



ISLINGTON VISITOR MOORINGS MANAGEMENT PLAN: November 2013

19 NOVEMBER 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

This management plan is designed to address the conflicts arising from noise and smoke pollution at the Islington Visitor Moorings, to the rear of Noel Road, Angel, Islington.

The plan results from a period of consultation with local residents, boater groups, and Islington Council. It presents the final management plan following feedback on proposals published on 20 September 2013, which closed for consultation on 4 October.

The plan is being implemented as a trial. It will be monitored continuously, and reviewed after four months (i.e. after 31st March 2014), to assess its impact and effectiveness. The implementation programme is shown in Section 5. Individual measures will be introduced on a step by step basis subject to commissioning (e.g. permanent signage, caretaker boaters) and other consents, with temporary measures installed in the interim.

This plan includes:

- This plan document
- Appendix 1 – Management measures
- Appendix 2 – New signage
- Appendix 3 – Monthly Usage of Moorings Report template
- Appendix 4 – Noise/Smoke Survey form

2. OUR APPROACH

The response to the proposals of 20 September shows that views are polarised. While there is support for the principle of improving the management of the moorings, there is no consensus on how far any new measures should go. Local residents want tough restrictions which are unacceptable to boaters. Boaters are prepared to accept some restrictions, but do not accept that they need to be as draconian as residents request. The Trust has to make a balanced judgement and cannot satisfy everyone.

Having weighed the arguments from both sides very thoroughly, we have concluded that the sensible route is to focus on measures that have the greatest chance of achieving two key objectives:

1. Reduction in nuisance noise and smoke events at the visitor moorings
2. Greater turnover of boats visiting the moorings – more genuine visitors making use of the moorings.

We will monitor progress using the measures proposed below and will publish monthly reports based on these, so both boaters and residents and measure change.

3. SUMMARY OF MEASURES

The management measures to be implemented are:

- Designation of the Islington Visitor Moorings as a Quiet Zone, including limiting engine and generator noise to background level
- Continued daily weekday (and occasional weekend) sightings of boats by our enforcement team with prompt warning letters where overstay or nuisance is identified
- Introduction of single line mooring in winter, maximum double berthing in summer
- Investigating recruiting monthly rotating 'Caretaker Boaters' to moor up, remaining in situ for 1 month, to advise and provide information to boaters, report local incidents, and liaise with residents and agencies
- New signage to reinforce Quiet Zone messages and new mooring arrangements
- Deployment of two new two part-time Mooring Rangers to provide regular towpath presence, including weekends, to provide information, raise awareness of boating protocols, and implement mooring rules
- Investment in DEFRA funded project for an Environmental Health apprentice to provide boaters with environmental advice, training and assessments

These measures are described in Appendix 1.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Measures to reduce noise and smoke events

- I) Increased communication with boaters, using a variety of channels including information and advice leaflets, new signage and face to face conversations with mooring rangers.
- II) Work with Islington Council environmental health team for them to advise on good practice in promoting and enforcing measures to reduce nuisance. Offer proactive training and support to all boaters at the moorings regarding switching to cleaner and quieter technology.
- III) Regular patrols of the moorings to assess compliance with the new mooring rules, communicate good practice, and record breaches of mooring rules and licence terms and conditions.
- IV) Provide early, formal warnings when advice goes unheeded, and gather evidence to underpin prosecution. In this we look to support from Islington Council which has expertise in recording and evaluation of evidence for prosecution.
- V) Proceed through process for enforcing licencing terms and conditions where formal warnings unheeded. The process provides for a 'probationary' period where further breaches may result in the loss of boat licence.
- VI) Introduce changes to mooring arrangements to limit the level of smoke and noise generated, particularly in winter, while maintaining capacity for visitors during the summer:
 - 1st October – 31st March – single line berthing only
 - 1st April to 30th September – double line berthing permitted (no triple berthing permitted)

This will be linked to better communication with boaters to highlight stay durations, identify suitable alternative moorings, and inform about the boat sightings regime and enforcement procedures. Close links with our enforcement team will also enable non-compliance to be dealt with early.

How we will monitor progress

- Weekly monitoring of complaints and mooring ranger patrol records
- Number of formal warnings issued each month

- Number of open cases in evidence gathering process
- Weekly surveys of noise and smoke events completed by Noel Road residents' representatives, subject to residents' support:
 - Residents provided with a simple spreadsheet on which to record daily 'smoke' and 'noise' incidents, to be submitted weekly. CRT will use these to create monthly reports to assess the level of incidents experienced during the previous month.
 - This would not be in place of registering complaints, rather it is to gain a picture of whether issues are getting better or worse over a given period of time.
 - The survey would not need to include boat numbers, but these could be provided optionally. The survey is intended to provide a qualitative assessment of when, and for how long, nuisance has been experienced. The survey form would be structured to measure nuisance from air and noise pollution, with a subjective intensity rating from 1 to 5.
 - Submission of weekly surveys would be purely voluntary on the part of Noel Road residents. We would publish monthly statistics of the assessments and they would be a factor we would take into account in planning the next month's mooring ranger shift patterns, and in providing feedback to caretaker boaters.

