

**Response to FOI request:  
Emails containing reports and action plans regarding moorings at Mead Lane**

**From:** [Duncan](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:13 AM  
**To:** [clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Boats moored in Mead Lane

Dear Tricia,

I was not at the planning meeting on Tuesday. This alleged contravention may have been mentioned then.

[REDACTED] phoned me to talk about the boats that have parked up on the stretch of the river bank owned by B&NES in Mead Lane. I counted four. Three are shown together in the first photo attached. The fourth is adjacent to the car (linked to the boat?) in the third photo.

(The middle shot shows yet two more boats visible in the opposite direction).

I believe the default maximum period a boat can stay in the same place on the towpath is 14 days which I think all the boats have exceeded.

Please let me know if this issue has already been reported. If not, please add it to our list and contact B&NES about it.

Thanks

Duncan

**From:** [clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
**Sent:** 11 June 2015  
**To:** Emma Dixon, Francine Haeberling

Dear Emma and Francine,

Saltford Parish Council requests that B&NES Council erects appropriate signs (such as "no mooring" signs) along the riverbank adjacent to Mead Lane, and carries out inspections to ensure compliance. We would also like to know what is B&NES Council's policy on mooring rights and regulations on river banks which it owns, with particular reference to Mead Lane.

Please could you pass these two requests onto the relevant person at B&NES and report back to us.

Many thanks.

Regards,  
Tricia Golinski, Parish Clerk  
(Usual work days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)  
Saltford Parish Council

**From:** Phil Harding  
**Sent:** 14 July 2015  
**To:** [clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk),

Hi Tricia

Note: I should be grateful for a progress report from Francine, to whom I am copying this email, as I understand she is also on the case.

This is to confirm my phone call earlier today when I advised you that I had received a voicemail message whilst I was driving and thus unable to answer my mobile from a justifiably exasperated resident in Mead Lane telling me that 10 long boats were moored on the river bank in Mead Lane.

One boat owner who had been seen moored recently was approached and he said that he had received permission to moor there from the Kennet & Avon Waterways – Canal & River Trust; however that organisation denies that it has done this (it is not in its gift to do so). Clearly the boat owner was being untruthful.

I don't think we can allow this illegal mooring to go unchallenged all summer as the boat owners are denying residents and visitors from use of the riverbank (angling, sunbathing etc.) and are preventing B&NES from cutting the grass verge. They are also using the wooden traffic bollards for mooring; I would suggest that those bollards would make ideal fixing points for no mooring signs facing the river.

Please could you advise me the date of your email to B&NES Council about this matter (if possible let me have a copy). If we do not receive a reply from B&NES within two weeks of your original email we should take this up again urgently with B&NES asking for no mooring signs to be put in place without further delay. If necessary I am prepared to attend a site meeting with their enforcement officer so perhaps this could be offered to B&NES. I am away 4-15 August so would like to sort this out during July if possible.

Fortunately the residents in Mead Lane are keeping a log of the boats mooring there.

Kind regards,

Phil

From: [clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Sent: 15 July 2015

To: Cllr Martin Veal,

Dear Councillor Veal,

Saltford Parish Council requests that B&NES Council erects appropriate signs (such as "no mooring" signs) along the riverbank adjacent to Mead Lane, and carries out inspections to ensure compliance. We would also like to know what is B&NES Council's policy on mooring rights and regulations on river banks which it owns, with particular reference to Mead Lane, Saltford.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Regards,  
Tricia Golinski, Parish Clerk

**From:** Martin Veal (Cllr) [[mailto:Martin\\_Veal@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:Martin_Veal@BATHNES.GOV.UK)]

**Sent:** 17 July 2015 01:19

**To:** Saltford Parish Council; Francine Haerberling (Cllr); Emma Dixon (Cllr)

**Subject:** Re: Moorings, Mead Lane, Saltford

Dear Tricia,

As a new administration we have been dealing with ward councillors on this issue since being informed immediately after the election. We are now aware of the problems that have occurred which are not entirely within the area of our control, however through the Strategic River Group and one of its delivery partners, the River Regeneration Trust we are looking into any possible solutions.

These are not easy and are indicative of similar issues across the country do please be aware there is not an instant fix!

