



British Waterways Revised Mooring Policy

Notes of Meeting Wednesday 12th January 2011 Myddelton House

Present

Sally Ash	British Waterways
Madge Bailey	Madge Bailey Associates
Stephen Wilkinson	LVRPA
Claire Martin	LVRPA
Martin Page	LVRPA
Janet Green	LVRPA

Notes of meeting

Overview

Madge Bailey Associates engaged by BW to prepare a Mooring Management Plan for the Lee and Stort Navigations. The Management Plan is to focus on problem sites (both long term and short term) and better controls on towpath mooring.

Principle of 4 neighbourhood zones along the Lee identified within which

- Continuous cruisers would be allowed maximum 14 days stay
- Hot spots where period would be reduced to 7 days
- Extended stay fees would be chargeable for any overstays

Approx 10 Hot spots have been identified using collected data and LVRPA knowledge but thought will be given to perhaps only enforcing 3 or 4 of these initially to allow monitoring and charging system to be trialed.

Data collection, monitoring, enforcement etc

BW boat is currently travelling along the whole Lee Navigation documenting both offside and towpath mooring. Off side mooring sites will be investigated to identify landowners.

To enforce proposed neighbourhood zones and hot spots, there is a need for personnel to regularly patrol to

- Record boat sightings
- Report misuse of river and environs
- Issue suite of warning notices re overstaying and extended fee claims

BW have one member of staff covering area which will not be sufficient to collect robust data. LVRPA willing for staff to be involved in reporting but cannot offer a regular patrol – data would be collected on an as/when basis.

Suggestions made re the possibility of using casual staff i.e. fishing bailiffs / waterway operators etc who could be paid for each piece of data submitted. They would need to register themselves as a volunteer for BW to be covered under BW's insurance.

If BW are to enforce on LVP land and, perhaps vice versa, an agreement will need to be drawn up and signed by both parties.

Extended stay fees would be set at such a level as to deter people from staying too long and would escalate as time progressed. They would be payable by phone. Non-payment would lead to a debt appearing on a boater's account which would eventually lead to Small Claims Court action.

Consultation

Madge Bailey to produce Draft Management Plan and discuss it with interested parties along the Navigation – not just boating organisations – anglers / walkers / cyclists neighbouring landowners etc by April.

Previously suggested that a conference / workshop be set up for local authority councillors and officers but it was felt that it would be difficult to gain meaningful attendance from them so it is likely that BW will arrange visits to each Authority.

Residential Mooring

SW re-enforced the Park's opposition to the idea of authorised permanent residential moorings.

Reporting

JG to prepare brief update paper for Lower Lea Valley Committee in February and group to aim to take Paper to Authority in April with BW attendance at meeting.