



NOTES OF MEETING

Title London Waterways Forum
Date 19 October 2016
Venue London Canal Museum

Each speaker's slides are available in a separate document.

The meeting started with a brief introduction from Jon Guest, London Waterway Manager.

Jeannette Brooks, the Development & Engagement Manager, then presented a review of the exercises and round-table discussions held at the last Forum, when Forum Members were asked how they wanted the Forum to work in future.

She identified the top subjects that Forum members said they wished to discuss, and invited the Forum to vote on which ones they wanted to talk about tonight. The Forum then broke out into 4 groups for round-table discussions on Navigation (enforcement) x 2, Anti-social behaviour, and 'Experience' of the waterway.

Forum Discussion – Jeannette Brooks

Navigation round-table 1: Enforcement Issues

- More transparency required on the Trust's processes and how they are implemented.
- More demonstrating of the process in force.
- There's a considerable difference between the Trust's perception of how things are going and the public's perception.
- Action:
 - More visibility from the Trust: put notices on boats, put them back on boats if they've been taken off, tow boats away.
 - Is there a legal opinion that disobeying the mooring rules is a navigational obstruction?
- We need an Enforcement Subgroup of the Forum to look at these issues.

	STOP	START	CONTINUE	ACTION
ME				
THE FORUM				
THE TRUST		More visible notices on boats. More transparency in enforcement process.		
OTHERS				

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
More visible notices on boats. Re-issue notices if removed.	Trust bank staff and enforcement.	

Safety round-table: Anti-social Behaviour

- Reporting, identifying, sharing professional information.
- ASB Subgroup to help identify contacts

	STOP	START	CONTINUE	ACTION
ME		Integrating.		Feedback useful contacts.
THE FORUM		Integrating. Educating others.		
THE TRUST		Integrating. Educating others. Liaise with police and local authority.	Better identification of locations for reporting. Continue with Share the Space.	Feedback useful contacts. Trust to liaise and start project.
OTHERS		Integrating. Police get more involved.	Operation Kraken	

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Start and continue to liaise with professional partners and develop with them means for identifying locations and access points.	Trust	
Individuals and the Forum to provide useful contacts	Forum and individuals	
Continue with Share the pace	Trust and individuals	

Navigation round-table 2: Enforcement Issues

- Enforcement:
 - Report overstayers
 - Clearer guidelines on what to report.
- Fairer mooring:
 - Bookable moorings for everyone, not just those in London
- Fairer licencing:
 - Charge by area. This would requires a legislation change.

Only the Trust can really make the changes.

	STOP	START	CONTINUE	ACTION
ME		Report overstayers.		
THE FORUM				
THE TRUST				Clearer guidelines on enforcement. Bookable moorings for all customers. Charge for licences by area.
OTHERS				Clearer legislation and case law for enforcement. Change legislation to enable different licencing charges.

Experience Team:

- Nature / eco-friendly
 - More celebration of green urban space
 - More adoptions
 - More wildflower planting
 - Green Flag status
- History / legacy / children
 - Joint ventures with the London Canal Museum
 - Active involvement and more canoeing / kayaking

	STOP	START	CONTINUE	ACTION
ME		Visitors / users to look after nature.	Boater towpath gardening.	
THE FORUM				
THE TRUST		Outreach with schools.	Vegetation maintenance Wildflower planting Green Flag Maintain heritage Programme for Jena	Partnership with the London Canal Museum.
OTHERS		Outreach with schools. Kids in canoes.	Adoptions. Councils – Green Flag.	

High Speed 2 and the London Waterway – Peter Walker

Can we secure funding for the link to the Thames from the Slough Arm?

This suggestion has been noted.

Can you comment on the rumour that spoil from new tunnels will be used to fill in lakes near Harefield Marina?

This seems unlikely but Peter will investigate.

Will the canal be used for transport?

This has been considered and we will continue to explore roles for the canal.

Better Towpaths for Everyone – Susannah Miller

Will the edge on cable covers between Ladbroke Grove and Old Oak Lane be smoothed out?

Yes.

How will we ensure that the “Lycra Brigade” don’t take over?

The Quietways project is about encouraging people who wouldn't normally cycle on to the route. We will continue our Share the Space campaigns in coordination with this project to encourage more considerate cycling and a space shared with children, the less confident, etc.

Who is paying for the management of vegetation?

TfL is making the initial investment but then the Trust will take on responsibility for maintenance.

London Mooring Strategy – Sorwar Ahmed

Will the new system for bookable moorings at Rembrandt Gardens continue with the system of changeover days?

No, there won't be changeover days as a new online booking system will enable people to book the days they want.

Is there to be charging at Rembrandt Gardens?

Yes. But remember that there are just two moorings at Rembrandt Gardens, and the vast majority of visitor moorings in central London will remain free.

Does 7 day visitor moorings bring any advantages? Why aren't there more 2 day moorings?

Encouraging churn is one of our goals and there's definitely a role for 7 day visitor moorings, and the Mooring Strategy will be considering shorter stay times too.

Anglers would like to see mooring under cables encouraged.

Sorwar will consider this.

Are moorers on the Lee and Stort prepared for flash floods?

We have a focus on education for those who are new to boating and will be launching factsheets.

Why is the new tap at Ponders End not working?

The water company have yet to connect it. We are keen to see this resolved as soon as possible.

Where do boaters report where dredging is required?

Please email information through to enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk. It will be recorded in our system.

Enforcement in London – Simon Cadek

Simon gave a presentation on enforcement activity in London. Boat removals are a last resort at the end of the enforcement process. 24 boats have been removed from our waters since January 2016. 10 more have confirmed court dates with 16 awaiting dates.

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