In the first instance I will be reporting back to the Ward Councillors (who raised this initially) and will copy you in to any action points that come out of discussions. I hasten to add these discussions have not taken place yet but are in the offing relatively shortly, according to availability of personnel and the hiatus of the holiday period.

I, and your ward colleagues, will keep you informed. I hope this helps.

Regards,

Cllr. Martin Veal

Cabinet Member: Communities,  
EU CoR, WoEP Joint Scrutiny  
LGA Member Peer, CAONB Board Executive (Chairman: Living & Working C'tte)  
Conservative Bathavon North Ward. Bath & North East Somerset Council

From: Phil Harding

Sent: 17 July 2015

To: Cllr Martin Veal, [clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk), Francine Haeberling, Emma Dixon

Dear Martin

Many thanks for your email.

As Saltford Parish Council's Vice Chairman I represent the Parish Council on the River Avon Users Consultative Committee where this issue was discussed in May in view of the concerns that the unauthorised moorings in Mead Lane have caused. I am, incidentally, also Chairman of Saltford Environment Group so I have an environmental protection interest alongside community interests. Residents have advised me of their concerns.

Just to bring you up to speed with the current situation, I received a phone call from a resident in Mead lane earlier this week alerting me to the fact that there were 10 long boats moored on the riverbank in Mead Lane. Residents are naturally concerned that this is getting out of hand and nobody is taking responsibility for ensuring compliance with regulations concerning moorings at this location.

The Canal and River Trust "guidance for boaters without a home mooring" state that boats without a home mooring should move on a regular basis and the legal requirements are that a boat on a cruise or cruising should not remain in the same neighbourhood for more than 14 days; it cannot move off and simply return a day or two later and start the 14 day period again.

The concerns raised by residents include:

- Long boat owners are tying their boats to the wooden parking bollards (there are no mooring fixing points in Mead Lane as the river bank there is not a boat mooring location). Apart from damaging the bollards, this is preventing B&NES staff/contractors from cutting the grass on the roadside verge.
- Vans and other vehicles that belong to the boat owners are left parked in this narrow lane, making access for householders increasingly difficult.
- Dogs associated with the long boats are being allowed to foul the area.

- There are questions over where the long boat owners might be discharging their sewage and other rubbish as they are staying for such long periods of time.
- Long boats have stayed about 2 weeks, moved off for a day or two and then returned for another prolonged period.
- The aggressive attitude of some boat owners when questioned about their intentions.
- Leisure users of the river bank, i.e. anglers and sun bathers, are prevented from having access to the river bank. This has a knock-on effect for reducing trade for local pubs/ restaurants.

I would be happy to have a site visit with your staff . Residents are keeping records of boats moored there and would be willing to discuss this with your staff as necessary.

Kind regards,

Phil

PHIL HARDING MBE  
Chairman  
SALTFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

On 18 Aug 2015, at 17:33, Phil Harding <[phil@philharding.net](mailto:phil@philharding.net)<<mailto:phil@philharding.net>>>> wrote:

To: Cllr Martin Veal

Dear Martin

Further to my email to you of 17 July (below) I have today received an email from a concerned resident that nothing practical has been done about this situation which now appears to be getting worse. The key points made by the complainant include:

- The number of boats here has been gradually increasing and now there are 10, many are of a fairly tatty nature and some appear to have just been dumped!
- The residents are increasingly exasperated at the lack of progress in resolving this on-going problem.
- The river bank is fast reaching the stage that ordinary people will no longer be able to get near it for the mooring lines, plants, bicycles and general tat that is beginning to appear, not to mention their accompanying vehicles with some parked half on the grass and half on the road. Unfortunately word travels fast amongst the boat owners and they now see this area as a soft touch and who can blame them!
- The letters issued by B&NES in May did (at the time) have the desired effect with only a couple pushing their luck, one of which the resident thinks is still here!
- The residents in Mead Lane recognise that the river should be enjoyed by all whereas at the moment it's becoming more and more difficult to access some areas of the river bank, it is being abused by some and therefore spoiling it for the majority and if left unchecked it will only get worse.

