

PACCS Meeting 30th April 2014 - Canal Issues

| Parish | Issues |
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| Alton | <p>Quiet Zone at Honeystreet - Successful! The canal runs through our parish and the issues involved are obviously important to our residents. We have had some limited success in tackling some of the problems, with helpful cooperation from boaters, but there is much still to be done.</p> <p><u>ISSUES</u> Noise Most often from generators. Of course it is absolutely accepted and understood that they need to run. The problem arises from the minority who run them into the night, long past the 8pm limit which is supposed to operate. Also, the occasional extra-loud (? poorly maintained) machines, run for hours on end. Loud music, drumming etc. Much less frequent, but when it does happen, tends to be at weekends, late night, or both.</p> <p>Overstaying. If a boat is a problem - and we would stress again the great majority are not - at least one can hope the offender will move on, under CRT mooring rules, before too long. But again a minority simply ignore the rules.</p> <p>Dog fouling</p> <p>Obstructions and litter on towpath</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Quiet Zones With the cooperation of the CRT, boaters, the local pub and the Parish Council a "Quiet Zone" was established at Honeystreet about two years ago. A short stretch of the canal bank, noise-sensitive because it is by dwellings, was designated, marked by signs at each end and in the middle. The Parish Council submitted a design for the signs (attached), agreed by all concerned, which the CRT then manufactured and put in place. The Honeystreet QZ is believed to be the first of its kind on the canal network. I understand the idea is now being adopted on the Regent's Canal at Islington - importantly with the Borough Council also involved. And it is also being pursued on the K&A at Avoncliff. The zones have no legal force. But if they became standard where appropriate across the network, with standard, instantly recognisable signage it could greatly increase their effectiveness.</p> <p>Contact between local residents, boaters, and pub is important. We should all be talking to each other. A liaison committee?</p> <p>The single most useful action re noise would be for Wiltshire Council to resume the call-out service it used to offer to deal with complaints, particularly outside normal working hours. The majority of problems by far occur at night and / or weekends.</p> <p>More rigorous enforcement by the CRT of its own rules on overstaying and generator noise would help.</p> <p>Our local pub, the canal-side Barge Inn, has been helpful in the past and could have a useful role to play.</p> |
| Beechingstoke | |
| Burbage | |
| Buttermere | |

| Parish | Issues |
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| Charlton & Wilsford | |
| Chirton & Conock | |
| Easton | |
| Grafton | None |
| Great Bedwyn | |
| Ham | None |
| Little Bedwyn | |
| Manningford | |
| Marden | None |
| Milton Lilbourne | |
| North Newton | |
| Patney | |
| Pewsey | |
| Rushall | |
| Shalbourne | |
| Stanton St Bernard | |
| Upavon | |
| Wilcot & Huish (with Oare) | <p>Issues:</p> <p>Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars and lorries parking on the road between Cannings Cottage and Kennet House. (Complaint to Parish Council 18/12/2013) • Availability of parking in this road is one of the key reasons it attracts boaters for long periods and why the community has issues with repeat offenders. (Complaint to Parish Council 18/12/2013) • It is unknown who has responsibility for the verges - presumably the Stowell Estate. <p>Overstaying of Boaters</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No enforcement of the rule that continuous cruisers cannot moor for any longer than 14 days. (Complaint to Canal and River Trust, and to Parish Council 18/12/2013) • Complaint from resident (Martin Fetherson-Godley) that boaters are moving from one side of Wilcot bridge to the other. 'Boats 512054, 113752 & 74598 seem to move as a mini-community in unison and are now well into their sixth week in the parish. Two further boats 503563 and 53599 may also be part of this community and have also moved from one side of the bridge to the other and are entering their 5th & 4th week respectively.' (Complaint to Parish Council and to Canal and River Trust November 2013) <p>Anti-Social Behaviour by Boaters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated complaints about the behaviour of Colin and his dog - the dog is a danger and a threat to users of the tow path and the nearby road. • Resident (Martin Fetherson-Godley) has been threatened and his dog injured incurring vet bills. One of his dogs was injured by a speeding car, owned by a boater, late at night causing the loss of his hind leg. (Complaint to Canal and River Trust, and to Parish Council 18/12/2013) Response from Canal & River Trust that dangerous dogs should be reported to Police. (Canal Trust rules state that boaters should not cause a nuisance to residents and other boaters. • That the woods adjacent to the Cannings Cottage end of the road is used as a toilet facility by boaters. (Complaint to Parish Council 05/10/2013) • Boaters take over the towpath with paraphernalia, some of which has health and safety implications. Boaters have little respect for the local environment or for the views of those that reside there permanently. (Complaint to Parish Council 05/10/2013) • Concern that there will one day be injury to parishioners. (Complaint to Parish Council 18/12/2013) • Previous complaints about noise and loud music, and boat engine noise. • Litter left by boaters. <p>Lack of Response from Canal and River Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint that the authorities are reactive not proactive. (Complaint to Parish Council 18/12/2013) Response from Canal & River Trust that they aim to check on a weekly basis but the national target is to cover an area every 14 days. <p>Lack of Co-ordination of Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of co-ordination between the relevant authorities: Canal and River Trust, Police and Highways. Each refer a complaint to the other. (Complaint to Parish Council 18/12/2013) <p>Concerns of the Parish Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that Canal & River Trust briefing paper 'Non Compliant Continuous Cruising' was not made available to Parish Councils or canal-side residents, only boaters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is clear we will be far down their list of priorities ○ Complete lack of consideration given to the impact on surrounding communities ○ Briefing confirms the growth in the number of live-aboards and it is that growth that is leading to the problems. ○ Creation of permanent moorings in Wilcot would yield any control over the situation and would deny the use of the towpath for walkers. Any attempt to annexe the towpath for boaters will cause inconvenience to the general public and diminish the value of what should be an asset for the community. ○ This area is within a conservation area and involves an influx of significant numbers of people who bring little economic benefit and have little or no stake in the area. At County level it is perceived that bringing people into the area is automatically considered to be a good thing. Bona fide visitors are welcome but, on the canal, they are being put off by elements who are effectively eroding the very thing that makes Wilcot an attractive place to live and visit. ○ The village is vulnerable because of the road layout and because it is spread out, therefore only a small number of people are directly affected at one time. Parish Council's primary concern is for the residents most directly affected and should campaign to keep moorings away from residences because the Canal & River Trust doesn't have the resources to police this properly. ○ It may be better to have something modest and formal which is properly implemented and policed rather than the current free for all. |
| Woodborough | No issues currently |
| Wootton Rivers | We have been seeking action from the Canal and River Trust concerning abuse of their cruising rules for about a year. It has proved very difficult to get any |

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| | <p>reaction.</p> <p>The problems we have are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpretation of 'continuous cruising' by canal users. 2. Abuse of 'permanent mooring' permits. 3. Impact on car parking facilities/on street parking in our village caused by 1 and 2 above. <p>As far as solutions are concerned, the first step must be for CRT to properly enforce their own rules and second to actively work with the Parish to identify and deal with persistent offenders. This could for example involve the designation of a village /parish contact person as a conduit to and from CRT for speedy resolution of problems.</p> |