

CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

10

10. River Manager's Report

Matters for Report

10.1 Administration

The Conservancy's contact details and remit of responsibilities have been provided upon request to the City Council for its revised A-Z reference document used by its Out of Hours call handling team.

The EA has convened an additional Regional Navigation Group meeting on 23rd September at its offices in Brampton. The Anglian Region Paddlesports Group is due to reconvene on 3rd October at the EA's offices in Peterborough.

There has been further disruption to e-mails. Incoming messages are being returned to their authors as undeliverable. Intervention by AKM, IT Support, has failed to resolve the problem. No messages originating from EA officers for example, are being received and this situation is most grave given the essential communications required between the two authorities. The River Manager has been giving out her personal e-mail address to certain parties as an emergency measure. The EA IT team has been contacted for assistance from their side.

The Chairman and River Manager have been invited to the opening of the new Clubhouse facilities at Cambridge Canoe Club, Newnham, on 15th October.

10.1.1 Archiving: A member of the public asked about the construction date of Byron's Pool weir and sluices. Officers have been unable to provide a date (not a Conservancy structure). The gentleman was advised to make contact with the EA and County Archives for further information.

10.1.2 Business Plan: Nothing to report.

10.1.3 AINA/BW: The All-Party Parliamentary Waterways Group published a Memorandum setting out its conclusions and recommendations on the governance and financing of the New Waterways Charity on 18th July (http://www.waterways.org.uk/pdf/waterways_memorandum). The Group, chaired by the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, has stressed the ambition for the new charity to be a membership organisation but warned that financing inadequacies threaten its viability (funding gap estimates of £15-45M). Government would need to look into this in greater detail. Public responses to the Defra consultation on 'A New Era for the Waterways' have been summarised and a Government response published (see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/03/30/waterways-1103/>) A supplementary consultation on the proposed Transfer Function (required to move the functions of British Waterways over to the New Waterways Charity) has been announced, closing date 24th October (see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/09/12/waterways-1109/>)

The River Manager offered apologies for the meeting of the AINA Executive Committee, 13th September (away on annual leave).

10.1.4 Insurance: see 10.3.7, below.

10.1.5 Office supplies: Nothing to report.

10.1.7 Staff: The River Manager took annual leave 21-28 July inclusive and 5-16 September inclusive. The river crew have also taken annual leave in the last quarter. Graduate Emily Hall undertook a short placement at Baits Bite working on the analysis of the traffic data at Riverside (see item 5), updating the COSHH records (see item 7) and producing a map of Mooring Zones.

10.1.8 Licensing Act: Nothing to report.

10.1.9 Grant applications: Cambridge City Council has circulated details of the application procedure for its Sustainable City funding, 2012-13. A proposal for the restocking of trees along the Halingway has generated a positive response from the Old Chesterton Residents' Association. A joint application is in preparation, deadline 7th October.

10.1.10 EA flood warning service: Flooding incident emergency contact details held by the EA for Conservancy officers have been re-affirmed.

10.1.11 EA visit: David Jordan, EA Head of Operations, visited the Conservancy Area by patrol boat in August as part of a review of joint asset management.

10.1.12 Declarations of Interest: A draft of this document is in preparation and it will be circulated to the Conservators before the quarterly meeting in January 2012.

10.2 Property management

10.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's House: Carter Jonas has been instructed to arrange an Energy Performance Certificate for the property in accordance with legal requirements (valid for 10 years until advised). The changeover of student tenants took place in August after some difficulty in obtaining written notice of the outgoing tenants' intentions. One student's Exemption Certificate lapsed in July, precipitating the receipt of a demand for Council Tax. This was passed on to Carter Jonas and they secured payment from the tenant's guarantor. Rental has been forthcoming from the new tenants. They have signed an agreement for 6 months but Carter Jonas has had to expend some time chasing these new tenants for their guarantors' letters. Another fault with the gas cooker has required a contractors' attendance. Some deposit from the former tenants has been held back for future carpet cleaning. A broken banister has been repaired. Alan Wisbeach, Painter & Decorator, has cleaned and repainted all exterior paintwork at a cost of £1450 inc. VAT. The Director of the Landmark Trust has followed up his visit in May with his thoughts on the property. The Trust remains open to the idea of entering into some form of management agreement with the Conservators.

