

APPENDIX F:

Facebook Testimonials

Taken from the Facebook Page:

Stop The Destruction of London's Boating Communities:

<https://www.facebook.com#!/pages/Stop-the-destruction-of-London-boating-communities/207781785905734>

- it seems that the cost of London moorings are soaring and driving the less rich out-this is typical of how a working mans pleasure is turned into a rich mans play thing-not right really but this happens time and time again"
- So this is the River Lea in London (taken on the long bank holiday weekend). It's just so over-crowded with boats according to British Waterways that something must be done about it..." - picture of an empty stretch of the River Lea posted
- I'm not a part of the boating community but it is lovely to cycle alone the waterways and see them being used - keep up the good work! "
- Its absurd !"
- I just noticed that a mooring Kings cross side of Islington Tunnel went for £17.5k for 12 months. Who can afford to pay this sort of a price for 60ft of space on top of a boat, license and all the maintenance? ONLY RICH PEOPLE!!! The sad thing is its probably only going to be used for a holiday every now and then... From a depressed boater..."
- I live just off the Regents Canal and walk my dog there every evening. In the winter when I have to do the walk in the dark I chose to walk along the part of the canal with the most boats - it's just safer that way. The towpath at night can sometimes be dangerous and the best way to combat that is to have people living there. A deserted canal is a dangerous canal."
- talk about British Waterways making life difficult for people who do so much good for our city!
one can't help but notice the Olympics are around the corner..
- keep the family spirit - let the boating community alone...My nephew lives on a canal boat

- These plans are blind and backward. They have no benefits for the future of the canals OR the boating communities, OR EVEN the so-called tourists of the olympics. British waterways should be ashamed of themselves....Good friends are residents who i stay with regulary
- a close relation lives on the waterways...leave the peaceful boaters be!
- Clearly this is social cleansing for the olympics..digusting...local resident
- Stop the social cleansing of the waterways!!!
- I support you in your fight. I think your comment was deleted..? I'm a walker, resident of Tottenham and someone who likes having different groups contribute to our vibrant community, of course boaters included
- It's a sad indictment that it seems not even the waterways are safe from the rich and ugly taking over. Good luck to all you boaters!
- BW is full of over zealous pompous people. They are ill mannered, selfish, disrespectful and have no idea of the importance of the boating communities in this country. It is a shame that the majority of the general public have no idea how cruel BW can be and often are, causing people suffering. The public generally see the gloss of the... hire boats and not the underbelly of the communities that live and work our canals. We cannot afford to lose these communities due to mindless acts of ignorant people who may keep our rivers clean and may maintain the canals to some degree but not to the sacrifice of the boating communities that are traditional, historic and a vein of living which should be esteemed and not decimated. I support your cause and other communities.

I am sure there is strength in solidarity, which you certainly have in such a tight community. I hope BW will consider something less extreme and draconian seeming... A compromise will almost definitely be needed from both sides... Good luck to you all.

- Boat Folk we support you. Low carbon living, you should be getting all the support you need.
- I love my way of life being a continuous cruiser in London and can't bear the thought of a lifestyle according to BW's set of regulations.where's the evidence of our negative impact?

- Seems like an extreme solution to some simple issues. Why can't they police the law as it is
- Sounds like an infringement of your human rights to me, so I wish you all the best with your campaign.
- Totally unjoined up thinking, what do they think they are acheiving? Does it all come down to money?
- I was born on a narrow boat and have vague but very fond memories. This unique way of life and the associated traditions must be preserved. Good luck to you all.
- As a friend of a boater, I have witnessed the fantastic community boaters have during my stays on her boat. I love how everyone knows each other and is willing to help each other out. It has taken me 3 years to get to know just some of the people on my road - enforcing fixed moorings would destroy the charm of London's canals, and their unique communities.
- Part of the problem seems to be the underhand way BW have merged the perceived problem of CCers with their (very real) cash flow problems. These issues should be addressed separately. We also face opposition from some of those with fixed moorings who don't like us cluttering up their playground and have limited patience for new boaters making mistakes. They won't be aware of all the little things we do to make the canals a better place until we're not there anymore.
- Guess what? After travellers, (currently) squatters and now boaters, another alternative lifestyle choice is under threat. You boat owners just should not be allowed your cheaper and slightly different way of life. Go and get an expensive mortgage that ties you to one place!
- Why and who are trying to get rid of the boating communities??? How dare they? Everyone has a right to enjoy the rivers and keep them free running and looking pleasant. Not full of dumped shopping trolleys!!! I love boating as and when I can and am looking forward to fulfilling an ambition to live aboard as soon as I can. Thames, Medway or anywhere I feel like.
- London boaters have opened up new areas on the River Lea & canals as secure places to go. I've personally been saved from muggers by passing boaters
- Constant Cruising is a valid life style that needs protecting