I have spoken this afternoon to Zoe Hancock (on secondment to B&NES from Wessex Water) who

is researching the wider issue of long boat mooring on the River Avon in the B&NES area so that a sensible and legally enforceable solution can be found within the B&NES area of responsibility.

It seems to me to be inevitable that the review of the areas for moorings will not include Mead Lane for longboat moorings other than short term stays by those on a genuine cruise as Mead Lane:

(a) directly faces and overlooks the Cotswold AONB with a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) immediately behind it that is also in view of the AONB,

(b) is within the Green Belt, and

(c) is a known beauty spot for leisure users to fish, sunbath and picnic and this access is increasingly being denied.

Naturally the review being carried out by Zoe Hancock will take time to consult on and complete but in the meantime if the existing Canal & River Trust legal guidance for boaters without a home mooring could be enforced (including the erection of appropriate signage) by B&NES as the riparian landowner for Mead Lane this will help allay the justifiable fears of residents in Mead Lane concerning a resolution to this issue.

Is that possible as an interim measure please?

Kind regards,

Phil

**From:** Martin Veal (Cllr) [mailto:Martin\_Veal@BATHNES.GOV.UK]

**Sent:** 18 August 2015 17:45

**To:** Phil Harding

**Subject:** Re: Moorings, Mead Lane, Saltford

Dear Phill,

Although a short email, in it I can assure you this issue is currently in hand and I have briefed Cllr.Francine Haeberling on the issue in conjunction with the Chairman of the River Regeneration Trust. Discussions for the RRT are ongoing with other agencies and a plan to deal with the issues you outline will be formulated. Certain agreements that are not public knowledge have to be in place before action is either planned or implemented, however, as soon as it is possible to inform both Ward Members and the Parish Council, both I and the RRT, will.

In the meantime please continue to maintain a watching, and if required, a recording brief (for evidence purposes) of what is happening.

Many thanks,

Regards,

Martin

From: Cllr Dave Laming

Sent: 18 August 2015

To: Cllr Martin Veal

Dear Cllr Veal, ladies and gentlemen,

I have personally been in email communication on this matter with Cllr Francine Haeberling and have informally met with a senior manager of the Canal & River Trust together with Cllr Martin Veal and a senior B&NES officer.

The problem of boat dwellers and river travellers can be illustrated by the overcrowded moorings on the Kennet Canal from Bath to Bradford on Avon. This was also identified by me in B&NES main council meetings, and will inevitably be an increasing issue as an alternative for the lack of truly affordable housing. Long term we have to address the issue of the provision of secure residential moorings for boat dwellers on the same basis as we do for Gypsy Travellers. I.e. Secure and safe residential mooring basins funded by private enterprise on a commercial basis.

In the short term Cllr Veal and I are endeavouring to secure a satisfactory solution to the Mead Lane mooring issue with the relevant agencies, and I would respectfully ask you to bear with us whilst we progress these discussions.

Kind regards

Dave

Dave Laming  
Chairman of the River Regeneration Trust  
Member of the Strategic River Group of Bath & NE Somerset Council

**From:** [Zoe Hancock](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28  
**To:** [Saltford Parish Council](#)  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings

Dear Tricia,

Apologies for the delay with circulating this, I was on annual leave last week.

Please find attached a draft agenda for our meeting on Wednesday, this is just to help provide structure to the meeting. If you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

I have also copied in Mark Minkley and Mark Evans who will be attending the meeting on Wednesday,

I look forward to meeting you then.

Many thanks,  
Zoe

**Saltford- River Meeting**  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
11.00-12.00  
Kelston Room, Saltford Hall, BS31 3BY

**Invited:**

Cllr Duncan Hounsell  
Cllr Phil Harding  
Tricia Golinski, Parish Clerk  
Mark Minkley, B&NES- Team Leader for Environment & Design  
Zoe Hancock, B&NES- River Coordinator  
Mark Evans, Canal & River Trust- Waterways Manager for Kennet & Avon

**Suggested Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview: River Situation- What is currently happening?- Zoe Hancock

3. Update on Interim Management Solutions- Mark Evans/Mark Minkley
4. Update- Long term strategy for River Avon & Canal- Zoe Hancock
5. Monitoring the issue moving forwards- All
6. A.O.B

[There were no minutes taken at this informal information-sharing meeting]

**From:** Phil Harding [mailto:phil@philharding.net]

**Sent:** 30 September 2015 17:20

**To:** Zoe Hancock; Mark Minkley; 'Mark Evans'

**Subject:** River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford - enforcement notices

Dear Zoe, Mark M and Mark E

Many thanks for coming to Saltford to see us this morning. It was good to meet you and discuss this difficult issue which has become extremely stressful for residents of Mead Lane whilst depriving access to the river by other non-boat leisure users, the primary purpose of the river at this location, with the knock on effect on reducing trade for our local hospitality/tourism businesses.