10.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: Monthly rentals have been forthcoming from the tenants. The tenants in No. 1 Cottage kindly agreed to the temporary storing of the 'Bumps Trolley' in their garden during the Town Bumps. Their upstairs smoke alarm developed a fault in August; a replacement unit was purchased. Gas-Elec Safety Systems conducted an advanced electrical safety inspection

at No. 2 Cottage in July. The oven in No. 2 Cottage developed an electrical fault in August causing the fuses to trip out; contractors attended. The letting agent inventory clerk has noted the poor housekeeping by the tenants occupying this property and deterioration of the décor and carpets as a result. The wooden post and panel fence between the two properties has become dilapidated; strong winds in mid-September have displaced some of the panels. The river crew will attend to the repairs.

10.2.3 Baits Bite Office: The air conditioning unit has undergone a routine maintenance service at a cost of £143. Advance Security paid their annual visit to service the intruder alarm on 13th September.

10.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: Renovation of the slipway and river frontage by Drake Towage is progressing. An interim payment of £74,693 has been made to the contractors, Drake Towage Ltd. Overseeing engineers George Shuttleworth have been paying weekly visits to the site to monitor progress, accompanied by the River Manager when practicable. The slipway and piled frontage is almost complete. Two non-return flap valves have been purchased and fitted to the pilings, covering drain outfalls. Additionally, ducting has been purchased to carry electrical cabling and water supply between the Workshop and frontage to service the utility points. Secure utility housings remain to be purchased. The River Foreman has been seeking quotations. A meeting is to take place at the contractors' offices on 27th September to discuss final 'snagging' points. The slipway should be ready for commissioning in early October. The river crew have been warned to be especially vigilant to thefts from the Depot following a series of burglaries in the Horningsea area in August when items of equipment and vehicles were stolen.

UK Power Networks issued notification of tree works near to Clayhithe. The branches have been interfering with their power cables.

10.2.5 Jesus Lock: The River Bailiff assisted JGA volunteers with spring bulb-planting, 22nd September. The leaf blower (see Equipment) will be of great benefit to the River Bailiff to keep the lawned areas clear in autumn and winter.

10.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: An intermittent electrical fault has been affecting the guillotine gate operation. The EA's electrician and Graeme Cooper Electrical have been involved in investigating the fault. The lock on the control cabinet door (tail end) failed in August. The river crew were able to repair the EA-supplied barrel lock. R J Marriott have been asked to fabricate a box to cover the exposed electrical and hydraulic cables which enter the building on a north-facing wall. The EA electrician had noted on a visit that someone had cut the earth cable. High scrap metal prices predisposed electrical cabling, in particular, to theft. A pre-commencement meeting with Drake Towage and George Shuttleworth Engineering is due to take place at Wisbech on 27th September before the commencing of works to the downstream landing stage. The lock will be closed for its half-yearly M&E inspection on 20th and 21st October. A suspension of navigation notice will be advertised in accordance with the statutes.

10.2.7 The Halingway: The chain link boundary fencing underneath the A14 road bridge was breached in July, presumably to ease access for illegal users of quad-bikes and mini-motos on the set-aside fields near the Thirteenth Award Drain and along the towpath. The party responsible

for the fencing remains unidentified; it may have been put in place by the Highways Agency when the bridge was constructed in the 1970's. Cllr Smith (Milton/SCDC) reported an unstable willow tree on the access trackway leading to Grassy Corner, 15th July; it was posing an unknown risk to volunteers ahead of a litterpicking event. A resident of Chesterton Fen agreed to make the tree safe to the group's satisfaction. Traxeyes Ltd had made misleading claims about their photo-luminescent marker discs. The County Council's Cycling Officer had provided some samples, gratis, to the Conservancy for mounting on the towpath bollards for night-time identification by towpath users (see Minutes, January 2011). The company was asked to correct their article. Mr McKee, licensed nest inspector, visited the Halingway on 2nd August to inspect the barn owl nesting boxes. There were signs of activity but no chicks. The local Sustrans ranger has reported her concern about the increasing amount of dog faeces being deposited along the grassed areas of the Halingway in the Chesterton area. A parent enquired whether their daughter could commute to College in Milton by horse along the towpath. The parent was advised that this would not be possible due to the byelaw restrictions. He was advised to make contact with the County Council's Countryside Access Team for advice on alternative routes. A swarm of wasps was reported in the riverbank near the Gun Shed immediately prior to the Town Bumps. A rowing crew that had pulled-in at that point had been subjected to a nasty attack. Inspections were made but the wasps could not be found. OCRA is hosting a meeting on 4th October to discuss issues associated with Chesterton Fen Road. The River Manager has been invited to attend.

