you [REDACTED]. We will log the incidents and boat numbers where you've provided them. In relation to the second incident, this is privately managed property, I believe.

Regards

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Hi all

Just to let you know that the boat referred to as the [REDACTED] has, in the early hours of today moored up along the tow path and close to the lock and Crystal Wharf.

The operator of this boat is the main perpetrator of the issues we have with boaters. He was last moored up here in early June.

[REDACTED], it's this boater who has the drum kit mounted on his roof, was selling alcohol from the boat and is well known to the CRT etc. I appreciate all the police activity last night and would certainly appreciate it again whilst this rogue boater is present, it's his behaviour and what it attracts, that has led to so many of the issues.

He may just be moored for a short while and gone later today but on past record this is unlikely.

[REDACTED]. - can you check into enforcement of your regulations regarding this boat having been moored in the same spot in June suggesting he is in breach of the no return policy. You will have the evidence I sent on or around June 7th.

[REDACTED]athon - your colleagues in Hackney are very familiar with this boater. It's this boat that resulted in the Islington ASB team attending on numerous occasions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Many thanks for the heads up [REDACTED].

I will let our ASB team know that the boat has returned and is likely to cause trouble [REDACTED]. I will ask that any information on complaints and evidence of ASB be passed through to counterparts in Hackney via me. Hackney are already looking at some possible enforcement action and any evidence we can gather would support this.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

We had complaints about this boat in March and April and then again in June, The April complaints are not logged on M3 but I have emails. I understand that Hackney are also looking to get a closure order. I've attached the last update the [REDACTED] did for me I can ask Hackney for some more information if it would help.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/07/2013

[REDACTED]athan and [REDACTED],

Thanks we are aware as he cruised past our office yesterday. We may be able to supply some evidence as we witnessed [REDACTED] causing an obstruction and apparently running trips on the Regents between Little Venice and Camden yesterday evening. I warned him last night and will check his licencing situation today. We will let Islington trading standards know also.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Wonderful that you are willing to take this on. Thank you [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

May I just say how much improved and settled things now are. At our end of the canal all is beauty and peace - and pretty much litter free. I know the grim days are during the colder months BUT

Best regards

[REDACTED] 17/07/2013

[REDACTED],

We received a call last night regarding a large house boat on City Basin canal located between the narrow boat pub and the locked gate. It is alleged that about 30 people were on the boat making a lot of noise and flashing their torches into nearby properties. Due to the volume of calls we received officers weren't free to attend for some time and when they did visit they could hear some voices from a small number of people which they did not consider to be excessive. No boat number obtained on this occasion.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/07/2013

[REDACTED],

A further call was received last night at 19.47hrs regarding the canal next to Noel Road- people sat on the lock playing loud amplified drum music, allegedly for the last few evenings. Officers attended at 20.13hrs- no noise was witnessed.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ASB Manager

17/07/2013

It's interesting to see that the Noel Rd end North of Danbury St is now quiet but it's not the same south of Danbury St. One of the principal boaters causing long term problem [REDACTED] arrived in the small hours today and we live in dread of what is to come. In addition the police were out in force last night on the tow path between Danbury St and Wharf Rd dealing with a number of issues. I'm of course glad that the problem has improved in one area but there are still many issues just a stroll away.

Of course if any of you have more evidence or new issues please do keep reporting them, it see [REDACTED] that it's the volume of reports driving the attention of the authorities. Our thanks to the police for their support and robust approach.

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

As you're aware [REDACTED] has returned back to Islington; we received a number of complaints about noise nuisance from this boat in March, April and again last month; in addition the owner does not hold a licence to sell alcohol. Our licensing team will be attending this afternoon to serve a closure order and also I will be serving an enforcement notice for "likely occurrence" of nuisance under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Could you please provide the name of the boat owner and if available a permanent address.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

regards

17/07/2013

Thanks [REDACTED] for sharing that. I'm hopeful that the operator of [REDACTED] won't repeat his errant ways but hearing him and the boat arrive in the small hours did give rise to a sense of dread. On a separate note do you have a reply to my email of earlier this week regarding the visit by your safety inspectors to look at the sluice and roof issues?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED]y and [REDACTED] - it see[REDACTED] that all is now in agreement about having the meeting on July 23rd, and reporting back to [REDACTED] in due course. [REDACTED] and I will both be able to go that day. Can you please let us know where the meeting will be, and at what time?

If [REDACTED]'s report about the improvement of things at the Colebrooke Row could be replicated at the Danbury Road end of the terrace and beyond, down to the lock, that would be a substantial achievement. Those of us with short g[REDACTED]s just north of the Danbury Road bridge have continued to suffer a high level of pollution and noise from inconsiderate boaters double parked behind our houses. This weekend it was not possible for us to use our g[REDACTED]s, diesel fumes driving us inside, but they and the noise followed us into our houses. Those in the terrace with g[REDACTED]s much higher in relation to the canal and towpath, and very much longer than ours, are not so exposed and so suffer (and complain) less. Appropriate controls need to be put in place for the well being of people living whole terrace, as well as the many walkers, cyclists and fishermen using the towpath, not to mention the lock area on the south side of the bridge, where I think mooring is not allowed.

We look forward to taking part in these discussions in a constructive way.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

[REDACTED],

The lower end of Noel Road-Danbury section, where g[REDACTED]s are shorter and closer to the towpath have continued to suffer from pollution, noise and other issues. We have been sending a steady stream of emails to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], other C&RT team and [REDACTED] but have not copied everyone in. This has resulted in temporary improvement until the next nuisance boats arrive. On Monday four boats left which had been moored at the lower end for 3 weeks. Three of them had signs saying they had broken down but continued to run their generators for hours at a time so that the cut was filled with fumes almost the whole day. With the heat and lack of wind it was very unpleasant.