There is one point I would like to clear up for clarification. During the meeting I said that when B&NES delivered notices to boat dwellers on the river earlier this year it temporarily resolved the issue until the boats came back again. Zoe and Mark M said this was not the case and that B&NES had not delivered any such notices which then made me doubt my source.

I have following the meeting spoken to [REDACTED] in Mead Lane who confirmed that in May Mark Reynolds, Group Manager, Enforcement Dept. at B&NES delivered the 14 day limit notices to boat owners moored in Mead Lane. It appears that this was in response to several complaints to B&NES about the long term moorings that were occurring.

[REDACTED] confirmed that [REDACTED] will continue to monitor moorings in Mead Lane.

We look forward to seeing the proposed interim solution(s) in a month's time.

Kind regards,

Phil

PHIL HARDING MBE

Chairman

SALTFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

**From:** Zoe Hancock [mailto:Zoe\_Hancock@BATHNES.GOV.UK]

**Sent:** 28 October 2015 11:22

**To:** 'Phil Harding'; 'Duncan Hounsell'; Saltford Parish Council

**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford - enforcement notices

Dear Duncan, Phil and Tricia,

I'm writing with an update following our meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Thank you for previously confirming that [REDACTED] will continue to monitor the mooring issues, it would be interesting to see the data/evidence to understand how many boats and vehicles have been noted at this site over the last month?

With regards to the notice that was previously served by a council officer in May, Mark and I were not aware that this action had been taken so apologies for the misunderstanding on our part. The officer was trying to

act at the time in the most helpful way, however after more research it has been revealed that the Council is not in a position at the moment to serve notice on boaters mooring at this site, due to the fact that the site is not classified as a mooring. We are of course looking in to this issue with the Canal & River Trust (CRT), a further update can be found below.

Since our meeting the following progress have been made:

- Following our discussion with you and Ward Councillors, we have been in contact with the Highways team at the Council and are in the process of requesting a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) to be trailed along Mead Lane. This is being fully reviewed by the Highways Team, with the intention to introduce restrictions to stop cars and vehicles from being able to park along the lane for long periods of time/overnight. We are pursuing this issue as quickly as we can. I will be in touch as soon as I have more details on this matter. It would be interesting to hear any feedback from the [REDACTED] to understand if they think imposing traffic restrictions would help to alleviate the problems that are currently being reported at this site?
- Saltford Slipway- proposal to look at refurbishment for safer access for river users. We are in contact with the Property Team and Parks Team to obtain a quote for refurbishing the slipway. If we have the funding to upgrade the slipway in this financial year we will pursue this. If the costs are too high, this will be a project that is highlighted via the Water Space Study Work Programme that will be developed in 2016.
- We are in contact with CRT to review the mooring management of Mead Lane. We are working together to understand how we can manage and resolve future management at this site. The Council have sent a proposal to CRT and we are awaiting comment to see if the legalities, lease and resources can be agreed to impose short term moorings at this site. As soon as I have an agreed management position at this site I will update you. As you are aware, there is both local and political pressure to find a solution for this site and I am working to the best of my abilities to pursue this.
- We have now secured funding to deliver a Water Space Study in B&NES; the Study will start in January 2016 and be delivered over 15 months with the aim to identify a list of priority projects and issues that need resolving along the entire length of the River Avon corridor in B&NES and the canal. We are now advertising for a full time Project Coordinator which will provide the Council and partnership with extra capacity to address river related issues and develop a Water Space Study in 2016.

