



MINUTES

Title	Navigation Advisory Group (Licensing and Mooring)
Date	08 February 2016
Venue	Hatton
Attendees	Mike Annan (Chair), Sam Worrall, Mark Tizzard, Tim Parker, Lee Wilshire, Paul Le Blique, Gren Messham, Beryl McDowall, Dave Williams, Alison Tuck, Julian Kennard (EA), Mike Grimes, Matthew Symonds, Denise Yelland.
Apologies	Ann Farrell, Clive Henderson, Diane Warner

		Action
1.	NAG Terms of Reference Matthew Symonds (MS) circulated the draft NAG ToR from 2012. MS will liaise with Roger Hanbury to finalise the update. Mike Annan (MA) commented that the NAG had fed back on the draft ToR some time ago. MS to make sure these comments are considered and feed into the revised ToR. Any comments or questions about the ToR to be sent to MS by 31/03/16	MS
2.	London Mooring Strategy MS gave a brief overview of the London Mooring Strategy and outlined the objectives of this project (see slides). The meeting broke into three smaller groups to discuss and comment on the six key themes the strategy will consider (see separate notes). MS confirmed that as the mooring strategy develops the NAG will be asked to consider and comment on different proposals.	All ANO
3.	Boat Owners Views survey MS thanked NAG members for their comments on the draft Boat Owners Views survey. Many of the comments have been incorporated and further work has been undertaken to shorten the survey (one of the main comments was the survey was too long). The survey will be sent out to a third of our boating customers in the next two weeks. A separate, slightly amended survey will be sent to our business boating customers a little later in the year.	
4.	NAG member issues South East Visitor Moorings/Short Term Mooring Framework Mark Tizzard (MT) raised concerns about the proposed changes to 14 day moorings in Marsworth and Berkhamsted. MT stated that he has no issue with changes if CRT were able to prove the need to introduce short-stay moorings. However he did not feel that the	

boat sighting information collected provided doesn't seem to show a shortage of mooring space or evidence for what was being proposed. MT has received calls from members of the association saying that they had no issue mooring at Marsworth or Berkhamsted. MT added that Berkhamsted was a popular location for boaters who had purchased 2014/15 General Towpath Winter Mooring permits and CRT did not object to boats mooring in this area then.

Tim Parker (TP) outlined how he had been involved in the development of the Short Term Mooring Framework for change that was intended to ensure any changes were based on sound evidence. TP expressed concern that he felt the framework had not been followed and that he also felt the need for the changes proposed had not been proved.

Alison Tuck (AT) said that she had received feedback that local Berkhamsted residents welcomed having boats in the town and that they also opposed the proposed restrictions.

Paul Le Blique (PLB) expressed concern that there was a perception by some boaters that if it were implemented that this change would be used as an example and rolled out elsewhere on the network.

MS stated that there were a wide range of views on the proposed moorings from boaters and others. All the comments and views fed into the consultation will be considered. It is a genuine consultation, no decision has been made yet.

MA commented that two years ago when NAG consider the original SE Mooring proposals we voiced and minuted considerable unhappiness. The mooring framework was introduced to prevent this but in the case of Berhamstead it does not appear to have been followed since evidence of problems was not available.

Mike Grimes (MG) agreed that he would work with MS and TP to look in more detail at the boat sighting data collected, how this has informed the proposals and how the Framework has been followed.

MG/MS/TP

Winter Moorings

MS provided the headline winter mooring income figure for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

In 2014/15 WM income was £389,308.29,
3662 months of WM / 863 WM permits were sold

In 2015/16 WM income was £183,878.03,

1319 months of WM / 462 permits were sold

MS clarified that it was very difficult to compare this year's WM income with last due to a number of differences. In 2015/16 WM were available for 4 months instead of 5, no central London winter moorings were sold, no general towpath winter mooring permits were available (in 2014/15 these accounted for almost 60% of all winter mooring permits sold) and in 2015/16 most short-stay moorings were relaxed to 14 days making the availability of mooring for those boaters who wanted to continuously cruising through the winter easier.

TP asked for clarification on the difference in the 2015/16 total income from WM circulated in the minutes (£321,636.63) and the figure provided at the meeting (£389,308.29). MS to check with Sian Ferry (SF).

MS

Clarification – the figure provided at the meeting includes a few additional permits sold after the WM report was published and also includes VAT not added to the lower figure.

5. **Any other Business**

PLB asked for clarification as to whether operation issues could be raised at the L&M meeting and whether these would be fed to the NAG ops meeting. MG and MA confirmed that they could and that between them they would take issues raised to the ops meeting.

PLB raised concerns about unpowered boats and canoes using tunnels and the implications for the safety of these boats.

PLB asked whether the proposed introduction of pull stops on lock gates had been halted. MG and GM confirmed that this had been halted. PLB reported that locks the Buckby Flight do not have pull stops but that two new gates installed have had these installed. Would these be removed in light of the decision not to introduce these on all locks?

MG/MA to raise this issue at NAG ops.

MG/MA

A question was asked about the likely impact of the recent flooding in the north on planned works. MG reported that the damage was in excess of £10 million and that although CRT have launched an appeal and received some funding from the government it was likely that some planned non-essential maintenance work would be put back so that resources could be redirected to repair more urgent flood damage.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 6 June, 11am – 3.30pm in Milton Keynes. Note the slightly later start time to allow for people travelling to Milton Keynes by train.

Beryl McDowell asked if it would be possible to join the meeting by video conference. MS will clarify with Amanda Crossland as most of the meeting will be discussing business license web automation process. If Amanda wants to do workshop style it may be difficult for people to join by VC.

DRAFT