4.2 Measures to increase the turnover of boats visiting the moorings

- I) Review stay durations and 'no return' rule after trial period
 - Keep the maximum stay time at 7 days for the trial period
 - On balance, based on the reassurance from responsible members of the boating community that the great majority of boaters would have greater respect for the less authoritarian approach, we have decided that for an initial four month trial, we will not specify return rules.
 - This site is designated as a 'Visitor Mooring', which is a short term mooring designed to manage demand at popular locations. The term 'visitors' can include a wide range of boats, from those with a home mooring to continuous cruisers travelling the network, to those who predominantly spend their time in London. Leisure visitors are generally either boaters from further afield spending a relatively short period in the capital, or boaters with a London home mooring generally making short leisure cruises. We would not want to restrict the frequency with which leisure and occasional visitors to the Capital can use the moorings (unless we identify that they do not regularly return to their home mooring, in which case we will deal with the matter as a potential false home mooring declaration).
- II) Enforcement against boats that are moving insufficiently
 - Boaters have pointed out that continuous cruisers – which account for the largest volume of boats in London – must in any case make a continuous journey that prevents them from frequent return visits. We are implementing a programme of enforcement against boats which are not navigating sufficiently to satisfy our guidance for licence holders, focussing initially on those who move the least. This will extend to other boats that are not moving sufficiently. Linked to our work on identifying and opening up other, under-used stretches of the canal for mooring, this will, over time manage the level of return visits.

How we will monitor progress

- Monthly monitoring of usage of moorings (see Appendix 4), using Key Performance Indicators relating to the numbers of different boats sighted on the mooring analysed by:
 - those with a home mooring outside greater London
 - those with a home mooring in greater London
 - continuous cruisers sighted in London or the South East during 7 or more of the past 12 months (proxy for London based continuous cruiser)

- continuous cruisers sighted in London or the South East during 6 or fewer of the past 12 months (proxy for continuous cruiser not based in London)

5. NEXT STEPS

This management plan is being implemented on a trial basis to monitor its impact and effectiveness. The following actions constitute implementation of the plan:

- Mooring ranger patrols – November 2013 (already under way)
- Mooring restriction notices – November 2013
- Information/advice leaflet produced and distributed – November 2013
- Noise and smoke survey designed and launched – November 2013
- Permanent signage in place - December 2013
- Caretaker boater recruited and on site – December 2013
- First monthly reports of noise/smoke survey and moorings usage – December 2013
- Review of trial – mid-April 2014



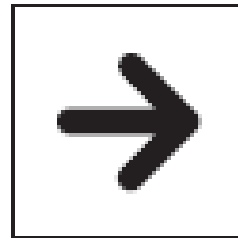
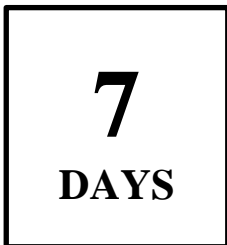
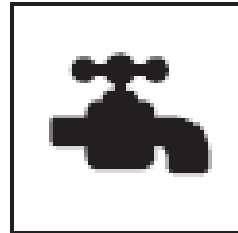
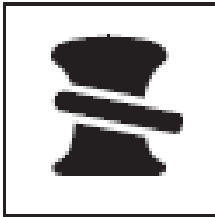
APPENDIX 1: ISLINGTON VISITOR MOORINGS MANAGEMENT PLAN - Adopted measures, November 2013

PROPOSAL	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION
<p>1: Designation as Quiet Zone</p>	<p>Signage to designate the whole length of Visitor Mooring as a Quiet Zone, agreed in partnership between London Boaters, local residents, Islington Council and Canal & River Trust.</p> <p>This identifies the moorings as a sensitive location that exacerbates noise and smoke pollution, and provides guidance on considerate behaviour.</p> <p>The Quiet Zone would be implemented through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an information campaign through boating networks, London User Group, and the Better Relationships on the Waterways in London Group • information to new visitors to the mooring provided by the Caretaker Boat • liaison and advice from the new CRT Mooring Rangers posts • monitoring of noise and smoke by Islington Council • action through Islington Council pollution control and CRT enforcement where necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new specific signage • Prepare guidance documentation • Train staff
<p>2: New mooring arrangements</p>	<p>A change to mooring arrangements to limit the level of smoke and noise that is generated by moored boats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st October – 31st March – single line berthing only • 1st April to 30th September – double line berthing permitted (no triple berthing permitted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included on signage • Stoppage notices to be displayed with adequate notice
<p>3: Caretaker Boat (formerly described as Warden Boat)</p>	<p>In partnership with London Boaters, a team of Caretaker Boats to be recruited through CRT to provide a service at up to five designated visitor mooring locations. Boats would do 1 month rotations at each location, moving onto the next location to enable a new Caretaker to take up station.</p> <p>The Caretaker Boats would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on length of stay • Encourage neighbourly behaviour, advising on smokeless fuels and use of generators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define specific voluntary job role • Advertise and recruit • Mark up towpath with reserved space • Provide guidance material and contact information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for simple site maintenance and litter clearance • Co-ordinate with local groups • Co-ordinate with event organisers • Liaise with and report crime and antisocial behaviour to Police • Be present on site between 8pm and 8am most nights • Be present on site at least one day per week 	
4: New signage / information	<p>Five new signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of existing large welcome sign at the centre of the visitor mooring • Two new Quiet Zone signs to be located at either end of the visitor mooring • The two existing 'totems' at either end of the visitor mooring to be have new signage tiles affixed <p>In addition, the information material in the 'Boater's Information' display board to be renewed. This will include further guidance, contacts for environmental advice and community safety, and boater information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree locations for Quiet Zone signs to be affixed • Assess any heritage and planning constraints • Pursue any consent regimes required • Specify and order signs • Install
5: Mooring Rangers	<p>Deployment of the two new part-time Mooring Ranger posts to provide a regular towpath presence and liaise with boaters, towpath users and local residents. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage safe and fair sharing of the towpath • Patrol and monitor the towpath, deterring low-level anti-social behaviour and crime, reporting incidents to the appropriate authorities • Check boater facilities, information boards and signs and report defects and repairs • Provide advice and guidance to boaters about moorings and facilities • Mediate and resolve conflicts between boaters, other towpath users and local residents • Respond to complaints between boaters and neighbours • Liaise with Police (Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Marine Watch, Project Kraken) and Council community safety and anti-social behaviour teams • Provide a towpath presence during the daytime, at weekends and out of hours (where practical). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and deploy