I will keep you updated on how the above issues are progressed; we are aiming to resolve these issues as quickly as we can.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me,

Best wishes,

Zoe

**Zoe Hancock**

**River Coordinator (B&NES)/Catchment Coordinator for Bristol Avon**

Bath & North East Somerset Council

**From:** [Phil Harding](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 5:51 PM

**To:** '[Zoe Hancock](#)'; '[Duncan Hounsell](#)'; '[Saltford Parish Council](#)'

**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford - enforcement notices

Dear Zoe

Thank you for your email and the conversation we had this afternoon.



As we discussed I have forwarded your response to [REDACTED] for Mead Lane and asked for the boat/vehicle data for last month and views on the proposed parking restrictions. I also copied my email to our Ward Councillors (Francine Haeberling and Emma Dixon) as they need to be in the loop on this.

Just to clarify the need for a slipway in The Shallows. This is not a refurbishment as no slipway exists at present but a long standing request for a new slipway to provide safe entry and exit from the water for the numerous canoe and kayak users and to protect the river embankment and storm drain at this point from further damage/erosion. As we mentioned at the meeting, the river bank is now badly eroded, unsafe for the many youth (mainly Scout) groups that use it, and we are concerned that higher costs will be incurred once the eroded edge gets close to the foundations of the adjacent road.

Thank you for agreeing to keep us informed regularly (monthly) on progress with the Mead Lane mooring issue; please include Francine Haeberling and Emma Dixon in your circulation list for future updates.

Kind regards,

Phil

**From:** [Phil Harding](#)  
**Sent:** 30.10.15  
**To:** ['Zoe Hancock'](#) ; ['Duncan Hounsell'](#) ; ['Saltford Parish Council'](#)  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford  
Dear Zoe

Further to your email of 28 October and our telephone conversation yesterday, I have now had a response from [REDACTED] is away at the moment and so does not have access to the boat records or [REDACTED] members so will be in touch again but made the following response which I think you and your colleagues should see (the seasonal drop in the number of boats moored is as expected):

“We now have 4 boats here, three of them are the most undesirable looking ones and the ones that have vehicles parked here overnight. At least one vehicle I'm sure is being slept in as I think the boat is not suitable for permanent residency. Another has now got a sign on it to say the engine isn't working, all I believe have been here since mid July. It is also a matter of concern, that if the boats have not moved, how are they getting rid of their sewage.

In another part of the lane we get an orange van that sometimes parks overnight and here again we believe is being slept in.

The layby by the bridge is nearly always full of vehicles, here again I've seen a van with a bed in the back, most of these vehicle I believe are connected to the boats moored on private land by the bridge. These vehicles also restrict the line of vision when driving around the corner, as they do slightly overlap the tarmac on the lane.

It would be an excellent idea if we had a visit from Banes, my thoughts are Zoe, someone from the highways dept and also the parks dept, if they are the ones that deal with the river bank and the bollards, the issues need to be seen first hand and how we, the residents, feel would be the best way forward, not only for us but also for those boat owners who do not abuse the terms of their licences.

Whatever measures are taken they must be regularly monitored and it should not be down to the residents to keep having to contact the authorities to ensure the rules are adhered to.”



You mentioned that Zoe will be giving monthly updates on the progress, I should be grateful to have sight of these.

Please let me know if we, the residents, can help in any way to progress this in the speediest way possible. I would also like to know if it is possible to have the on-sight visit I spoke of in my last email, I really do feel that whilst it is good to have the Parish Council speak on our behalf, it would be so much better to get the views of those that actually live with the situation and could maybe help with ideas to make the area less inviting to some whilst still retaining the appeal to others.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

#### **BOATS MOORED IN MEAD LANE BS31 3EP**

<b>Boat Name</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Licence Date</b>	<b>Arrived</b>	<b>Left</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<b>08/15</b>	<b>16.03.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<b>08/15</b>	<b>19.04.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	<b>Not Visible</b>	<b>Not Visible</b>	<b>19.04.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	<b>Not visible</b>	<b>08/15</b>	<b>19.04.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		<b>19.04.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]		<b>09/15</b>	<b>19.04.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<b>06/15</b>	<b>04.05.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		<b>24.05.15</b>	<b>After 27.05 &amp; before 13/06</b>
[REDACTED]			<b>06.06.15</b>	<b>Left Date Unknown</b>
	[REDACTED]		<b>20.06.15</b>	<b>Left Date Unknown</b>
	[REDACTED]		<b>26.06.15</b>	<b>Left Date Unknown</b>
[REDACTED]			<b>11.07.15</b>	<b>Left Date Unknown</b>
[REDACTED]		<b>04/16</b>	<b>11.07.15</b>	<b>Left Date Unknown</b>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		<b>11.07.15</b>	<b>30.10.15</b>