I'm sorry to hear that the situation is also bad at your end of Noel road.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your response. The request is being made under section 29(3) of the DPA, we cannot prosecute under the Environmental Protection act without this information.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17/07/2013

[REDACTED],

I've spoken to [REDACTED] about this and decided that at this stage I'll serve a minded to letter. I've prepared a notice and in the event that nuisance is witnessed whilst the boat is moored in this location the notice should be served. Is there any chance that Noise Patrol can prioritise this complaint this evening and the next few days.

17/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

The details we hold on record for the registered keeper of '[REDACTED]' (Index number [REDACTED]) are:

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

Hi. I think there are a couple of reasons why our house and the [REDACTED] house suffer less than the rest of you. Firstly, there is a requirement (legal?) that the boats don't moor within a specified number of feet from the tunnel entrance - sorry, can't be specific on the number ... Also, our two houses are raised the most from the footpath. I believe Islington Council has taken over the bin emptying. The rubbish collection is undoubtedly enormously improved down/up here.

That doesn't mean all is sweetness and light. There is some graffiti on the bricks of the tunnel entrance and there is some litter; but, much improved.

I know the [REDACTED], our immediate neighbours, sometimes have real problems - as do we in the cold months - because their large overhanging chestnut tree often traps the smoke and dreadful smells that come from the boats. When there is a mist in particular, it can be very unpleasant.

It just goes to show, it is doubtful that we should have any boats mooring because of the physical realities of the site. The canal is narrow, in a cutting with lots of overhanging trees and short g[REDACTED]s. Doesn't work.

By the way, it occurs to me that maybe Frog Lane Bridge has requirements about not mooring within a certain distance.

Regards

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

I'm just emailing to let you know that the behaviour of the people on the [REDACTED] has again deteriorated and I've had to call the ASB team, ref F1866893 and the police ref CAD8035 17 July.

Incidents this afternoon include

Very loud noise

Members of the pack congregating around the boat exposing the [REDACTED]elves and then using the canal for swimming all the while shouting and screaming Foul language being shouted A growing number of people stopping at the boat.

I've had a number of people expressing their concern about the behaviour this afternoon and we are all concerned it will continue to deteriorate into the night.

All best

[REDACTED]

17/07/2013

I think the key issue here is that since CaRT have now indicated their willingness to accept Local Authority evidence of antisocial/ nuisance behaviour, we need to collate reports, across boroughs if necessary, and pass on to CaRT to give them the necessary evidence for them to proceed against individual craft on a breach of license basis.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

18/07/2013

Dear all,

I visited the boat with my colleague [REDACTED] yesterday. We had arranged for a joint visit with the Police but decided it might be best for us to speak to the owner on our own as there were a semi large group with the boat who were all drinking high strength alcohol and the boats have a number of protest group sticker / posters etc so they might have been more adverse to high Police presence. The owner is not selling alcohol anymore from the boat, he has taken the sign off the boat as well, I believe another local authority or Police force may have served a closure notice in respect of the bar, but we will have to look into this. We served him with a minded too noise letter, which effectively says the Noise Team will serve an abatement notice on the boat should a noise nuisance be witnessed.

He intends to stay at the mooring for 7 days to carry out repairs, and did express genuine concern about complaints in respect of his water ways licence, he also said he would not be doing anything that would be considered licensable under the Licensing Act 2003.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] has all the owners personal details if required. I have his mobile number as well if needed.

The Police we spoke to said they would be keeping an eye of the group whilst it is moored there.

[REDACTED]x

18/07/2013

I couldn't agree more re the 'permanent' mooring south of Danbury Street just past the lock. Some of the repeat visitors (semi permanently moored boats) there are of low quality - are little more than floating squats - and their owners display grossly anti social behaviour including drunken aggressive behaviour which yesterday began before 8am when i walked to work and was still going on at 7.00 pm when I walked home - despite the full police presence. Their presence is threatening and detrimental to the peace and tranquility of this part of the canal most used by the public who just want to enjoy the open expanse of water - access to which is now blocked by inappropriately huge double hulled boats and their drunk abusive owners. This is the inevitable consequence of continued indiscriminate over issuance of licenses by CaRT and the latter's inability to monitor or manage the consequences. The stock response from CaRT is to take recourse through the authorities - police, environmental control - whilst abdicating all responsibility the[REDACTED]elves. I pity the residents on that side of the canal - particularly the care home residents who have to endure the blaring music the abusive behaviour and the drunken foul language which comes from - in particular - the 'Pirate Boat'. Why are CaRT not revoking the licence of such a boat which is double the normal width and at least twice the height of the other traditional canal boats?

Of course under the current arrangements this boat and others like it will end up on our side of the canal anytime soon!

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your call this morning and the helpful note of our conversation.

As discussed, I will find out what the enforcement situation is with the two white cruisers you refer to. As I mentioned, they may already be in the enforcement process and being fined to over-staying.

[REDACTED] Instone called yesterday to suggest the boats would appreciate 'assistance' in moving on. Our enforcement officer should be along tomorrow at the latest to investigate.

I have no firm feedback from our engineer's visit to City Rd lock, but will let you know when I receive it.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

18/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your query. I will have more information next week at our meeting. Look forward to seeing you then. I have taken [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] off the circulation to reduce email traffic. Feel free to add them in future correspondence.

Regards

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

It appears that the injunction has had little effect on deterring the activities of the rogue boaters operating the [REDACTED], and one other boat moored on the tow path between Danbury St and Wharf Rd.

Between 21:00 hrs on 18th July until 03.30 on the 19th the following took place;

- 1 Very loud singing, shouting and raucous behaviour
- 2 The chopping of wood for long periods of time
- 3 Publicly urinating into the canal and against the school wall
- 4 General alcohol/ drug related frenzied behaviour up and down the tow path
- 5 Lighting of fires on the tow path.

