

CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM**8. Other Matters for Decision****8.1 H&S Framework**

The H&S sub-committee group has reviewed the six safety management statements prepared by consultant Mike Barrett. Drafts have been circulated for Conservators' comments. The Employees Safety Management Statement, which was approved at the 14th July 2011 meeting, has undergone some revisions to keep in balance with the other documents.

Conservators are asked to approve the six Safety Management Statements to complete the framework of policy documents.

8.2 Pontoon licences from 1st April 2012

Existing pontoon licences will expire on 31st March 2012 (see Minutes, 13th January 2011) and new terms will need to be agreed with the existing licence holders. A modern version of the pontoon licence has been drafted.

It is recommended that the agreement of terms for the re-issuing of licences to existing lessees (Scudamore's, Granta Punts) is delegated to the appointed pontoon licence sub-committee group (membership Mr Adams, Dr Walker, Mr Brown, River Manager) for action before 31st March 2012. Some legal fees may be associated with the final drafting of these licences.

We have also received a proposal for a new pontoon to be placed in front of the River Bar & Kitchen, downstream of Quayside, by the manager of the Varsity Hotel, Mr William Davies. The proposal is attached. The pontoon design includes two steel posts driven into the riverbed to allow rise and fall of the pontoon with varying water levels. The County Council is agreeable to the hand-railings along the boardwalk being modified with an access gate. It is understood that planning consent may be required for this new facility. Following a site meeting with the River Manager on 14th December, an application for Land Drainage Consent has been submitted to the Environment Agency. Consent is required under byelaw 6.6(a). The applicant holds a long-term lease for the property. The River Manager has made contact with Magdalene College regarding their proposal. A response is awaited from their Senior Bursar. Until the point of ownership/occupation has been clarified, a s15/s16 licence cannot be issued. Conservators are asked to provide feedback on the location of this proposed new punting station.

Conservators are asked to delegate the re-issuing of pontoon licences to the sub-committee group and for a firm proposal for the Varsity Hotel's pontoon licence to be brought to the April meeting.

8.3 Works to east bank Trinity College, lowering of the middle river ('College Backs')

The next cycle of biennial river lowering is due to take place 2013/14. Dates and fees are to be agreed at the January 2013 meeting.

Trinity College however, has requested an out-of-cycle river lowering request. They have been unable to organise their programme of bank repairs for this year's lowering 'window'. The Clerk of Works has indicated that there is an urgency to these repairs being undertaken and they cannot be delayed until the next biennial period of river lowering. The College has applied to the Environment Agency for Land Drainage Consent. Conditional upon this, a s15 licence will need to be issued for the works by the Conservancy.

It is recommended that the Conservators grant permission for this extraordinary request for reasons of health and safety.

Conservators are asked to delegate the negotiations with Trinity College for an out-of-cycle river lowering and associated fees to the Chairman and River Manager, the proposed dates to be brought to the next committee meeting.

8.4 Floating wine bar

We have received a proposal from Mr Andrew Crampin of the Cambridge Floating Wine Company Ltd to launch a floating wine bar on the River Cam. Conservators currently have a separate tariff category for vending punts (category 61) and the fees already reflect a commercial multiplier (2011/12 fees £1436.76 per vending punt).

The proposed service is a vending punt with a selection of drinks and refreshments aimed at enhancing the overall experience of a guided or self-guided punt tour on the River Cam in Cambridge. Products on offer will include soft drinks, ice creams snacks, disposable cameras, and a range of alcoholic drinks including premium wines and champagnes.

Measures will be in place to ensure the transaction is easy, safe and secure for the public. Customers will not have to leave their seat in the punt. The punt is not intended to carry fare-paying passengers.

With the average punt tour not exceeding 45 minutes, the applicant believes that the risk of excessive drinking taking place on the river as a result of this service is minimal. It is his intention to offer a premium product range and pricing strategy so as not to encourage excessive drinking.

The applicant is seeking to launch this new service in April 2012.

It is commonplace for alcoholic drinks and other refreshments to be taken on both private and guided punt tours along the Backs; sometimes leading to unsightly littering of the waterway. The proposed service would aim to have a positive impact in this respect, and act as part of the solution rather than part of the problem. At the end of each day the applicant intends to undertake a rubbish sweep to collect any used packaging, recycling all cans and glass. The applicant had indicated his commitment to preserving the River Cam as a source of pride for Cambridge residents and an important tourist attraction.

For 12th January 2012

Mr Crampin is currently in negotiations with the operators of the commercial punt operating stations regarding a base station.

Mr Crampin, Managing Director, holds a personal alcohol licence issued by Cambridge City Council. He has acted as a punt chauffeur for the last 3 years. The licence requires Mr Crampin to be present to serve any alcoholic beverages and the terms prevent the licence from being delegated to a third party. His business partners are Mr Dixon (punt chauffeur for the last 3 years), Mr Lloyd-Reason (Professor of International Enterprise Strategy and Director of the Centre for Enterprise Development Research at Anglia Ruskin University) and Mr Barlow (chartered accountant with 20 years' experience of working with small and medium-sized companies).

Conservators are asked to consider the merits of this proposal.

January 2012

River Manager