*			11.07.15	30.10.15
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			08.09.15	26.09.15
			19.09.15	03.10.15
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			06.10.15	23.10.15
			01.10.15	Left Date Unknown
			07.10.15	23.10.15
			01.11.15	
			02.11.15	

**From:** Zoe Hancock

**Sent:** 25 November 2015 09:27

**To:** 'Phil Harding'; 'Duncan Hounsell'; Saltford Parish Council

**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Dear Duncan, Phil and Tricia,

Many thanks for the email below Phil, if [REDACTED] managed to get hold of the boat records that would be useful to see?

Since my last correspondence in October, I thought you would be interested in having a brief update:

- Mark Minkley is working with the Ward Councillors and the Highways Team to understand if a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) would help to address some of the concerns that have been raised. One of the proposals could be to trail a TRO along Mead Lane with the intention to introduce restrictions to stop cars and vehicles from being able to park along the lane for long periods of time/overnight.
- Saltford Slipway- We have obtained the quotes previously sent to the Property and Parks Team for refurbishing the slipway. The costs were very high so these quotes are being reviewed again. If the work required is going to be very costly this project will be highlighted via the Water Space Study Work Programme that will be developed in 2016/17.
- We are organising a meeting with CRT to review the mooring management proposal for Mead Lane as soon as possible. We will be discussing what pragmatic solutions can be identified in the interim period, as soon as I have an update I will contact you.

I will keep you updated on how the above issues are progressed; we are aiming to resolve these issues as quickly as we can.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me, please note that I will not be at work from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November (away due to health reasons).

Best wishes,  
Zoe

**From:** Zoe Hancock [mailto:Zoe\_Hancock@BATHNES.GOV.UK]  
**Sent:** 25 November 2015 09:30  
**To:** 'Phil Harding'; 'Duncan Hounsell'; Saltford Parish Council  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Dear all,

Apologies, the TRO is actually a Traffic 'Regulation' Order.

Many thanks,  
Zoe

**From:** [Phil Harding](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2015 10:43 AM  
**To:** '[Zoe Hancock](#)'; '[Duncan Hounsell](#)'; '[Saltford Parish Council](#)'  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Many thanks Zoe, very helpful to be kept informed.

I have forwarded to [REDACTED] your (corrected) email. I did send to you the boats data on 3 November (I'll send it again) and also in my email referred to a request from residents for a site visit with B&NES.

I note that the boats have mostly disappeared now (a few days ago there was just one dilapidated cruise boat), but that is a seasonal change – the river level is higher and runs faster in the winter months - noticed

on just one day and come the spring they will be back again if previous years' experience is anything to go by. This quiet period is a good opportunity to put in place parking restrictions and, hopefully, mooring restrictions, so that when the boats return they will know that the situation has changed.

I look forward to hearing of further progress.

Kind regards,

Phil

**From:** Phil Harding [mailto:phil@philharding.net]  
**Sent:** 27 January 2016 00:03  
**To:** Zoe Hancock  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Hi Zoe

The next Parish Council meeting is next week on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. So that I can report progress, is there any update since your last monthly report in November?

Mead Lane is presently free of moored boats but when the warmer spring weather arrives and the river is lower and flows at a less vigorous pace we anticipate the 'residential' boats will be returning too so we need to have the proposed measures in place by then.

I have a further idea that might provide an alternative solution while we await a new policy on river moorings along the Avon. The invasive alien plant Himalayan Balsam is a major problem along the Avon and is certainly prolific along the river in Saltford including this part of the river along Mead Lane. At some point the Environment Agency may require B&NES as the riparian owner to spend a small fortune to try and eradicate this plant that has the potential to cause major erosion problems to riverbanks. Saltford Environment Group (SEG) has been removing the plant with the aid of the Scouts and Guides in a few areas and a couple of our members have been removing it along Mead Lane. However the moored boats prevent its removal along that stretch of the river.