10.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: A member of the public reported a rogue fisherman in a paddock near Green End, Fen Ditton, in July. The report was forwarded to the EA. Another instance of suspected illegal fishing was observed. The EA contacted the offices about their intentions to conduct the annual fish population survey at various sampling stations along the Cam. Payment of £1,065 has been received from CFPAS Ltd in respect of the lease of the fishing rights along the towpath for the period ending 30/11/2011.

10.2.9 Grazing 0.704 ha. (1.74 acres) Fen Road: See Note 3, Matters Arising.

10.2.10 Grazing 1.898 ha. (4.69 acres) Fen Road: Late payment has been received from the tenant, Mr Moore, for the half-yearly fees (due 1st July), plus interest accrued under the terms of the Business Tenancy.

10.2.11 Clayhithe Field 4.57 ha. (11.3 acres): Mr Thorogood of Archer & Archer is in the process of arranging the new Business Tenancy Agreement with the existing tenant, Mr Smart. See Note 3, Matters Arising.

10.3 Plant and equipment

10.3.1 Computer: IT support providers AKM have installed another PC at Baits Bite offices for use by the river crew or additional members of staff/volunteers. Final commissioning of the rear office remains outstanding.

10.3.2 Conservators' Boats: The delivery of piles to Clayhithe by contractors Drake Towage provided an opportunity to use the same lorry to take the two work barges away for off-site

refurbishment. Both barges had been lying on the water for many years and were in need of attention. The Chairman authorised this one-off spend (c.£2k). The barges have been shot-blasted and primed. Some welding repairs were necessary. The river crew will apply the top coat of paint at Clayhithe Depot.

Pete Maskell is due to fit an isolator pin to the Berky lifting arm to prevent crane 'creep' when the engine is idling.

10.3.3 Vehicles: The Ford Transit tipper truck required a new exhaust and three new tyres in order to pass its MOT. A service was also carried out (total costs £707). The Mitsubishi L200 truck has been serviced (cost £189).

10.3.4 Mobile phones: The Deputy River Manager has been investigating contract alternatives for staff mobile phone. The account is currently with O2.

10.3.5 Portable Appliance Testing: Nothing to report.

10.3.6 Tools: A powered leaf-blower has been purchased for the river crew (cost £140).

10.3.7 LOLER: The insurers' inspector has visited Clayhithe Depot to make his half-yearly reports on items of lifting equipment requiring certification. His formal assessment report is awaited.

10.4 River Work

10.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with Cambridge City Council: The invoice for the period April to June inclusive has been issued; payment has been received by BACS. The invoice for the quarter July – September will be issued in October. Cambridge Canoe Club experienced problems when trying to use the flow deflectors, evening of 10th August. There was no power at the site. The River Foreman investigated the cause of the fault the following morning and discovered that the fuse had tripped for no apparent reason. The City Council's decision to place the fuse box within Scudamore's Boatyard offices hinders any effective emergency response by the Conservancy. A fee proposal for the SLA 2012/13 has been sent to the City Council for their consideration. In their monthly visual inspections, the river crew have noted the absence of a lifebuoy near this site, the lack of lighting during night-time callouts and the inadequate guarding of the parapet by the existing handrails over the footbridge.

10.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The invoice for the quarter July to September will be issued in October. Payment has been received for the period April to June.

10.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: CGM (Cambridge) Ltd carried out a full cut of the riverbank adjacent to the Halingway in August (cost £1,008). One more cut may be required in the autumn to curb the spread of invasive perennial weeds (three for the year in total). The contractors have been leaving an un-cut habitat margin along the stretch from Baits Bite to Clayhithe. The river crew claim that this has hampered their efforts at installing the soft revetment (see Water Framework Directive, below).

10.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: Unconsented works were observed along the frontage of the Combined Boathouses, opposite Riverside, in August. Having made some enquiries with the CUCBC, the originator of the works order was traced to Selwyn College. A licence has been prepared for the programme of works.

The production company for the BBC1 programme 'Saturday Kitchen' approached the offices for permission to film from a punt for their broadcast on 10th September.