All of the above took place multiple times over the period causing nuisance, stress and a very unpleasant environment, one where sleep was impossible for other than short naps between incidents. I have since discovered that several people called the police and the ASB line to complain. I called the direct line I have for our local police at 03:00hrs 19th July and a team responded by visiting within 30 minutes, after which the noise levels did improve. The police had also spoken to the operators of the [REDACTED] at or around 23:00hrs July 18th

At 06:30 this morning the operator of the [REDACTED] and a woman were talking loudly and excitedly on the tow path whilst frantically sweeping it of broken glass, this continued until the litter patrol arrived.

I understand that the injunction was served on the operators of the [REDACTED] earlier this week but am unaware what the terms [REDACTED] of it are, could someone please get back to me on this. My partner, neighbours and those others impacted would really like to know what can be done and how soon to stop this situation.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]- for speed, please do not hesitate to call me on [REDACTED]

All best.

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see email below from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] regarding Regents Canal.

Noise Patrol received a similar call last night from a [REDACTED] at 00:00 Boat people using an axe to chop wood its very noisy - Vste 0142 cm12 no noise heard. Fcb 0059 left voice mail.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: noreplyxislington.gov.uk [mailto:noreplyxislington.gov.uk]

Sent: 19 July 2013 03:08

To: Issues, NP

Subject: Noise

FI-867943

Regents Canal,

Islington,

London

Public Protection - Noise - Noisy Neighbours - People

Details:people screaming & shouting throwing stuff on toepath setting fires chopping wood for fire

Reporter:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

We are residents in [REDACTED]. I must say that the noise levels by night this year have been particularly bad. This is not only, but predominantly the result of some of the boats mooring at the City Road Basin side of the Regent canal (between Danbury Street and Wharf Road). My understanding is that one boat in particular has been served with an injunction. If so, the effect has been nil. They made lots of noise again last night, not least by breaking wood in order to fuel their open fire. I called the Islington ASB number last night with ref number FI867913.

I must say I cannot understand why this particular boat is still allowed to moor at the City Road Basin side of the canal. More generally and going forward, I think the only way a lasting improvement can be achieved is if boats are no longer allowed to moor between the Danbury Street and Wharf Road section of the Regent canal. This particular section continuously attracts the worst noise offenders. As I said, the boat people are not the only offenders, but they are the main ones and they attract other offenders who similarly enjoy chanting songs in drunken state around an open fire in the middle of the night.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

[REDACTED],

Good to talk to you just now. I confirm our meeting at your property on Tuesday 23rd July at 9am to discuss measures we are taking both internally at CRT and with our partners to address the issues of anti-social behaviour by both boaters and non-boaters in your area. I would like to develop local action plans for managing the towpath with residents, boaters and partner agencies, and see this area as a potential pilot for that. It would be good to discuss.

Kind regards

19/07/2013

Please see below my notes from a telephone conversation with [REDACTED] yesterday.

[REDACTED] has called me again this morning and we have arranged to meet on Tuesday July 23rd at 0930 at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would you be able to attend too and of courses anyone else who is around? Short notice I know, sorry.

[REDACTED] also confirmed that as the [REDACTED] is a licenced boat the CRT has slightly more influence on it than if not. Unfortunately this influence does not extend to a seizure order and from what I understand only really means levying fines on the owner. Given the nature of the owner I somehow doubt this will have any impact on his or the entourage around him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the enforcement officer responsible for this stretch of the canal is going to site today to talk to the owner of this and the other boats.

All best everyone.

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]r[REDACTED]xgooglemail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 10:59 AM

Subject: Our Telecon Today

To: [REDACTED].[REDACTED]xcanalrivertrust.org.uk

[REDACTED] hi,

Thanks for your time this morning and addressing the questions we have.

For the avoidance of confusion my understanding is the following, Please do let me know if I've misunderstood or of any amendments as soon as possible, I'll then cc my neighbours etc.

The [REDACTED]

Whilst Islington Council has serviced an anti-social behavior prohibition notice on the owners this does not compel the owners to move on and they are continuing to behave in a deplorable manner. To move them on requires a notice from the Canal and River Trust to be served stating they are in breach of the Canal and River Trust regulations. Given you have your own records of a clear breach as well as that submitted by residents, the council and possibly the police I understood that you will be serving notice to move either today or tomorrow and enforcement soon after but no later than Monday 22nd July.

The [REDACTED] and one other

As mentioned in previous correspondence these boats are clearly overstayers and you mentioned that [REDACTED] will be advising you today as to what enforcement is to take place. The operators of these boats are also key perpetrators of some of the issues including litter, noise, alcohol related incidents and the like. I look forward to hearing from you about this.

The sluice and roof issues

You mentioned that you had not heard from the maintenance manager regarding the safety inspection on Monday July 15th. I stated that with regard to public liability the CRT were made aware of these issues in 2012 and as such have seemingly ignored them, resulting in greater liability issues of which your insurers should be aware.. You were of the opinion that there are several such issues along the canal and that decisions have to be made as to the priorities. You suggested more signs prohibiting the dangerous activities but I was of the view that these are of little use given the type of person indulging in the dangerous activities.

Not being familiar with the lock you were unable to comment on any suggestions of physical barriers and the like and will speak to your maintenance manager for their report.

It was explained to me that unlicensed boats are in fact harder to deal with than licensed boats and this is also a cause for concern as the powers of the Canal and River Trust are not broad or well defined.

We also discussed the level of communication to residents from the CRT being at an unacceptably low level and you agreed to improve on this aspect. In this regard I look forward to hearing from you about the issues outlined above.

All best

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Dear all

It would seem the problem continued over nights unfortunately. PS [REDACTED] attended at 3am after a call from [REDACTED] [REDACTED][REDACTED] will address the issue more fully as clearly they respond to officers when they attend and then the "Party" starts again once we leave.

Regards

Debbie

19/07/2013

[REDACTED], I discussed this issue with our head of public protection this morning, and it see[REDACTED] that there is a good level of joined-up working between Islington agencies. What our officers are trying to do at the moment is to establish joined up working with their opposite numbers in Hackney and Camden environmental protection, in order to build up a sufficient body of evidence for CaRT to move against the main trouble-makers.

