

From: Paul Smith ABNB <paul.s@abnb.co.uk>
Date: Tuesday, 3 August 2021 at 08:01
To: Stephen Rice <stephen@sbrice.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Demand for new and second-hand narrow boats

Good morning Stephen,

Many thanks for the email.

From a boat brokerage, marine surveyor and marina operator point of view, I can advise that currently demand is high for second-hand and new-build inland waterway boats. This has been recently fuelled by mainstream TV programs and the pandemic, whereby boat buyers are often looking for a change in lifestyle or for holidays in the UK. The change in lifestyle reflects what is also apparent in the housing market, whereby out-of-city housing is more popular than inner city, and the choice in holiday location due to the current uncertainties and restrictions on travel abroad.

A majority of inland waterway boat sales are for buyers looking for part or full time residential use, and the majority of enquiries for marina moorings reflect this bias towards residential use. However, it is not exclusive, with leisure use boat owners still a significant number.

From a personal point of view, inland waterway boating has changed over the last 50 years, with more and more waterways suffering from a significant number of boats moored on the towpath, reducing the pleasure of cruising and making it more of a challenge to find an overnight mooring spot.

I hope this is useful, and if I can be of any further assistance, please ask.

Regards

Paul

On 22 Jul 2021, at 14:26, Stephen Rice <stephen@sbrice.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Paul

I have been given your contact details by Mike.

We are preparing an appeal against refusal of planning permission for a new marina on the Oxford Canal and would like to present the Inspector with some evidence of demand for new boats and moorings.

I suspect that you are very busy, however, I would be really grateful if you could reply to this email confirming that the market for new and second-hand boats is strong and whether you can secure enough second-hand boats to meet demand

Some comment from you on your thoughts regarding the status of the industry would also be very helpful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks
Regards
Stephen

Stephen Rice MRICS
Director

<image001.png>

07557 880112
www.sbrice.co.uk

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Correspondence Address: SBRice Ltd, Treath, Trewartha Road, Praa Sands, Penzance TR20 9ST

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ABNB Ltd, North Kilworth Marina, Station Road, North Kilworth LE17 6HY Tel: 01788 822 115 [Email: paul.s@abnb.co.uk](mailto:paul.s@abnb.co.uk) Website: www.abnb.co.uk Company No: 7049299 VAT No: GB 980 8084 91

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