10.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): The River Bailiff noted a large collection of rubbish bags in the car park of the former Penny Ferry pub, Chesterton, in July, believed to have been generated by the liveaboard boaters who had taken temporary moorings there with the permission of the site manager. The property has been ear-marked to be demolished. The City Council's Environmental Health team was alerted to this health hazard. The annual invoice to Cambridge City Council for the Conservancy's services is due to be issued. Confirmation is awaited of the City Council's budget for this service as from 1st April 2012. The City's Public Realm Manager queried who was responsible for clearing litter from the drains to the rear of Queens' and Clare Colleges. The responsibility was believed to be the City Council's.

10.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: Officers met with representatives of the Cambridge Motor Boat Club on 18th August to discuss a phased programme of bank repairs along their frontage. The river crew paid a second visit to measure up so that quotes could be gained for the necessary materials (wood, angle-iron etc.).

A private landowner has approached officers about a programme of repairs to shore-up an off-river cut in Fen Ditton. A site visit has yet to be arranged.

10.4.7 Tree Pollarding: Acacia Tree Surgery were due to undertake surgery to an ornamental tree in the grounds of St John's College on 18th July but they were forced to cancel at short notice on account of the noise impact upon the Master's Conference and Tea Party. This Party had been booked for the same day by a different department of the College. A new date was agreed and a revised suspension of navigation notice was issued for 15th August (costs charged-on to the contractors). Commercial operators were updated by e-mail notification.

10.4.8 Weed cutting: The President of CFPAS Ltd queried when the Conservancy's Berky was due to be deployed to cut Reach and Burwell Lodes, as in previous years. A fee proposal had been submitted to the EA. This was not taken-up. The EA put its own Berky to use for the first time in the Lodes (loss of approx. £8k income to the Conservancy).

The Deputy River Foreman has been occupied with weed-cutting on the Lower River using the weed harvester. The reaches at Waterbeach were cut before Cam Sailing Club's Moth Open Week and Junior Sail Training week in July.

Hauxton Primary School asked if the stream running through their grounds could be cleared of weeds. They were directed to make contact with the EA, being better placed to identify the responsible drainage board/landowner.

10.4.9 Bank Maintenance: The river crew have been proceeding with the installation of soft revetment between Baits Bite and Clayhithe using monies from the EA under a Water Framework Directive project. The River Foreman's new drysuit has proved its usefulness

already; the method requires him to stand in the water whilst fixing the stakes and coir-filled rolls in place.

10.4.10 River Lowering: Cambs County Council has expressed an interest in taking advantage of the biennial river lowering offer to make repairs to Robinson Crusoe Bridge on the upper river.

10.5 Acts / Byelaws

10.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: Rowers have reported a number of occurrences of motor vessels being moored in zones prohibited to mooring at Riverside, Chesterton and Fen Ditton. There has been a notable increase in occurrences of double mooring over the last 3 months. When identifiable, contact has been made with the owners reminding them of the requirements of the Mooring Policy. A wide-beam barge has been observed moored-up next to another wide-beam barge at a private property in Chesterton, causing an obstruction to rowers and in contravention of the policy, on two separate occasions, in spite of requests put to the owner to move the outside barge.

10.5.2 Incidents: The Police were involved in a dispute between Mr Middleton and some rowers from Rob Roy BC, 14th July. The crew were alleged to have hit a swan when passing the Plough public house. Conversation between the crew and the shore became very heated and Mr Middleton was subjected to an assault.

Chronic, but minor, oil pollution incidents of the main river have been ongoing. Their sources remain undetermined.

Mr Mayo submitted a complaint to the Chairman about a Conservators' behaviour in relation to a boat-release incident on 8th August. The matter has now been resolved.

The Clerk of Fen Ditton Parish Council has expressed concerns of residents about alleged crime associated with the vessels moored near the Plough public house. The Police are keeping a watching brief.

The rowers' Gun Shed near the A14 road bridge was dismantled and stolen on 31st August. The thieves loaded the metal panels into a white van which was parked on an adjacent paddock. The theft was reported to the Police. Mr Key, who witnessed the theft from a coxed four, took photos but it was not possible to identify the offenders. When challenged from the river, the offenders lobbed a bottle and clods of earth at the crew and hurled abuse likewise. CUCBC has agreed to the River Manager's suggestion of planting a tree (common alder) in memoriam of Richard Hamersley and Ian Thompson to mark this historic site.