- It is wonderful to see the boats moored up on the canal; community spirit often at its best. We walk our dogs on the tow path and local park, Brent River Park/ Grand Union (Junction). If anything there should be more provision of moorings for narrow boats and wide beam. They all add to the colourful character and foster memories albeit created by sentiment.
- I live in Cambridge right by the river Cam...our house boaters are probably also under threatit's outrageous! I am a would be houseboat dweller and am not happy that the choice of an alternative , ecologically sound way of life is fast becoming a non option.
- Blissfull boater...It seems that any sense of an alternative community is now something to be discouraged. Could you imagine imposing such restrictions on road users?
- on your side totally - from the tradition to the present - all aspects - without the residents the canals will be either a dead space or a rich boys playground
- I'm a local, cyclist and walker and friend. Boaters make the waterways and parks safer, more attractive and more useable. They are an example of a local, 'bottom-up Big Society' initiative that the government have said that they applaud therefore the government should be supporting them. It's a fantastic example of an eco-friendly, community-minded, affordable and healthy housing solution
- My son and his wife have lived on a narrowboat in London for years. They have a simple and ecology-friendly community lifestyle which also helps to make rather bleak stretches of canal look busy and attractive... I am appalled by any move to put an end to this way of life. Urban waterways look and feel better with sympathetic human occupation here and there - ask any tourist board or development authority.
- I'm a Continuous Cruiser who has been trying to open a mooring in East London for about four years! Needless to say that the BW proposals are threatening my Work, Community and creative life as well as my democratic rights and access to healthcare. Please everyone email damian.kemp@britishwaterways.co.uk with your views!
- Walker and local resident. Since the increase in the use of temporary moorings below City Road Lock I haven't had a single incidence of something being thrown or abuse from the thugs living on the Packington Estate. Boaters make the towpath safer.

- I'm a walker and a cyclist. The community of boaters is something I'm very proud we have in London, it's an option away from the mortgages and extortionate rents, an alternative way of living and being mindful of the resources we share. Friends of mine call the waterways their home, and it is wrong to introduce legislation that would marginalise. I feel safer walking the paths knowing friends and families are closeby, to remove the option for people to live this way is unfair and motivated by money - they make it safer and show a more positive and considered way of living.
- as someone who has worked in urban regeneration under the heading 'urban design against violence', i believe i speak out for a great many in recommending an encouragement of more narrowboat life on london's historic canals rather than legislating numbers down or attempting to raise money through implementing fines. one would not have ...to do much research in to the history of successful regenerative projects or look at very many case studies to realize that an active and very often highly creative community presence like this saves a lot of money by getting rid of a lot of crime. furthermore authorities do not have to pay out any salaries. a comparative study of waterway budgets / law enforcement budgets on the subject of the use value of narrowboat communities please.
- Are we back to the 1980s again? People who want to be a bit different are always seen as a problem by the authorities, who will always listen to the handful of vocal Mr Grousers rather than the silent majority of people who enjoy the colour and diversity provided by waterway residents.
- Typical BW mentality in there ever increasing attempt to get rid of all boats on the waterways so they will not have to spend any of our money on maintenance and repairs from a rapidly deteriorating canal system and balance the books to look good for the proposed "heritage status " next year
- I walk, I cycle and I daydream along the canals. They're beautiful, but without the boats, they would just become concrete trenches filled with water. They are the among the last urban dwellers who can look out of the windows in the morning without seeing an advert for something useless. Are they being threatened because they don't consume enough??
- our canals and waterways are in a good state because they are used and kept in check by the boating com. . its in their own interest, why would anyone have a go them. i love to down to the river in the summer, for a pint, and watch the boats, barges and canoes go by and now and then, stop for a pint

