



Banbury Sailing Club



Site address (not for correspondence): Boddington
Reservoir, Byfield, Northamptonshire, NN11 6XU

Head of Planning Control
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House,
Bodicote,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
OX15 4AA

14th May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to Planning Application ref 18/00904/F: Formation of inland waterways marina with ancillary facilities building, car parking, access and associated landscaping including the construction of a new lake, Glebe Farm Boddington Road Claydon Banbury OX17 1TD

I am writing to you on behalf of the Officers and Committee of Banbury Sailing Club, Boddington Reservoir, Byfield, NN11 6XU to register our objection to this planning application.

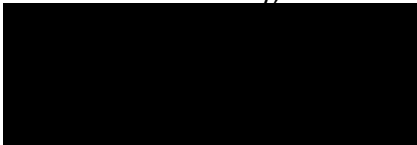
Banbury Sailing Club operates on Boddington Reservoir, a Canal and Rivers Trust owned reservoir which is a primary supply of water to the Oxford Canal as it runs between Banbury and Napton. The club provides an important amenity for the area; over 350 people are involved with the club which provides sailing and racing for all ages and abilities. The club is a Recognised Training Centre and affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association (sailing's National Governing Body) and provides a comprehensive training programme for both adults and children delivered by 57 volunteer instructors. The youth section is the largest in the area teaching up to 65 children aged 7-18 to sail and race with some progressing to compete at national and international level while others become sailing instructors. Over the last 5 years we have provided introductory sailing sessions for over 500 young people from local youth organisations including scouts, guides, schools, brownies and cubs. In 2017 the club was selected to host the National Schools Sailing Association team racing championships which saw 80 sailors compete in 130 races over 2 days.

While the Canal and Rivers Trust's letter of 21st June 2018 suggests that sufficient water resources are available to support the proposed marina; we feel this is purely focused on the canal requirements and does not take account of the potential impact to water levels and sailing at Banbury Sailing Club. Boddington and Clattercote reservoirs both feed this stretch of canal but we know from conversations with the trust that their preference is to draw water from Boddington due to its larger size and speed of refill; unfortunately our direct experience each summer is the water drawn by the canal system has a significant effect on water levels and the proportion of the reservoir which can be used for sailing. Boddington is a relatively small area of water for sailing and progressive silting of the reservoir and drier summers have meant that in the last 5 years by June/July there is a large

island in the middle which progressively links to the bank, the sailable area has been reduced by over 60% and some types of boats can no-longer race at all due to their depth. The reservoir may be faster to refill than Clattercote, but in recent years this has not occurred until October and sometimes November/December which is too late for the main sailing and training season; the photo overleaf was taken on 11th December 2018 showing birds standing on the central island and therefore this northern half of the reservoir was still not useable for racing by this date. In 2011 water levels reduced so much that all racing had to cease from July and the first rain to provide a sufficient increase in level to re-start sailing was not until February 2012. This resulted in members leaving and a significant adverse financial effect on the club.

Any increase in usage of the canal and locks has a direct, adverse effect on water levels at Boddington. We are aware of planning approval which has already been granted for a substantial increase in the Cropredy marina (additional 100 moorings) and do not believe any measures are planned to increase water supplies in the area to compensate for the increased lock usage or decreased capacity at Boddington due to silting. We therefore strongly object to this application for the marina at Claydon which would cause a loss of amenity for sailing at Boddington due to the increase in canal usage and water draw which would result from such a large facility.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Rimmer
Training Principal
Banbury Sailing Club

cc. Andy Darby, Commodore, Banbury Sailing Club, Ginetta Best, Secretary, Banbury Sailing Club



11th December 2018: Photo of northern half of reservoir showing water level not recovered and shallows in middle evidenced by birds standing.