CaRT have agreed they will accept local authority evidence of nuisance (and presumably criminality) and I would hope that by joining up the evidence of three Boroughs we can help CaRT build a case.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

19/07/2013

Dear all,

I have today had notice served for noise nuisance please see attached. If the police receive calls from residents can you please discuss with the noise patrol service so that we can gather enough evidence to witness a breach of the notice.

I'll be at the MAGPI meeting on Tuesday so we can discuss a longer term solution for this individual.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Dear All,

Just a quick note to update on the [REDACTED].

As I mentioned in my conversation with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was an unlicensed boat when it joined the waterway last year. This meant the Trust had limited powers to intervene. We also have no powers to refuse a licence to any boat, if it has the required Boat Safety Scheme Certificate (like an MOT), appropriate insurance and a home mooring (where it can legally be kept when not

cruising). If a boat can't demonstrate a home mooring, it must 'continuously cruise', only stopping in each 'place' for up to 14 days.

We have spent a lot of time seeking to get [REDACTED] licensed through pressure on the owner, in order to then have powers to enforce against it. Agreement was reached with the owner to submit a licence application, with the appropriate fee, earlier this year. A standard leisure license was issued in June, although we were not able to serve it on the owner face to face.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED], our enforcement officer, has today made contact with the owner on the towpath as promised. She has served him with his licence. He is now fully licenced, in receipt of his licence, and subject to our standard ter[REDACTED] and conditions of licence, meaning we are now on firmer ground in relation to enforcement and legal action. More importantly, [REDACTED] has also secured his signature to enhanced ter[REDACTED] and conditions, constituting an agreed code of conduct covering specific issues of noise, nuisance, trading, selling of alcohol etc. [REDACTED] has also issued him a patrol notice to move on, and what amounts to a final warning about behaviour. I would stress that the intention is not to give further 'chances' and warnings, but to use the service of the licence today and enhanced ter[REDACTED] and conditions to enable us to take action through the courts to seek licence revocation. We are under no illusion that the owner will suddenly become a model citizen, so my apologies in advance should any residents experience unacceptable behaviour this weekend. If you do experience and report such behaviour, we will use the evidence to commence enforcement and revocation proceedings.

Please pass this mail onto anyone I have missed off the circulation list. I genuinely wish you a peaceful weekend.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Thanks for the update. Could I ask that the point [REDACTED] is making is on an early agenda. The pirate stage boat the other side of the bridge, as well as now selling alcohol was playing music, effectively to entice people in for commercial gain, as I passed it twice today - and presumably without interruption all day. It is quite extraordinarily selfish to subject an old people's home to this treatment - people with no power to confront the nuisance or even shut a window, especially in this heat. [REDACTED] You must act. It is hideously anti social behaviour - [REDACTED] can't you shut down unlicensed premises? Is this really how we want people to end their days?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19/07/2013

Thanks. It is Friday night 11.30 and there is very loud music and shouting coming from this very same boat. Clearly, they do not care the least about the injunction. I know this would be a drastic step, but I would like you to seriously consider banning mooring of boats on this stretch of the Regent Canal between Danbury Street and Wharf Road. It continuously attracts loud and disturbing boat people. At the very least, [REDACTED] should be banned from mooring there again. They have persistently produced incredible disturbance over the last several months.

19/07/2013

From: [REDACTED]andfernanderson[REDACTED]x

To: [REDACTED].[REDACTED]xislington.gov.uk

CC: cllr.klutexpobox.com; ecxlewis-tucker.com

Subject: City Road Basin anti-social behaviour

Date: Fri, 19 Jul 2013 23:27:35 +0100

Hello

We are resident of Crystal Wharf Graham Street N1 8GH and we write to draw your attention to the antisocial behaviour we are experiencing daily (and nightly !).

1. Noise: there is a big increase in the noise level from the towpath; this partly comes from the number of people who drink on the towpath but more importantly most of the noise appears to come from a handful of people either (a) who drink on the towpath all day (including drunk fishermen) and who tend to shout ; and (b) people who carry on some kind of trade from moored vessels (particularly the "vessel" which is currently moored which see[REDACTED] to be the focus of drumming, music and other loud noise at night). That vessel is more of a floating emporium than a canal boat: it has old furniture stored on it and it has a double width and also a "transom" which has nothing to do with its capacity as a boat. Antisocial noise has on occasion gone on into the small hours. We are not at all sure that the vessel in question has not exceeded its permitted stay during the year as it was here some months ago for an extended period.

2. Anti-social behaviour: swimming in the basin (particularly late at night) accompanied by general loudness from the water and from the bank: rubbish in the canal and particularly on the basin such that it has come to look uncared for. Some of this rubbish is clearly to do with the recent activity on the canal.

3. Open fires/barbecues are now frequently lit on the tow path, including by the large vessel moored nearest to the lock. In the past the tree by the seats on the towpath under Hanover School has been damaged.

We have nothing against people who want to come during the evening to sit by the canal and even have a drink (provided they do not use anti-social behaviour). But In the past three years there has been a gradual increase in bad behaviour on the towpath and it's our belief that some of this is centred around the "trade" activity of some canal boats who seem to operate sometimes as travelling performance gigs (and accompanied by their skull and cross bone flags).

The canal and basin are a precious wildlife resource but instead they are being taken over near the lock by human created pollution of various types. The whole use of the towpath should be re-thought. We welcome quiet canal barges. What we are getting is something very different. The current stakeholders in the area include the primary school, the residents of part of Noel Road, the old people's home on Wharf Road and our flats at Crystal Wharf. I am sure that none of us welcome the sort of behaviour we are experiencing.

[REDACTED]

20/07/2013

[REDACTED], this is potentially much better news.

The message needs to get through to the small minority of delinquent boaters that their behaviour will not be tolerated.

Please keep up the effort.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

20/07/2013

Unfortunately it seems the section 80 is not worth much, if anything at all. Last night the [REDACTED] continued in its errant ways unchallenged. The noise from it included music via a speaker on its roof and that resulting from a drum kit also on the roof. ASB arrived after being called at just after 8pm watched the scene for about 30 mins then left. They had left an urgent call out for noise patrol who came on duty at 10pm. When this team came on duty they called me and determined that as the noise level had reduced they could not attend to gather evidence. Given they were aware of the S80 my neighbours and I don't comprehend why further evidence had to be gathered. Granted the noise level had reduced but not gone and had also been heard by the police. The situation was further confused last night by the party in the school to which [REDACTED] Neumayer refers.

The [REDACTED] remains in position today with its external speakers set to high volume. Any chance of any action or should we just throw the S80 onto the tow path fire the operator of this boat will no doubt set tonight?

I have moved away from my home now seeking respite away for a couple of days but of course my neighbours remain.

[REDACTED]

20/07/2013

I'm unsure as to why this is better news. As a licenced boat the [REDACTED] is meant to comply with the rules and regulations of the CRT. It clearly doesn't. The recourse for CRT is, as far as I understand from [REDACTED]'s email to revoke the licence but this then gives even fewer powers. Perhaps I have missed something, if so I look forward to clarification.

[REDACTED]

20/07/2013

[REDACTED], this is a slightly counter-intuitive aspect of planning and licensing that it took me a while to understand: If a person has a license or permission it is much easier to enforce against them. By obtaining the license or permission they have agreed to a set of parameters which they can then be shown to be in breach of.

It is the same with night clubs. If they have planning permission and a license we can then set the T&C's for them to operate. Without these being in place you are left to argue what they might be, were they in place, which gives scope for endless prevarication.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

21/07/2013

For the record. Yesterday, Saturday 20 July, there was extremely loud music again from the boat between 4.30pm and at least 9.30pm when I left the flat to get away from the noise. First the noise came from a DJ standing on top of the boat, then from live music, using loudspeakers and dru[REDACTED], then again from pre-recorded music. When I came back at midnight there was no more music, but all during the night there was the by now customary loud shouting and breaking of wooden planks for fuelling their fire. The [REDACTED]users - there's plenty of them - clearly believe they can get away with this.

Thank God we are away for one week now. I hope by the time of our return you will have solved this problem permanently. My fear is they'll soon go away only to come back again after a few days and the whole cycle starts afresh.

Eric Neumayer

21/07/2013

[REDACTED] I'm really sorry you had another disrupted evening. I entirely agree with you that moving the problem from one place to another is not a solution. What we are trying to do is to get the Trust to assess the accumulation and corroboration of evidence against this boat, which must surely demonstrate unacceptable and continued breaches of its license, and to take decisive action against it. Please continue to report disturbances.

Regards,

Cllr Martin Klute

21/07/2013

Hi,

See below re visit to canal last night.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

www.islington.gov.uk

How to get here:

<http://www.islington.gov.uk/contact/visitingoffices/222upperst.asp>

<<http://www.islington.gov.uk/contact/visitingoffices/222upperst.asp>>

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-----Original Message-----

From:, [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 01:26 AM GMT Standard Time

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: job FI-868635 regarding the canal

Hi all

Details of visit to canal regarding the party boat

I called the complaint to inform him that there was a ASB team going to attend he's issue regarding the boats on the canal. Myself and Steven arrived at 20:07 and stated to monitor the boat from the footpath, there was amplified music coming from the boat but not at a level where it could be a nuisance. At this time there was 4 females drinking and chatting on the jetty of the boat no shouting witnessed.

Myself and [REDACTED] witnessed the owner of the boat setting up a drum kit and other instruments while monitoring the boat at 20:12 a motorbike drove up to the boat on the foot path and parked on the jetty of the boat no VRN number as the rider had taken it off the rider was a white male approx. age 35-40 5ft 6" tall slim build he was wearing a black and orange jacket and black jeans grey hair. The group of people was still talking at a normal level.

A white male approx. age 35 5'8" tall slim build wearing jean shorts and no shirt he had a red and orange bandana on he's head covering he's hair approached us and began to ask what we was doing so we explained and he informed us that he is the owner of a blue and white boat that was moored up next to the party boat, he then left us and entered the party boat and started to drink by this time 20:19 there was 10 people on the boat talking and drinking still no shouting but music still present.

At 20:27 the owner of the party boat was still setting the drum kit up and putting out chairs for people to sit on the jetty area. At 20:31 a white male approx. age 40-45 5'6" tall stocky build he had grey hair he was wearing blue jeans and a light blue shirt he

was drunk as he entered the party boat he was singing and dancing and started to shout at two females walking past the boat at 20:35 3 white male youths approached the male (the youths are the same as other officers have dealt with on previous occasions) and started to talk with him then the male and the youths walked off towards the canal lock. While all this was going on more people arrived and got on the boat there was approx. 15 people all drinking, the male returned from going off with the youths and the started to talk with the male with the blue and white boat both got aboard the blue and white boat at 20:43 and stated to drive the boat up and down the canal area around the party boat nearly hitting other boats moored up then they returned at 20:52 myself and Steven left the area at 20:59 and the music and voices didn't change levels the whole time myself and Steven was monitoring the boats.

Hope this helps

[REDACTED]

21/07/2013

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your email. I have recently joined the Trust and so, whilst I am aware of the issues we have with certain boats in London, I have asked my team to update me on the current position regarding these boats in this area specifically. I will reply in more detail soon.

I can assure you that we are acutely aware of the proble[REDACTED] caused by such anti-social behaviour, and that we are committed to working with you to resolve the situation together.