10.5.3 Overloading: there have been no reports received over the last quarter.

10.5.4 Prosecutions: The River Manager arranged for the taking of witness statements in respect of an incident on the navigation, 4th July (obstruction of the navigation by Mr Middleton). This obstruction was preceded by a speedboat pursuit and assault upon a lone sculler. The victim reported this attack to the Police; they have made no further progress with the case to our knowledge. The River Manager has also taken statements with a view to raising proceedings under the Conservancy byelaws. Clarification of the lead authority is required.

Mr Middleton attended a Trial at Cambridge Magistrates on 16th August (Mr Judkins prosecuting on behalf of the Conservators in relation to incidents of 9th June 2010, 19th July 2010 and 26th

November 2010). Further documents were presented in the form of maps and photographs of the locations. Witnesses also attended. Creed Lane Law represented Mr Middleton (legally-aided). Mr Middleton pleaded guilty to obstruction on 9th June 2010 and breach of byelaw 15.5 (abusive behaviour) on 26th November. The Judge ordered that he must pay level 1 penalties for these 2 offences but the fines were duplicated because both occurred within a period subject to a 3-year conditional discharge. Since Mr Middleton could have pleaded guilty before reaching Trial, he was ordered to pay costs of £6871.65 and a victim impact surcharge of £15. Creed Lane Law has subsequently appealed these costs. Stakeholders were informed of the outcome of this Trial and Cambridge News also published a piece.

Mr Middleton attended the County Court on 19th August in relation to a claim for trespass lodged against him by the management company of the Plough public house.

Statements have been sought from Cambs Police in relation to an assault that took place on private land in Fen Ditton associated with a loud party on board a boat near the A14 road bridge. The Police demanded £75 for the release of the statements.

10.5.5 Navigation: Ongoing e-mail problems have created a hiatus in the receipt of regional navigation closure and restriction notices from the Environment Agency.

10.5.6 Obstructions/overhanging trees: The bough of a large willow tree on the edge of the former Pye's field, Chesterton, collapsed into the navigation margin on 18th July. The river crew made the area safe immediately and the City Council as landowner (extension of Logan's Meadow LNR) was notified that further works would be required to make the branch fully safe. A willow branch collapsed near Chesterton Footbridge (Stourbridge Common side, also City-owned land) on 10th August, late afternoon. The Deputy River Foreman cleared the debris the following morning.

10.5.7 Pontoon licences: Payment of the licence in respect of the 'disabled walkway', in the sum of £1,255, was received from Mulberry Ventures (Granta Punts) in September.

10.5.8 Registration numbers: Byelaw observance remains poor, as noted previously, in spite of notices being served upon non-compliant vessels.

10.5.9 Removal of Sunken/Abandoned Boats: A member of the public expressed an interest in taking-on reclaimed vessel 'Jester', lying Clayhithe, as a project, but he wanted an off-the-water hull inspection to be carried out before agreeing to submit a tender. This proposal was rejected, being against the normal procedures. Furthermore, the slipway was out of commission at the time (capital programme). The river crew reclaimed a number of abandoned/sunken small craft from the walkway near Quayside on 19th July following service of notices. Three of these vessels were assumed to have been used for commercial activity, so the City Council's enforcement team was forewarned of the Conservancy's action. The Police were also notified lest their owners should claim that their property had been stolen. Two operators appealed for the release of their punts at a reduced fee and instructed solicitors to deal with the matter on their behalf. They also paid an unscheduled visit to the offices at Baits Bite to plead their case. Archer & Archer were asked to provide a response to the operators' solicitor, at cost to the Conservancy, and reduced penalty fees for the release of the punts were negotiated between the two parties. The notices served upon these boats had been attached to the underside of Magdalene Bridge and

the River Foreman recovered them during his weekend duties. Presumably, the chauffeurs had removed them when starting up their day's trading, unaware of their legal importance. The owner of one dinghy refused to pay the penalty fees, deeming them to be excessively high (twice the annual registration fees). Another dinghy has been put up for sale by sealed tender, no-one having come forwards to reclaim it.

10.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: Mr Pope, CFPAS Ltd, was granted permission to park a vehicle beside the towpath at Chesterton to support some children's fishing sessions being jointly run with the City Council in the school summer holidays. Permission has been granted for Rob Roy Boat Club to station a safety vehicle on the Halingway for their rowing events on the 1st and 15th October. There had been a number of instances of quad bikes and mini-motos being used on the Halingway over the summer (see Note 7, H&S/incidents).