<p>6: Environmental Apprentice</p>	<p>In partnership between Islington Council and the Canal & River Trust, funding has been secured for a strategy to reduce particulate matter concentrations derived from wood burning and diesel engines along the canal in Islington.</p> <p>The strategy includes the following measures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New signage - Awareness raising events for boaters and residents - Communications (leaflets, letters, stickers) - Embedding of behaviour change - Change in conditions of stay <p>We are proposing to employ an apprentice in order to assist with this. They will be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • closer working with the boating community and residents to understand the requirements for boaters to live along our waterways without causing nuisance to other residents • education about how to protect boaters' own health from diesel and smoke emissions • identifying best practice measures for operating diesel engines • disseminating and sharing findings on best practice with boaters, local residents, and other local authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit project plan to Defra • Recruit for Environmental Apprentice
---	--	--

Welcome To Islington Visitor Moorings



Maximum 7 day stay free of charge.

Extended stay charges of £25 per day apply after 7 days.

Standard cruising requirements apply.

Double berthing is not permitted here between 1st October and 31st March.

One berth is reserved for a Caretaker Boater, who can advise on stay times and liaise with the Canal & River Trust, the Police, Islington Council and local groups. Please do not moor at this berth.

This area has been designated a **Quiet Zone** in partnership with London Boaters, local residents, Islington Council and Canal & River Trust.

As this area traps smoke and amplifies noise, which is a nuisance and health hazard for nearby residents and visitors, please observe the Quiet Zone requirements. For more information and guidance, please see the information board nearby or contact us.

For general enquiries, please, email Enquiries.london@canlrivertrust.org.uk, call 0303 040 4040 or visit canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating. Noise or pollution incidents can also be reported to pollution@islington.gov.uk.

Thank you for your co-operation, and enjoy your stay.

Location: Rear of Noel Road, The Angel, Islington, London N1

Grid reference:



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

APPENDIX 2B

QUIET ZONE

This area has been designated a **Quiet Zone** in partnership with London Boaters, local residents, Islington Council and Canal & River Trust.

As this area traps smoke and amplifies noise, which is a nuisance and health hazard for neighbours and visitors, please:

- Ensure that generator and engine noise is not audible above the background level
- Keep engine and generator use to a minimum, and only between 8am and 8pm
- Keep engines enclosed and doors shut when in operation
- Burn only smokeless fuels – no wood, rubbish or other materials
- Keep stored fuel dry to avoid smoke
- Do not play loud music

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. See the information board for more information.

For more information, or to report an incident, please contact:

enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk, pollution@islington.gov.uk

or telephone the Canal & River Trust on 0303-040 4040.



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

APPENDIX 3: Usage of moorings – proposed monthly report template

Usage of Islington Visitor Moorings for month of _____ 2013/14

Category of boat	Average boats sighted per day	Total different boats sighted	Average number of times sighted during the month	Number of boats sighted more than 7 days during the month
Boats with home mooring outside Greater London				
Boats with home moorings in Greater London				
Continuous cruisers sighted in London or the South East during 7 or more of the past 12 months)				
Continuous cruisers sighted in London or the South East during 6 or fewer of the past 12 months)				

APPENDIX 4: ISLINGTON VISITOR MOORINGS - NOISE/SMOKE SURVEY FORM

Week beginning:

Completed by:

DATE	TIME	ISSUE: Smoke / Noise / Both / Other	DESCRIPTION	DURATION	INTENSITY, 1-5: 1 = Low 5 = High	ACTION TAKEN (if any)	ANY OTHER COMMENTS (e.g. boat index number / name / colour etc,