Regards

Richard

Richard Parry

Chief Executive

Canal & River Trust

21/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

The boat [REDACTED] has been running its generator at full power for very long periods over its stay, particularly this weekend and filling our g[REDACTED]s with fumes and noise. Twice today it ran its generator for over 2 hours each time and at 8.30 pm I had to go and ask the owner to turn it off which she did. It has been here since before 14th June so should have left by now. Please can you ask the owner to move on and remind her of the regulations not to disturb neighbours. The owner thinks she is allowed to stay for two weeks.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

22/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your prompt relaying of evidence of [REDACTED]'s anti-social behaviour over the weekend. This is really useful evidence. I'm sorry that you, and other residents, have again suffered over the weekend. As I feared, even the agreement of enhanced ter[REDACTED] has not ameliorated this boat's behaviour. We have also had a report from the Council's ASB team. As I said on Friday, we will review the weekend's complaints at a case conference today and take appropriate action.

I will let you know the outcome.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

22/07/2013

[REDACTED]

We witnessed a breach of the notice over the weekend. In the event that we manage to obtain a warrant today or tomorrow would you be able to spare officers to attend when we execute it, or do you know who is the best person for me to contact about arranging this?

Thanks

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22/07/2013

Martin,

In short yes. There is no restriction on boats with roving trade licences trading at visitor moorings, providing they conform to mooring rules. The boat [REDACTED] has been warned about his previously reported behaviour at Noel Road moorings which caused some residents nuisance.

22/07/2013

But does he have a 'roving trade' licence? What are the conditions of one of these? Are such licence holders also required to have a 'continuous cruising licence'? In the event of him having the latter, allowing him to moor at the IVM, now that he has moved from there, how long is it before he can visit again for up to 7 days again? His endless loud sales-speil certainly caused residents considerable nuisance, and should he return, I hope that it has been made clear to him that that aspect of his behaviour should not be repeated - [REDACTED]

22/07/2013

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your response.

Given the continuing and escalating levels of anti-social behaviour over the weekend, the clear breaching of the S80 by the [REDACTED], in addition to its and other boats presence in contravention of the rules and regulations of the CRT, please do attend a meeting scheduled with [REDACTED] tomorrow in my home at 9am.

I do hope you can attend as this matter is not new. As you mentioned in your email the CRT is acutely aware of the proble[REDACTED]. It having been supplied with clear and unequivocal evidence since May 2012 by residents impacted by the issues.

I do hope you can attend and look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22/07/2013

FYI, there was a complaint to the ASB reporting line over the weekend about some males being drunk and fighting by the canal also. There's no connection to the [REDACTED] but maybe worth consideration.

Thanks

T

22/07/2013

Dear Martin/all

I set out below how we are approaching this based on the briefing from my team. [REDACTED] will attend the meeting tomorrow to discuss.

Our policy is to respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour immediately through contact with the boats concerned to provide a warning (where a name, number or clear description has been provided), and to ensure that over-staying boats are moved on.

One of the main sources of recent complaints, not just at City Road but also in other places along the Regent's canal, is the [REDACTED], a narrowboat with attached floating stage, operated by a [REDACTED]. Gorski. His boat was originally unlicensed and our enforcement case was being advanced; [REDACTED] Gorski then purchased a licence, and he has been warned that he must respect the terms of his licence, and cease activities that cause nuisance to neighbours.

We have asked residents to supply us with any evidence of anti-social behaviour in conjunction with the Council's ASB team and it is clear that there is substantial evidence of this over the past week or so.

The next step in our enforcement process is normally to give formal warning that unless he reforms [REDACTED] his behaviour over the next 28 days, we will revoke the licence and, because he lives on the boat, apply to the court for permission to remove it from the waterway. Our normal timescales would mean that, in practice, it would probably be well into the autumn before we would be able to complete this process and remove him.

As this case is much worse than those we typically deal with, we are consulting our Legal team to explore if there are any other, more speedy, options for tackling the problem. Effective use of the Borough's stronger ASB powers may be a route to swifter action; are you still open to considering that option?

A small number of other boats have also been identified by residents as being responsible for loud parties, towpath fires and abusive behaviour. One of our enforcement officers has made contact with the offenders, where identified, with the relevant warning, in partnership with the Council and/or the Police Anti-social behaviour/Noise team [REDACTED].

My team advise that there has been improved co-ordination of action between the relevant agencies to tackle ASB and crime on the towpath for some months, with a recent meeting held on 1st July where I'm told we discussed co-ordinated action for addressing ASB and crime; establishing protocols for the sharing of information so that the Council's evidence could be used more effectively by the Trust to instigate proceedings for breaches of licence conditions; and improved information, signage and mooring rules enforcement. We would like to follow up on the possible installation of CCTV cameras to monitor the City Road area, if possible built into the borough-wide CCTV monitoring scheme; and we have also offered to provide more resources on the towpath.

Our approach to managing these issues more generally - including working with boaters and local residents together to develop shared management approaches to particular visitor moorings or other trouble spots - is being developed under the auspices of the consultative group set up with stakeholders in London, the 'Better Relationships on the Waterways in London' Group.

Once again let me assure you of our commitment to work actively to address this problem, albeit we may not have instant solutions.

Regards

Richard
Richard Parry
Chief Executive
Canal & River Trust
22/07/2013

Here's the update from the weekend. Noise were called down on Friday and served notice for nuisance as Thursday's warning had been ignored. They went back on Saturday and witnessed music noise and later in the evening, people noise.

We've had a discussion on the way forward today. [REDACTED] spoke to theCanals River Trust last week and they undertook to take action today to revoke the licence if nuisance happened over the weekend. The information has been sent and we'll check progress tomorrow. There is evidence we can use to prosecute but action will be slow. Noise are attending tonight with the police and if there is nuisance, we'll consider applying to the magistrates court for a warrant to seize. We do need more evidence than we have for this to succeed.

Licensing have been in touch with Hackney and Camden. Neither have taken any action but Hackney think the boat is on its way back through to an event. We intend to follow up the trust tomorrow and hope Hackney will join given this given that there is a potential return to them.