10.5.11 Noise: A reminder had been sent to the owner of narrowboat Jerusalem, moored Riverside, about the nuisance being caused to local residents by the late-running of its engine to generate power.

10.5.12 Disposal of sewage: A member of SCDC enquired about sewage disposal requirements by boat owners on the River Cam, having received a complaint from a Cambridge resident about alleged malpractice by the operator of a large passenger vessel.

10.5.13 Diving operations: Nothing to report.

10.5.14 Swimming: Nothing to report.

10.6 Environment and Planning

10.6.1 Biodiversity: The office has received a copy of the National Trust newsletter for Wicken Fen, July 2011 edition. The NT had organised a series of public events over the summer including stand-up paddleboarding sessions and dragonfly safaris.

Mr Suess, user of the boathouse in Ditton Cut, requested the removal of the swan screens from the entrance to the Cut because the cygnets had left their nest and the measures in his opinion, had not been successful and his access to the boatshed was impeded. The River Manager consulted with the Clerk of Fen Ditton Parish Council about this. Mr Middleton had allegedly been mooring his barge in the Cut intermittently contra the PC's policy. The PC was due to meet in September at which time the item would be raised.

The River Manager offered apologies for the July and August meetings of the Cam Valley Forum. The group is reconsidering its transfer to a charitable River Trust. Mr Schofield had been continuing with his voluntary campaign of litter clearance on the upper river.

The manager of Sheen Mill, Melbourn, sought advice about the translocation of an aggressive swan which had been eating ducklings in front of their customers. Advice on Natural England's licence application was provided to the Manager and Wildlife Trust.

The Cam's infamous cob swan, 'Mr Asbo', showed signs of malaise in August. He was taken to a local veterinarian for the treatment of a broken leg bone and then moved on to an animal sanctuary near King's Lynn for recuperation. The media reported that the cob might require the amputation of an arthritic toe.

The River Manager attended the official opening of the Byron's Pool fish pass on 25th August courtesy of the City Council.

A strange algal bloom on a backwater of the upper river was identified by a Cam Valley Forum member as a cyanobacterial mat.

The Bourn Free Project issued an invitation to a guided walk along Bourn Brook 13th September to illustrate their programme of measures to control and remove invasive non-native species including mink.

The Friends of Stourbridge Common convened its Autumn Talk and Drinks meeting on 16th September. The River Manager was unable to attend.

10.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: Mr Moseley (CamToo, Eastern Region Rowing Council) enquired as to whether planning permission had ever been granted for people to live on the navigation. He was referred to the useful guidance on the legal aspects of liveboard boating contained within the AINA document 'Residential use on water' (2010).

The City Council has submitted a stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support improvement projects for Jesus Green. The River Manager invited the City Council to bring forth an officer to discuss improvements to the lock landing stage with stakeholders before the deadline. It was not possible to convene this meeting.

The River Manager submitted comments in response to the City Council's draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy, deadline 2nd September.

A prospective house buyer requested information about the risk of flood to a property in Horningsea. The buyer was referred to the Environment Agency's indicative Flood Map which can be searched by postcode.

The City Council has sent out a consultation on a mooring site for its Play Boat near the City, revised deadline 27th September.

10.6.3 Cambridge Sport Lakes: Large events hosted at Milton Country Park since the last meeting have included 'Summer Chill in the Park' and a Food, Farming and Countryside Event. Mr Woolhouse asked the office for the details of a qualified boatman who could provide safety cover for an event on 24th July. A contact name was provided to him. Blue-green algae was detected in the lakes in late August. Rangers put up warning signs warning members of the public not to enter the water, or allow their pets to do so.

10.6.4 CamToo Project: The Guided Busway finally had its official opening on 8th August.

10.6.5 Planning Consultations: Cambridge City Council had launched its new Consultee Access system for making comments on planning applications. A user password has been promised but to date, has not been received, possibly having fallen foul of e-mail problems.

As part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan, stakeholders were circulated with an opportunity to comment on Suggested Changes to the Site Specific Proposals Plan before 19th September.

10.6.6 SCDC Towpath: Nothing to report.

10.6.7 Water Framework Directive: see item 10.4.9 above.

10.6.8 Waterspace Strategy: The Bedford Waterspace Study has its official launch on 30th September. The River Manager has accepted an invitation to attend.

