

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
BATHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 10th AUGUST, 2009**

Local Representatives

Ian Dewey - BANES Councillor - Chairman
George Malcolm - Bathampton canal-side resident
Richard Wright - Claverton Parish Council
Keith Rossiter - Bathampton Parish Council

Apologies – Ian Muir - Bathampton canal-side resident

British Waterways

Sally Ash
Paul Griffin
Damian Kemp

1. Sally Ash reminded the meeting that British Waterways is still in a reorganization phase which is due to become effective on 1st October, 2009.

Of particular interest to the meeting will be two senior appointments:-

Mark Stephens – will be Waterways Manager for the Kennet & Avon Canal. One of eleven separate waterways within the new BW structure. This new structure is aimed at providing closer operational focus on individual waterways. Mark will report to Vince Moran, Operations Director, and his responsibilities will include 'monitoring the canal and the towpath'. He will be based in Devizes.

Denise Yelland – as National Enforcement Manager – will head up a separate organization responsible for enforcing mooring and licence conditions for all eleven waterways. She will report to Simon Salem and Paul Griffin will report directly to her (note that John Ward who is currently Paul's line manager has been reassigned).

2. Sally Ash is responsible for BW Policy Development and as such has been charged by Simon Salem to work with Bathampton & Claverton representatives to develop a trial package of mooring zones and enforcement procedures.

Sally anticipates that there will be four main mooring zones:-

- Time Limited - either 24, 48 or 72 hours.
- Daily/Monthly - for which a daily/monthly fee will be charged.
- Cruising - up to 14 days for legitimate continuous cruisers.
- Permanent - a permanent – but not residential 'liveaboard' mooring.

There might also be 'residential' moorings, but these would always be subject to local authority planning permission.

3. A small working group comprising George Malcolm, Richard Wright and Keith Rossiter agreed to meet with Damian Kemp on Monday, 17th August to walk the Bathampton & Claverton canal towpath and – using their local knowledge – discuss various zoning options.
4. It was further agreed to postpone the meeting with Simon Salem previously scheduled on 25th August, until a date to be agreed. Instead, there will be a meeting on 28th August @ 1100 a.m. in Bathampton Village Hall to review Damian's proposed zoning plans for Bathampton and

Claverton. We understand that this zoning plan will still be in draft form and subject to final British Waterways confirmation

Ian Dewey has agreed to chair this meeting and - in addition to the three local representatives and Roy Smedley, the local K & A Canal Trust Chairman - he will also invite BANES planning and environmental officers.

BW to confirm who, in addition to Damian Kemp, will attend this meeting.

5. A lengthy discussion took place on the question of a local 'volunteer scheme'.

Sally Ash on behalf of BW, stated that after consultation with their 'volunteer management group', BW was very concerned about using volunteers in any kind of enforcement role. They saw potential problems from antagonistic boaters and would prefer to operate through a local 'agent' who could be given the appropriate power and BW backing. This agent would also have the power to impose fines and collect daily/monthly mooring charges.

Sally asked if BANES might make available part of its parking enforcement team on a contract hire basis. Ian Dewey said that he ruled this out completely as BANES had no spare capacity for this kind of work.

6. Local representatives were adamant that whatever mooring/licence strategy BW eventually developed, it would only work if it could be strongly enforced and in their view this could only be done with the help of local volunteers.

These local volunteers would operate with the agreement and coordination of parish councils and their sole responsibility would be to gather information on boats, e.g. number, name, location, overstaying and related information. They would pass this information to a clearly defined BW structure. The volunteers would not be responsible for issuing warnings or collecting fees.

It was also stated that Parish Councils would not take on this responsibility unless it was clear that the volunteers had a clearly defined BW 'status', i.e. they were volunteers acting on behalf of BW – not the Parish Council. The Parish Council's role would be to ensure that there was always a volunteer group within the parish.

7. No agreement was reached on this point, but Sally Ash agreed to report back to her colleagues and ensure that they clearly understood the strength of local feeling on this matter. It would be a matter for further discussion at the next meeting with Simon Salem on a date to be agreed.

KWR
10 Aug. 09