

Threeways End
Main Street
Claydon
Banbury OX17 1EZ

25th October 2020

Reference to proposed Marina at Claydon – Application No. 20/02446/F

Good morning all,

Trust this finds you safe and well in these uncertain times.

This letter is in regard to the proposed new marina at Claydon (20/02446/F), again I wish to register my objection to its build for the below reasons.

Having read the resubmitted plans for the proposed marina and noting that nothing seems to have changed from the original submittal over a year ago. It would seem that there has been absolutely **no** attempt from the proposal party to address any concerns raised by any of the objectors to this original plan.

Please understand that this is not just a 'nimby' objection; we already have 2 perfectly good and large marinas located either side at Fenny Compton (100+ berths) and Cropredy (250 berths). To add to this, there has been recent approval to considerably expand the marina at the Cropredy site (another 100 berths) and an additional new site in Cropredy with 50 berths under construction.

Just how many marinas do we need in this small stretch of waterway covering approximately 7 miles?

Also, while I realise that there is a considerable amount of money proposed in this project. Sadly, we are all too aware that in this day, money often overrides common sense, the environment as well as local people's concerns and genuine objections. Especially, when there is absolutely **no** benefit to the local people whatsoever.

Main Objections

1. The sheer size of the proposed marina is immense. The Oxford Canal is a conservation area, and this development will not contribute positively to the conservation of the canal locally. The impact to the local wildlife, which is constantly being 'moved on' due to developments like this, will be considerable. The area is a major hunting ground for at least 3 types of owl (Tawny, Little and Barn) as well as buzzards, hawks, kestrels, and kites. Not to mention nesting areas for countless birds and waterfowl that live throughout the area.
2. Most years during the summer, navigation hours have to be restricted and boats are commonly held up all day waiting to use the locks at Claydon. This problem will be exacerbated by additional canal traffic and its use of canal water as a result of the construction of this proposed marina.
3. The planning application indicates that the proposed marina will be supplied with water from the canal and that the lake will fill through precipitation. Oily bilge water and grey water (from domestic use) discharged from boats in combination with inevitable spillages of diesel fuel during refuelling will, owing to the lack of flow, pollute the water contained in the marina. The lake, if it dries out during a period of drought, will not serve the Applicants stated purpose as an irrigation lake for crops of potatoes.

4. There will be an increased pressure on the local services like Cropredy Surgery which cannot take on any more patients. This is largely due to the uncontrolled number of 'residential boats' at the new Cropredy marina. Despite the planner's assurances to the contrary, just like at Cropredy, they will not be able to or care to police this.
5. The increased road traffic through the village will also be considerable too. Let us be under no illusions here that putting up a few signposts to direct traffic along an intended route will divert this problem. It won't have the slightest effect. Especially when most people rely on their 'Sat Nav' instead. So much so that if the Sat Nav told them to drive over a precipice, they would sadly do so...
6. The actual road through the village to the proposed site is in appalling condition as it is. It is single lane with little room for passing and is mostly used by farm vehicles. Claydon has enough trouble with HGV car transporters coming through to the Apple Tree estate. Again, following their Sat Nav to the humpback bridge before realising, too late, that they need to reverse all the way back to, and through, the village out the other side again before they can turn round. The council were supposed to do something about this by putting up road signs warning HGVs that this is a 'No Through' road for them, but nothing has been done in 3 years despite our constant appealing.

Apart from cars there will be an increase in support vehicles for the marina too, including construction, food and fuel.

Even the emergency services (fire especially) have objected to the marina build due to its inaccessibility.

7. Lastly and by no means least; the marina will spoil the natural, beautiful landscape many of us moved here in the first place to enjoy. While I realise that there will always be projects going on; this is sadly a consequence of our times. But as I've stated before, we already have two very substantial marinas in the local area. We really don't need yet another one. The local environment just can't take it in the long run. At some point we have to say 'STOP' and apply some common sense.

However, if this marina does get pushed through for whatever reason, then there must be a couple of conditions that need adding to the proposal.

- 1) The walkways along the canal banks must be rebuilt and constantly maintained by the development. Independent Inspections should be done twice a year and all repairs legally enforced within an appropriate time frame. After all, this will still be a PUBLIC access point.
- 2) The road from Claydon to the proposed marina must be rebuilt with a proper substructure designed to take the high quantity of traffic and include proper passing points along its route.
- 3) Proper meaningful road signs should be put up before entry into the village, discouraging any marina bound traffic from using the village as a rat run. They should be directed to the route through Glebe Farm.
- 4) Independent Water testing must be done once a year to ensure that the water is within safety limits for the local wildlife. Filtering and cleaning methods must be legally enforced if the standards fall short.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ives

I have sent this by both post and email.