It occurs to me that that if B&NES was minded to assist with the removal of Himalayan Balsam along Mead Lane it could have a legitimate maintenance reason for only allowing very short term moorings for genuine leisure users, say no more than 48 hours and no return within 14 days, so that not only can B&NES cut the grass but also control Himalayan Balsam. I am sure one or two SEG members in that part of Saltford would assist with that – pulling this plant out is quite satisfying and only needs doing a few times in the summer (with regular checks as it grows so quickly) before the seeds are dispersed.

The riverbank along Mead Lane is a local tourist/leisure facility but if Himalayan Balsam is allowed to proliferate unchecked, each winter when it dies back riverbank erosion will accelerate as native deeper rooted plants have been smothered out by this invasive plant. Eventually over time that accelerated erosion will leave a riverbank that is too narrow for leisure use and the road may need shoring up in some places at great expense (to B&NES).

If you're not familiar with this plant and the damage it does to riverbanks, although I daresay you are, SEG has an item about it here: <http://www.saltfordenvironmentgroup.org.uk/wildlife.html#HB>

Kind regards

Phil

**From:** Zoe Hancock [mailto:Zoe\_Hancock@BATHNES.GOV.UK]  
**Sent:** 01 February 2016 10:04  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford - enforcement notices

Dear Phil,

Many thanks for the email and apologies for the delay in responding to you.

For the last month I have been working closely with Cleo Newcombe-Jones, Cleo has been appointed as the full-time Project Coordinator for the Water Space Study for the next 14 months. Moving forwards I would advise that you contact Cleo directly for information about the Saltford issues/Water Space Study as I will only be working part-time in this role until the end of March 2016.

We have now received written support for a TRO from Cllr Martin Veal, Cllr Francine Haberling and Cllr Emma Dixon and we are currently awaiting a response from the Transport Team with regards to the TRO. As soon as we have confirmation of a way forwards (funding, resources and dates are currently being discussed in more detail) Cleo will be in touch.

We have also met with CRT again and discussed the future management of the river bank with relation to moorings. Due to various reasons CRT are not able to become more involved with the management of moorings in this area at the moment. CRT have however provided some useful information to the Council. This information is currently being reviewed to understand potentially how the Council could implement an internal mechanism to manage the boats along this river stretch in the interim period until the Water Space Study has been completed. Again, Cleo will be best placed to keep you informed on progress of this.

Thank you for the information on Himalayan Balsam, we are aware of the issue and will consider your suggestions as part of the interim solution to the moorings issues we are considering and also as part of the Water Space Study.

Many thanks,  
Zoe

**From:** [Phil Harding](#)  
**Sent:** 01.02.16  
**To:** ['Zoe Hancock'](#) ; ['Duncan Hounsell'](#) ; ['Saltford Parish Council'](#)  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford  
Dear Zoe

Many thanks for your reply.

Since my email of 27 January I have been informed by [REDACTED] in Mead Lane that a van has already been parked overnight but seen in Mead lane on several occasions and is thus raising real concerns amongst residents that the problems of last year are about to re-commence. Furthermore rotting wooden bollards in the lane are allowing greater vehicle access and damage to the river bank.

Just to recap, the Himalayan Balsam/grass-cutting/riverbank maintenance proposal for "a 48 hour maximum mooring time with no return in 14 days" is an urgent interim (and thus temporary) proposal to protect Mead Lane from "residential moorings" from the spring of this year while a longer-term solution is worked up. As riparian owner, I am sure B&NES is entitled to take such temporary action on maintenance grounds to protect an important stretch of riverbank overlooking the Cotswold AONB that is a community recreational facility used by a far wider number of people than the ten or so longboat owners seeking unauthorised extended moorings.

I look forward to hearing from Cleo Newcombe-Jones on progress with this issue. If Cleo would like to take up the offer of a site visit to Mead Lane that was originally made to you to discuss these issues with a selection of local residents I would be happy to arrange this.