10.6.9 Sale of punt tours: The Commercial Manager of Visit Cambridge has been in contact with the offices about the selling of punt operators' tours from the City's Tourist Information Centre. All commercial operators are to be sent a circular inviting their interest to take part in the scheme. A survey of the impact of punt touting had been conducted by Visit Cambridge, as affecting visitors, residents and business owners. The River Manager attended a meeting with City officers about punt touting and its impact on the City on 31st August, chaired by the Leader of the City Council.

10.7 Moorings

10.7.1 Camboaters: An EA navigation restriction notice of bridgeworks affecting river traffic movements at Ely in mid-July was forwarded to the committee for their members' attention. Camboaters has been making arrangements for its World Rivers Day River Festival on 25th September, the central focus being Jesus Green. Mr Tidy has provided Risk Assessments to the offices in advance of the event. The River Foreman has been rostered to assist with lock operations and general stewardship around the area of Jesus Lock on the day.

10.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: Monthly inspections are being made and recorded by the river crew. The Bailiff has been serving notices on over-staying craft.

10.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: The offices have dealt with the usual routine requirements about residential moorings in and around the Cambridge area; demand for moorings is constant. The River Bailiff's regular checks on boats at City Council moorings have identified a number of craft with outstanding licence issues. Job role confusion within the City's departments has created a situation whereby a number of continuously cruising boat owners have been living on the visitor moorings for weeks on end without receiving notice over peak summer months, to the frustration of bona fide visitors and other nearby residential boat owners. Many visitors have returned through Baits Bite Lock on the same day complaining about there being nowhere to moor in Cambridge. Fly-mooring has also been taking place on the Commons.

10.7.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: Graduate student Emily Hall has prepared a map of mooring zones based on satellite imagery. The maps will be made available via the Conservancy website and noticeboards.

10.7.5 Moorings at Riverside: A meeting of the Riverside Action Group took place on 19th September. Legal advice on the Conservancy's byelaws, specifically clause 6.10, was drafted by Mr Brown. The County Council has unearthed an historic document in its archives which proves that the City Council is the owner of the sub-soil beneath the public highway. The Action Group has pressed the City Council to commence the process of registering title with the Land Registry so that riparian rights can take effect as the City sees fit, subject to the agreement of Members and any public consultation. A route has been offered for residents to submit their complaints

about environmental nuisances including parking and people living in their cars, noise and smoke pollution.

10.8 Registration

10.8.1 Boat Standards: City officers were notified that a commercial operator licensed to work from La Mimosa punt station had not completed registration for the 2011/12 year as of 14th July. The operator eventually managed to arrange the necessary particulars. Quotations are being sought for the centralised supply of revised punt safety signage agreed by Conservators in January 2011 in liaison with the largest operator of commercial punts, Scudamore's.

Encouragingly, insurers underwriting certain commercial punt operators have been in contact with the offices when their clients have failed to complete their policy proposal forms. The insurance industry is apparently becoming sensitive to some of the characters who have been approaching them for insurance cover.

10.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: The annual count of boats remains to be agreed with the EA so that the order can be raised (estimated 237 vessels).

10.8.3 Non-registration prosecutions: See Finance Report.

10.8.4 Interchange agreement with Canoe England (British Canoe Union): The River Cam Navigation Benefits' Assessment study being undertaken by Ecorys will provide canoe users with an opportunity to comment on licensing fees. Mr Gurner, Fen Paddle Co., drew to the River Manager's attention a document on the Canoe England website, 'Exploring the River Cam', which stated that Canoe England membership covered the reaches from Byron's Pool to Bottisham Lock. The River Manager thanked Mr Gurner for his keen-sightedness, and sent a request to the organisation for the entry to be corrected with the proper licensing position. Mr Kevin East, Canoe England, has kindly agreed to rectify the error.

10.9 Events

10.9.1 CUCBC: The rowing body has provided its provisional events' list for the 2011/12 academic year. The committee has been restructured following the unexpected passing of Mr Hamersley. Dr Holly Hedgeland has taken on the role of Chair for the academic year ahead.

10.9.2 Town Bumps: Mr Allen, Bumps Secretary, paid great attention to the planning and smooth running of the annual bumping races by keeping all stakeholders involved with developments. The River Foreman provided a river-based patrol in the evenings to ensure that the swans were kept safely off the rowing course. The River Manager asked the Clerk of Fen Ditton PC if Mr Austin's efforts in managing the swans could be recorded formally in their Minutes.

