

Sarina Young

From: Sally Ash
Sent: 07 December 2012 16:30
To: Peter.Dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk; Ellison, Sue
Cc: Damian Kemp; Chair KennetAvon; 'ken oliver (ken.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk)'; Mark Stephens
Subject: Wiltshire Voices - Live-aboard Boaters

Dear Peter and Sue

As I expect you have understood from your conversation with Damian, we have some concerns about this film. While completely understanding your agenda of helping 'hard to reach' groups to get their voices heard to help policy makers, please consider the following in relation to this particular group:

- They are not 'hard to reach' – they are a very discrete and easily contactable group. Relatively small in number, they are all registered with us, and if your policy makers ever needed to consult with them, we're always happy to help.
- They have a particular agenda which is not lawful – i.e. they believe that they can live long term on the towpath within a very small geographic area and that there should be no restriction to unlimited numbers of other people choosing to do the same. They claim that our interpretation of the law is not correct in spite of High Court rulings upholding our position.
- Contrary to their assertions, we are not hostile to residential use of boats. We welcome them for all kinds of reasons. But they must comply with the rules which exist in order that we can avoid one of the many different types of boating dominating all others and reducing the amenity of the waterway, prejudicing the interests of leisure boaters and the boating trade.
- Your interviewees are of course entitled to their views, but for a public body such as yourselves to present these without any moderated context is irresponsible and will only make the jobs of both the Canal & River Trust and your own council more difficult. Wilts CC is a greatly valued close partner and your senior colleagues have expressed complete sympathy with our aims of improving the fairness with which scarce towpath space is shared. We are distressed that you should have developed this project without any consultation with us. We do not understand how an unbalanced set of views can be of assistance to the target audience for the film, particularly those developing policy, when you are not also communicating the other side of the story.
- Our staff are already very well briefed on the issues and the film will not tell them anything that they don't already know.
- As the senior manager responsible for policy development in this area, I too understand your contributors' perspectives perfectly – I have been in regular communication with them for several years now. Damian will already have explained that we are in the final stages of working with all boaters, including representatives of those you have portrayed, to develop a way forward that will protect and improve their lifestyle interests.

The timing of the launch of this film is particularly insensitive in the light of the final bullet. I understand that you are keen to publicise it, but am asking you to reconsider this. If you are not willing to do this, can we ask that you at least add a frame at the end of the film as below. Given the word count and average reading speed, it will need to have a duration of at least one minute. And the same words should appear in the press release. When you are ready to brief your production company to add this to the film, please let me know so I can provide an image file containing the words in our corporate style with logo.

I would be happy to speak further if you have any comments - please feel free to telephone me.

Regards

Sally

Sally Ash
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Canal & River Trust

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TEXT FOR ONE -MINUTE FILM TAIL AND PRESS STATEMENT

- Caring for 2,000 miles of canals and rivers including the Kennet & Avon is now the job of the Canal & River Trust, a registered charity.
- We manage the use of rivers and canals for many different people, including holiday boaters, trading boats and private boat owners all of whom depend on space along the towpath for mooring up during their journeys.
- Residential boaters are a great asset to the waterways and the number choosing to set up home along the towpaths grew by about a third between 2007 and 2012. This is putting pressure on mooring space and on the costs of providing essential boat services.
- The Residential Boatowners' Association provides excellent practical advice on the practicalities of life afloat
- In 2012, the High Court decisively upheld our interpretation of s17(c) of the 1995 British Waterways Act relating to movement rules for boats without a home mooring
- We are working with representatives of boaters in Wiltshire to address their concerns.
- To find out more, please visit us at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

From: Dunford, Peter [<mailto:>]
Sent: 30 November 2012 16:45
To: Damian Kemp
Cc: Oliver, Ken; info@communityresolve.co.uk; Chair KennetAvon; Rogers, Richard
Subject:

Damian,

With apologies for the delay, please find the final edit of the film <https://vimeo.com/54380248> which will be shortly uploaded to <http://wiltshirevoices.wordpress.com/> and circulated widely.

I recommend it be shown to colleagues at the Canal & Rivers Trust and perhaps to a future meeting of the Kennet & Avon Canal Partnership?

Richard Rogers or myself, the project co-ordinators, would be willing to attend a meeting with you to discuss the issues being raised and possible actions that can be taken, by the Trust, the Council and others.

Regards,

Peter

Peter Dunford
Community Area Manager for Bradford on Avon

The parishes of Bradford on Avon, Holt, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxall, Staverton, Westwood, Wingfield and Winsley

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