Kind regards,

Phil

**From:** [Cleo Newcombe-Jones](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 5:13 PM  
**To:** [Saltford Parish Council](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mead Lane Saltford - Traffic Regulation Order

Dear Tricia

Just a quick email to let you know that progress has been made in relation to taking forward a Traffic Regulation Order for Mead Lane Saltford. The team's Group Manager has now confirmed the cost (to be funded by B&NES Council) and has agreed to put this on their TRO work programme for 2016-17.

I will get back in touch once we have a more specific timeframe and lead officer contact in the Highways team. I would be grateful if you could feedback to the Parish Council on this issue.

Kind regards,

Cleo

Cleo Newcombe-Jones  
Project Coordinator – River Avon  
Environment & Design Team  
Bath & North East Somerset Council

**From:** Cleo Newcombe-Jones [mailto:Cleo\_Newcombe-Jones@BATHNES.GOV.UK]  
**Sent:** 08 February 2016 17:26  
**To:** 'Phil Harding'  
**Cc:** Zoe Hancock  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Dear Phil

Just to follow up from the correspondence with Zoe below. We are currently taking forward the Traffic Regulation Order for Mead Lane Saltford, our Transport and Highways Team have today confirmed they will be adding this to their TRO workplan for 2016-17 and I will be able to confirm a lead officer contact and target date for this work shortly once their group manager has confirmed this.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January I visited Mead Lane and conducted a site visit, however, as part of the programme of events on the Water Space Study I am sure I will be in Saltford again and it would be good to meet up.

Best wishes,

Cleo

Cleo Newcombe-Jones



Project Coordinator – River Avon  
Environment & Design Team  
Bath & North East Somerset Council

**From:** Phil Harding [mailto:phil@philharding.net]  
**Sent:** 09 February 2016 09:51  
**To:** Cleo Newcombe-Jones  
**Cc:** Zoe Hancock  
**Subject:** RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford - enforcement notices

Hi Cleo

Good to hear from you. I am glad that the Transport and Highways Team will be adding the TRO to their 2016/17 work plan; please do encourage them to bring this forward to the start of 2016/17 (i.e. April) rather than later in the year as the problem of long stay moorings builds up from the spring.

My proposed temporary measure to allow river bank maintenance with a “48 hour maximum mooring time with no return in 14 days” restriction should also provide a short term solution to cover us while B&NES works out a longer term mooring strategy. We certainly can’t face a repeat of last year with boats moored for months on end that prevented riverbank maintenance whilst depriving day trippers and anglers of access to the river bank quite apart from the human effluent that was being emptied into the river to the dismay of residents and the sailing club at the end of Mead Lane that practices on that stretch of the river.

If you are able to pop along to Saltford sometime soon to meet up with me and a few residents that would be hugely appreciated; just suggest some dates/times to me.

Finally, when we first met with Zoe and others, in recognising the depth of concern over this issue and the need to find practical solutions, Zoe agreed to provide monthly (end of month) progress reports so that the Parish Council and residents knew things were moving and not being overlooked. I hope you can continue to provide short monthly updates too.

There is a separate matter of the slipway in the Shallows, but while it is a health & safety issue and should prevent higher costs later (underpinning the road and repairing the river bank), that is not as urgent as the mooring problems in Mead Lane which are about to kick off again as the weather improves. I understand from Zoe that the slipway issue will be covered in the Water Space Study.

I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,

Phil

From: Cleo Newcombe-Jones  
Date: 09/02/2016 12:38 (GMT+00:00)  
To: 'Phil Harding'  
Subject: RE: River moorings at Mead Lane, Saltford

Hi Phil,

I will of course push for the earliest start date possible for the TRO on your behalf, Zoe’s work together confirmation of support from your Ward Councillor and Cabinet Member has certainly helped to take this forward.

A mooring solution for Mead Lane, as you describe is being actively considered, and we are currently seeking additional resources to support this as a standalone project – again I will keep you updated on progress, and would appreciate your input as this goes forward. The Shallows Slipway is on the radar and will be included as a potential project in the Water Space Study.

Happy to provide monthly updates to Saltford Parish Council – I've put a reminder in my calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. I will be in touch with a possible date to meet once we have agreed our consultation strategy for the Water Space Study at the end of Feb; I'll most likely coincide with attending a Parish Council meeting.

Many thanks,  
Cleo