22/07/2013

Dear all,

Noise Patrol attended earlier tonight and the boat was not around.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

23/07/2013

I spoke to Hackney yesterday, and they claim the boat doesn't actually have a British Waterway's licence as he's only paid £1500 of the £2000 fee. If that is the case can't they refund the £1500 and tell him to remove the boat.

I appreciate it may have now have moved, but this seems a more long term solution.

23/07/2013

Spoke to [REDACTED] regrading [REDACTED] and explained that a licence was issued to the boater last week. Previously the C&RT had taken him to court for not having a licence but then he paid the remainging fee at the time and a lcence was issued- no legal action taken.

23/07/2013

The boat moved on yesterday. We'll still continue with pressure on the Trust.

23/07/2013

[REDACTED],

I 'm afraid I can't attend as this is during my working hours.

I feel very strongly that the visitor moorings should be reserved for visitors and I think every licensed boat on the network should have the opportunity to visit the Angel for a few days each year. This could never happen if the moorings were privatised or if they were used repeatedly by the same local boats.

I think you should start with a firm rule that the max stay is 7 (or 14 days) per calendar year - and not 7 days at a time.

If there is insufficient demand for these moorings from genuine visitors then I would find it acceptable to agree temporary concessions, but in the longer term we should be promoting the canal forcefully enough to encourage visitors to flock to the Angel to the point that we might one day need a booking system.

Regards, [REDACTED]

23/07/2013

Dear All,

Please see below a draft agenda for tonight's meeting, which is to discuss management arrangements at the Islington Visitor Moorings at Noel Road. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss constructively how the visitor moorings can be managed in a way that meets the needs of the various boating communities and is considerate to the environment and the amenities of the local residential community. The aim is to agree measures that are reasonable and effective, for immediate and longer term implementation.

The meeting will be at 5pm in the Town Hall, Upper St., Islington,

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Moorings Management (with reference to London Assembly investigation)
3. Understanding the issues (boating life, cruising, smoke, noise, management)
4. Management proposals - what can all parties do to support effective management/considerate behaviour
5. Next steps

We aim to finish by 7pm.

We hope to have representative from the Inland Waterways Association, so have copied in Paul Strudwick and Roger Squires for information. We will also be joined by [REDACTED], our new Project Co-ordinator for the Boating Team

I look forward to seeing you tonight.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

23/07/2013

Following the meeting at Crystal Wharf this morning we are writing to say thanks very much for your significant efforts in relation to unsociable behaviour on the canal. We felt that the main enforcement authorities were now communicating and this bodes well for a satisfactory outcome. We think that there needs to be at least one matter that is taken to its conclusion in order to demonstrate to others that even in a democracy the representatives of ordinary people are not helpless and can get a result.

We see from the Friends of Regents Canal site that you and CaRT and the police are probably at a meeting with the Noel Road residents this evening about behaviour on the stretch between Danbury Street and the tunnel.

The City Road basin stretch is very serene tonight. The swans and their young ones have dared to return and there are some fishermen and quiet passersby sitting on the towpath enjoying the evening air. What a change !

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

24/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your kind email. I'm so glad to hear that there is peace at last along this stretch of the canal, let's just hope it continues.

Yes, I met with [REDACTED] again yesterday evening and some other residents. Hopefully the Canal & River Trust will now listen to residents and implement some changes in this area.

Please let us know immediately if you should be disturbed by noise from [REDACTED] or any other boater for that matter.

Regards

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24/07/2013

Thanks [REDACTED].

I am of course of aware of our recent press release, and feel that a collaborative approach to analysing capacity and building co-operation will help us develop an effective visitor moorings policy.

We had useful discussions around how this might be achieved yesterday at our meeting to discuss pollution and management issues at the Noel Rd. moorings. I intend to continue policy discussions through the Better Relationships Group's working parties.

I'm sure we'll get there with the support of partners.

Regards

24/07/2013

Thanks [REDACTED].

I am of course of aware of our recent press release, and feel that a collaborative approach to analysing capacity and building co-operation will help us develop an effective visitor moorings policy.

We had useful discussions around how this might be achieved yesterday at our meeting to discuss pollution and management issues at the Noel Rd. moorings. I intend to continue policy discussions through the Better Relationships Group's working parties.

I'm sure we'll get there with the support of partners.

Regards

24/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I thought last night's meeting was very productive, thank you for organising this.

Please see attached our part of the nuisance complaints procedure, can you discuss with your colleagues and add the C&RT's actions in.

24/07/2013

Hi [REDACTED],

I'm pleased we made progress yesterday and focussed on constructive solutions.

Thanks for this procedure. I will circulate internally to add our actions and then we can discuss.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

24/07/2013

Hi all,

Here are my notes from yesterdays meeting, if there is anything missing please add to it and cc the changes. Thanks everyone for attending.

All best

[REDACTED]

Meeting Notes

July 23rd

Attendees

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Canal and River Trust

Sergeant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Islington Council

[REDACTED] Managing Agents for Crystal Wharf and Angel Waterside

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Residents of Crystal Wharf

If the [REDACTED] returns to the tow path between Danbury Street and Wharf Road the S80 notice issued is still valid, as is current evidence of breaches gathered to date.

[REDACTED] suggested that the tea [REDACTED] of Islington Council, CRT and the police work to a final case situation rather than piecemeal approach with the police and Islington working to perhaps produce an exclusion zone along the canal for the [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] and Islington Council to co-ordinate on a joint borough legal approach for addressing the issues arising from the presence of the [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] stressed the importance of the CRT lodging notices of breach with the Pantasic and other boats to ensure a body of evidence can be built up. [REDACTED] understood and agreed that this would potentially be a positive action in ensuring a robust way of developing a case for the authorities.

Sergeant [REDACTED] emphasised the importance of the CRT following up on it's policies and procedures regarding breaches, anti-social behaviour and sharing these with the police.

