



Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

Tuesday 4 September 2018

Ms Clare O'Hanlon
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX15 4AA

Our Ref CRTR-PLAN-2018-24963
Your Ref 18/00904/F

Dear Ms O'Hanlon,

Proposal: Formation of inland waterways marina with ancillary facilities building, car parking, access and associated landscaping including the construction of a new lake

Location: Glebe Farm, Boddington Road, Banbury

Waterway: Oxford Canal

You have asked for our comments on the letter from Mr Kirkpatrick dated 29th July 2018. We have responded to Mr Kirkpatrick and I understand that he has forwarded that response to the Council along with his further representations. In summary our comments to the Local Planning Authority, submitted on the 21st June 2018, remain.

The Trust notes that the applicant's agent has submitted further information to support their planning application. This includes a press release from the Trust dated 1 March 2018 referring to works undertaken by the Trust at Napton locks. We would like it to be noted that these works were part of our priority works programme and while we were on site we took the opportunity to undertake additional works on the lock flight whilst it was closed. This was normal maintenance and not driven by external factors.

You have also asked if we have a view about an "anecdotal comment that the proposed marina would result in additional boat trips and associated congestion on the canal to the extent that it would detract from its attractiveness to users and deter its use". With regard to perceived congestion, we would comment that the issue of congestion on the waterways is subjective. There is no commonly agreed definition of congestion. Following an extensive period of research and consultation with the trade, a British Marine Federation/Canal & River Trust agreed process is now applied to all new marina applications affecting popular boating areas. In relevant cases the Trust will provide estimates of boat movement increase (at the key locks within the relevant area) and make this available to LPA's on request. Whilst we acknowledge the Trust's press release of the 1st March 2018 titled "Oxford Canal named as nation's most popular waterway with boaters", this proposed marina does not fall within a defined popular boating area in relation to the Trust's process for appraising new marinas. The most up to date information on lock usage and boaters' perceptions of congestion can be found in the Canal & River Trust Annual Lockage Report 2017 (published January 2018) and the Canal & River Trust Boat Owners Survey (published April 2017). These documents are available on our website.

We have sent a copy of this response to Mr Kirkpatrick.

Yours sincerely

Ailith Rutt MRTPI
Planning Manager

ailith.rutt@canalrivertrust.org.uk
07824 356538

Canal & River Trust Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 7DN

T 0303 040 4040 E planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk W www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB