

OPEN MEETING

UMBEG – Unlawfully Moored Boats Enforcement Group

Jury Room, Town Hall

12th July 2012

Present: Chris Bell (City Leisure – OCC); Councillor Colin Cook (Lead Member); Geoff Corps (Direct Services – OCC); Jeremy Franklin (Law & Governance – OCC); Colin Hounslow (Environment Agency); Steven Miles (Environment Agency); John Copley (OCC - Chair), Karen Franklin (minutes)

Also present for open part of meeting: [REDACTED]

Agenda Item	Actions
Open meeting: There were 8 questions that had been provided prior to the meeting which are minuted as attached.	

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UMBEG Responses to questions

Previously submitted questions/issues

Questions from BOAT

BOAT group realise that UMBEG might not consider all of these idea's perceived as their area of concern but the fact that they concern the navigation and safety to boaters many mooring in area of concern to UMBEG BOAT group interested persons requests any response thought possible

Q1. Local boat arson - BOAT group requests any news that could be shared to interested parties as a number of burnt boats have been we think not at permanent moorings.

A1. This is a TVP matter. It will be of interest to river users and so RUG 1&2 will be the appropriate place to air concerns and agree how information may be shared. Any interested parties could make a request to TVP for disclosure of freedom of information.

Q2. B.W. consultation - After numerous requests to British Waterways re the boom height restriction consultation a response from Jeff Whyatt appears to BOAT members that BW are in denial with this problem.

BOAT requests UMBEG look carefully at the feedback commenting on the boom and come to their own personal and then joint conclusion as Boat is considering writing to our MP's on this matter and would like to save MP's time. We also request that the safety reporting procedures of the E.A. and BW are investigated by UMBEG as B.W. and the E.A. are refusing to investigate pontoon and boom caused accident and incident reported by third party witnesses as requested.

A2. UMBEG is not in a position to investigate partner organisations. JSC reported that the Canal & River Trust (formally British Waterways) have been asked to discuss the issues directly with BOAT.

Q3. Sheep wash direction of flow - After the change in the direction of flow on the Sheepwash due to a restriction of flow over the Castle mill weir reasonably presumed because of the on going incidents with the boom caused by its wrong location on the river.

Have UMBEG considered the implications of increasing the flow down the main channel to Osney lock?

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A3. UMBEG has no control over the flows. UMBEG is supportive of the boom but the floating construction has no bearing on the flows of water.

Q4. Isis lock - People attending BOAT meetings have expressed safety concerns to the failing stone structure and access to the lock from the towpath can this be addressed by UMBEG?

A4. This is not within the remit of UMBEG

Q5. Mooring signs - Why are no mooring signs exhibited by Abbey Road when only three house holds on Abbey Road have complained to city council and the majority of residents are happy to have boats located by Abbey Road?

A5. The signage has been erected in response to residents' concerns, which have also been shared with local Councillors. In terms of numbers, the City Council survey (as part of an enforcement operation) revealed 20 concerned households of the 49 riverside households. This number differs from the BOAT survey which it is understood was conducted face to face on a cold calling basis.

Q6. Oxford City Canal Partnership - We think we should report that notification of OCCP meetings has been stopped to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] hence a lack of attendance

A6. Noted however this is a matter for the Canal Partnership not UMBEG

Q7. RUG 1&2 - Does UMBEG have any information as when this group meets as John Copley advised people of BOAT to attend these meetings. Numerous email attempts have been made to make progress in this direction with no response and Karen Franklin has informed that she has also tried with out success.

A7. All contact information held by UMBEG has been passed on to BOAT; UMBEG does not have a date for the next RUG meeting.

Q8. Meeting re moorings with EA and Councillor Colin Cook - Yes please to meetings can dates be offered.

Thinking at present is for low environmental impact mooring points with Health and Safety standards required to the whole mooring system. Low density spacing is proposed to allow places for visiting boats and the vast majority of the Oxfords waterways clear for the river and canal environment.

Area's of varying suitability, possibly mooring community groups rather than group and fee banding dependant on area and facility provision.

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City council owned /operated canal side land. On the River, Godstow and upstream to city limits, Port meadow temporary moorings area's, The navigable Castle Millstream, Tumbling Bay, Fiddlers Island, Safe parts of Abbey Road Reach , Below Osney Lock (signs are these viewed as enforceable?), Oxpens meadow, Grand Point, Long Bridges, Donnington Bridge. Down stream to and past Iffley lock to the city limits.

A8. *BOAT are advised that Councillor Cook is happy to meet. BOAT need to provide Councillor Cook with a detailed list of identified sites in advance of any meeting and to contact him to arrange a mutually convenient date and time. The EA advised that they will look at each individual case on its merit taking into account impact to navigation, flood defence, dry access in times of flood, loss of temporary mooring, adequate facilities etc.*