Sergeant [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to explore sharing on information protocols.

CRT to consider a temporary mooring restriction on the area the [REDACTED] moors up. All present except [REDACTED] agreed this would be a positive step and Sergeant [REDACTED] informed us that if this is the case and boats ignore the time restriction he has the co-operation of the marine police unit to remove the offending boats.

CRT has agreed to pursue the installation of CCTV in the area and [REDACTED] agreed to chase up Islington Council for the next steps to bringing this about.

CRT to chase up on its safety inspectors visit to the lock area and advise next steps to providing increased signage and the outcome of the visit.

25/07/2013

All,

It's a great shame that there were no IWA members at Tuesday's meeting, so I assume that the focus was on noise and air quality rather on tourism.

I won't be able to comment on the meeting until I see the minutes, but I am increasingly worried that the Noel Road moorings might one day lose their status as a short-stay destination for tourists.

My view is that they are a national asset and no boater, rich or poor, has a right to treat them as their home (apart from mooring w[REDACTED]s, of course). This location is priceless, and that's why I feel that every licensed boater in the country should have equal right to visit the Angel on their travels for up to 7 or 14 days a calendar year.

Unfortunately a lot of the local boaters do not share my view, even though some of them are fellow Friends of the Regent's Canal, and this puts me in a difficult position when I try to manage their expectations. There is a lot of resentment between the boaters and the Noel Road residents, but I think this has become a distraction, because the real issue for boating is that the overcrowding at these moorings is deterring people from visiting Islington for more than a few minutes and is throttling tourism. In fact, this problem extends beyond Islington, because I am getting reports that a lot of touring boaters go no further downstream than Little Venice; in the past fear of crime was a major deterrent, and now the main deterrent is mooring capacity.

Does anybody know which council officers are responsible for promoting tourism in Islington?

Regards,[REDACTED]

25/07/2013

[REDACTED]

I couldn't agree more the situation in central London is def[REDACTED]tly putting off people visiting London.

Had a long talk the other day with a couple of people who are real continuous cruisers, they spend all year traveling around the country. They had intended to spend most of the summer around London but after just a few days were heading back north. They were also telling anyone who would listen not to bother going into London. Overstaying boaters 1 tourist lost.

Regards

Paul Strudwick

25/07/2013

Dear all,

The Visitor vs. Cruiser argument was raised at Tuesdays meeting and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] made a point of saying that she did want to ensure much of the space here was for leisure boaters. In ter[REDACTED] of behaviour change and rules relating to the use of the moorings it doesn't make much difference to the effect of noise and/or smoke nuisance. I do agree that there should be some space dedicated for the sole use of tourists, however when asked, the 2 boaters present explained that there was little space to moor safely along the canal in Islington.

CRT have been asked to identify more space for mooring and we (the council) will work with them to ensure safety. We agreed that by providing additional mooring capacity this would reduce the numbers at IVM. I'm sure once this work is further developed CRT will share this with us.

I'm not sure that we have a dedicated tourism officer in Islington but I'll find the most appropriate person.

Regards

25/07/2013

[REDACTED]

Please see attached IWA's proposal for solving the problem [REDACTED] in London. You will see that in the appendix we have identified possible additional safe moorings. There are two problems [REDACTED] that the council would need to resolve to use our proposal: The moorings need planning permission for residential use; we need to find a funding stream to build and maintain the moorings.

Regards

25/07/2013

All,

Thank you for raising your concerns again, and [REDACTED] for the helpful response.

As I discussed with Paul prior to the meeting, visitor mooring availability is high on our agenda and we should be addressing it strategically across London. While this meeting focussed on the urgent noise and smoke issues, we did cover the context of boating growth and the need to create capacity for visitors. Paul's paper is helpful, but we should also consider casual mooring space while ensuring that the towpath is not filled end to end with boats.

As you know, I have already proposed a working party of the Better Relationships Group to explore these wider issues and find jointly-developed solutions for visitor moorings management. I welcome Islington Council's intention to work with us to reduce barriers to casual mooring elsewhere in the borough.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from London Boaters have already agreed to sit on the working party. I would welcome the involvement of other members of the Better Relationships Group, including the IWA and Friends of Regent's. As I mentioned, we are currently undertaking analysis and mapping work and will share this and use it as a basis for discussion when it is ready.

Can I suggest we continue this discussion at the working group? I will propose scope and meeting dates.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

26/07/2013

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] and I thought some progress had been made during the discussions at Tuesday's meeting. We look forward to receiving the minutes of this, and/or the proposals for new management generated by the information we shared on the current unsatisfactory situation at IVM, particularly at the Danbury St end where our gardens are lower and much shorter than those at the Colebrooke Row end of the gully. We will share these with our Noel Road neighbours and come back to you with our comments. I will be at meetings out of London for some of the next month, but will remain in email contact so I can quickly gather up these comments, discussing them with [REDACTED] (also away some of the time, but hoping to remain in email contact).

Meanwhile I would like to email [REDACTED], the boater at Tuesday's meeting, to invite him over for a drink one evening - in conversation after Tuesday's meeting he said he'd like that, and that I should be able to find his email address on one of the joint emails. However, I've not been able to find it, and wonder if you could send it to me. Of course checking that he is agreeable to that first if you like.

Best wishes - [REDACTED]

26/07/2013

All,

I think this is becoming urgent. The IWA issued a press release yesterday:

https://www.waterways.org.uk/news_campaigns/press_releases/canal_river_trust_visitor_mooring_s

If anybody tries to suggest that this is becoming a class war between wealthy and underprivileged boaters, then I will stress that boating also offers opportunities for inland holidays for groups and families on low budgets. These are amongst the people who are being deterred from visiting Islington.

On a more positive note, when I visited Noel Road at the weekend there were only about three boats at the moorings. It was a great improvement.

Regards, [REDACTED]