



Cambridge visitor moorings ban reversed by City Council following campaign by GOBA and local boaters

Following a strenuous campaign by GOBA and the resignation of the councillor who decided to ban visitors, a meeting with the revised Council group resulted in agreement to re-instate the 48 hour visitor moorings with immediate effect. The six residential boats have been found places amongst the other 70 licensed boats as was suggested by GOBA and the residential support group 'Camboaters' to the Council right from the start.

In April, GOBA (the Great Ouse Boating Association) wrote to Cambridge City Council stating its intention to apply to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the proceedings of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor's decision to allow six residential boats to take-over the only city visitor moorings for at least this year, as '*they [the owners] were reliant upon living on a boat in Cambridge*'.

Chris Grant, chairman of GOBA said "This is a victory for common sense and for the thousands of boaters who have visited Cambridge over the years. In 2006, we were facing the prospect of wiping Cambridge off the tourist boating map but now we can again look forward to a future that includes this great city in our cruising. We would like to thank all the boating organisations and press who have given tremendous support, particularly the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) for their legal assistance and Camboaters for making space available within their licensed area. The original decision to ban visitors was desperately short-sighted and triggered an emotional and vigorous reaction amongst boaters to protect their right to moor overnight in Cambridge, as would be expected in any other town or city en route.

There is still work to be done to formulate a sensible mooring policy as the re-instated mooring does not yet include the original bank opposite adjacent to Jesus lock as it should. Some of the proposals by the Council to make boaters pre-book on the internet and pay for mooring, indicate to us how little they understand the traditions, practicalities and needs of boaters. We are confident though that we can work proactively with the revised Council team and with Camcon who are responsible for the Cam and other local boating groups to resolve this before the 2007 season".

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Regular campaign updates at www.goba.org.uk/cambridge

Notes to editors:

The River Great Ouse is a popular navigable river with extremely high numbers of boat users. It is managed by the Environment Agency and links near Ely onto the River Cam which flows from Cambridge and beyond.

The Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) which has been established for over 40 years has over 3000 members and is run entirely by a committee of seasoned boaters who volunteer their time and experience for the benefit of the Great Ouse Boating Community.

GOBA is the independent voice to represent the views and concerns of local boaters to official bodies such as Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and other organisations.

The GOBA website is regularly updated and gives details of issues relating to navigation as well as local news from around the area and links to the EA and other websites. www.goba.org.uk

Being a member of GOBA also has the benefit of being able to use mooring sites along the river that are owned/leased/rented by GOBA – there are currently 19 sites along the River Great Ouse.

The Environment Agency is a government agency funded by DEFRA – its aim is to manage the healthy growth of waterways for leisure, business, local communities and wildlife.

Camcon , the Conservators have been the navigation authority for the River Cam Since 1702. Their jurisdiction stretches from Mill Pond (Silver Street, Cambridge) to Bottisham Lock, with lesser responsibilities up-stream to Byron's Pool.

Clerks to the Conservators: Archer and Archer, Market Place, Ely CB7 4QN

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Camboaters is a vibrant and diverse boating community based in Cambridge, UK. In 2004, the Camboaters Community Association (CCA) was formed to represent the rights of residential boaters on the River Cam and to tackle issues that impact on their community. Their social network is supported by an active online discussion board, a variety of events, and regular news letters. www.camboaters.co.uk

The Environment Agency – Anglian Region

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