- The boating community of the UK is something to be proud of, part of our culture and history in its own right. Please, leave it be.
- I don't live on a boat, but have an interest in how communities are established, sustained and valued.
Having read the comments below, the Guardian article and the Info page on here it really does seem that British Waterways is looking for an easy way to boost their income, and perhaps to 'clean up' the area for the Olympics at the expense of destroying a community.
The boaters' objections to the BW proposals are more reasoned than BW's reasons for the changes, in my opinion.
- BW dont want to destroy the river community. They just want to extort money from us, and, in Sally Ash's words "control" us. There are no problems with other users, only apparently from "anonymous" people. Which I believe is an invention of BW.
- I've never lived on a boat, but strangely enough I've never met anyone unpleasant that did. Maybe I've just lived a sheltered existence, but something of the experience seems to develop practically-minded, friendly, sensible folk who aren't minded to get wound up about things.
If they're upset by these proposals, I have little doubt that it's the proposals that are wrongheaded. I hope British Waterways see sense and listen to their reasonable objections.
- dreadful proposals! why are they trying to change..why "fix" something that's not broken. crazy. really hope you have your voices listened too. just because you house isn't bricks and mortar doesn't mean it's any less a home, to propose such restrictions to families and their homes is truely ludicrous. good luck with the fight!
- i dont live on a boat but my son daughter in law and grandson do the days ive had on the river with them is nice and peaceful the river is there home so please dont take it from them and all the other families on the lea
- there are 3 generations of my family on the river lea, we dont want to lose it, i want my son to grow up with the river ways and morrals, surrounded by beautiful people, we have a duty to protect our waterways all across the country.
- The river is everyones to enjoy and play,, relax and live!! I've lived on and around the river Stort all my life!! The boating community is a major part of that!!

How can they delete the true custodians of this beautiful waterway,,, And other systems!!! I'm lost for words,,, so BALLS!!!!!!

- Apart from anything else, towpaths are safer places to walk when there are people living right alongside them.
- Leave the boaters be. They are a valuable part of the London landscape.
- I'm not from London or the Uk but this is one of those things that should not be erased from the day to day life of a city. I've been to London and it's so nice to see it and walk across the river and see the boats, that are part of the landscape and so perfectly blend in. How many children are curious when they see them and imagining... that they are at those boats up and down the river... even creates a secure atmosphere as there are people living there you know that you are not alone and therefore some dangerous situations are avoided while you walk across the river... please fight to show to the ones that want to finish with your community that perhaps they can regulate it better but YOU are part of it and should not disappear...
- I am a cyclist, walker and friend of boaters and I love them. They choose a sustainable way of living and don't disturb anyone by doing that. One of the reasons why I love London is the canal and its boats. If they disappear, of London's magic and charm'd be disappearing.
- "Boaters are what bring vitality and life to our canals and rivers.....' - so says Sally Ash of British Waterways ! She also says "Local boaters, walkers, cyclists, anglers and residents who use the waterways in the area have been telling us for some time that the number of boats moored in this area is a problem....' but doesn't explain what the problem is or how many people think it's an issue !
Seems to me that there's plenty of room in the area for all who wish to use it, and I wonder if there are other agendas afoot ?
Good luck to all involved in this group !
- I'm not a boater, but it's plain to see that the boating community is good for London. Ecologically speaking, it's a pace at which we can reasonably live. Aesthetically, it's pleasing on the eye. Someone needs to put the brakes on this breakneck need to put our heritage on the scrapheap.