10.9.3 Other: The River Manager met with representatives of Amgen Ltd on 19th July at Baits Bite. The company is keen to set up a volunteer programme in the Conservancy Area. CFPAS Ltd organised children's fishing sessions at Chesterton in the school holidays with the support of the City Council's Play Boat. Horningsea residents organised a small-scale River

Festival on 24th July. The River Foreman took part in the boat procession as part of his weekend duties. Organisers agreed to the suggestion of ‘greening’ the event by clearing invasive Himalayan balsam from the local riverbanks.

The River Manager accepted an invitation to observe the final races of Cam Sailing Club’s Optimist Week, Waterbeach, in July.

The annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki memorial event, marked by the release of floating lanterns on the river, took place on 7th August.

Thousands of people partook in the 10th annual Bridge the Gap walk on 11th September.

There has been speculation that the 2012 Olympic torch may be part-carried through the City aboard a punt (Cambridge News, 23rd August edition).

Cambridge RAG has approached the offices regarding the hosting of a charity Duck Race on the middle river, 8th October.

10.10 Publicity

10.10.1 Notice-boards: Posters advertising the Cambridge Cancer Walk, 2nd October, have been posted in the noticeboards.

10.10.2 Publications: A copy of the August edition of the Cambridgeshire Journal has been received at the offices. It contains an article about characters involved with the River Cam. Publicity information has been provided to the Cam Valley Forum about the Conservancy’s work for a leaflet which will be made available from their stand at the Camboaters’ River Festival. A copy of the summer edition of GOBA News has been received at the offices. The Editor of GOBA News, John Pridmore, indicated his resignation from this voluntary post on 16th September with immediate effect.

10.10.3 Presentations: Cambridge Natural History Society has approached the River Manager to provide an evening talk at Anglia Ruskin University. A date has been agreed (13th October).

10.10.4 Media: After the 14th July meeting, the Cambridge News published a piece about the Conservancy’s marshalling of the swan for the Town Bumps entitled ‘Can Mr Asbo be lured away by city’s own Pied Piper?’ Reporters from the Cambridge Student and BBC Cambridgeshire website also requested further information about the swan containment strategy during the races. Cambridge First published an article about Jim and Liz Russell who have been tending the lock garden at Baits Bite for a number of years (‘Couple create colourful island on the River Cam’, 28th July). The swan ‘Mr Asbo’ was taken away for veterinary treatment in early August according to the Cambridge News: ‘Mr Asbo suffers as arthritis puts mayhem on hold’. Following the Conservancy’s successful prosecution at Cambridge Magistrates on 19th August, the Cambridge News reported on Mr Middleton’s conviction (‘Battleship Bob ordered to pay £7,000 after feud with River Cam rowers’). There was some public criticism of the Conservancy’s action so further comment was provided to the newspaper although it would appear that this information was not used. Attacks on wildfowl may be depleting local bird populations in Chesterton (‘Disgust as dead swan’s head found left on spike’). The River Foreman has also collected a couple of swan carcasses from the river in the last quarter, more likely to be the victims of natural mortality. The City Council published details of its Lottery bid to improve Jesus Green reported by the Cambridge News on 15th September (‘£2.3m Jesus Green

revamp could bring hydroelectric power'). The article cited that the concrete wall around the lock-keeper's cottage was to be demolished. No such plan of action has been agreed with the City Council. Camboaters have featured in the Cambridge News recently, firstly promoting their River Festival event ('City's first World Rivers Festival to celebrate Cam life', 15th September) and secondly, an early reaction to the release of the Conservancy's future finance options consultation ('Anger over plans to get more cash from boaters', 19th September).

10.10.5 Website: The *www.camconservators.org.uk* website has collapsed following the closure of the domain. It is no longer possible to reach the Conservancy's information using this link and for a short time searches were redirecting the browser to some very dubious sites. AKM has attempted to rectify the issue to no avail. Honey Web Design had already registered the domain *www.camconservators.co.uk* and this is the link which will be displayed when the browsing session is opened. Letterhead paper will be modified to reflect this change. The Future Finance Options consultation is available from the Conservancy's home pages. The browser is redirected to the online survey which is hosted by the Ecorys Ltd website.

10.11 The River Manager will raise any other matters which arise between the time of preparing this report and the meeting.