

Laura Darling statement

I am here to talk about the recently proposed mooring trial at Mead Lane in Saltford.

Me, my fiance & my 2 year old son live on a narrowboat where I also run a cafe from it. My family & everyone else in the community firstly want to say thank you for actually STOPPING the 2nd proposed trial and listening to all of our concerns.

Losing the moorings at Mead Lane would have had some awful repercussions for the boating community. In order to comply with our licences, we have to cover 20 miles in a year and the river is how a lot of people manage to sustain this with their jobs, children's schools etc.

It is also the only place where you can moor up for longer than 2 days that is safe for elderly & young people to board.

This is why it was so important to us that banes came to the solution that favoured the boating community.

I have started to draw up a code of conduct for boaters, to encourage respectful behaviour towards local residents and the environment surrounding them.

We would be really happy to include this on the new signage at Mead Lane if that was something that would help the situation with the local residents.

The second point I wish to raise is the recycling and refuse point at Dundas Basin on the canal. There currently is NO recycling after it was removed last year. This isn't really an ideal situation, as that disposal point is used regularly by boaters/ holiday goers & canal users and is becoming overwhelmed, not to mention the fact that plastics etc are not being recycled.

There was also another issue with an extremely large quantity of rubbish left down at Warleigh weir this bank holiday weekend, exactly like last year.

Local residents have suggested that having some bins on the road by the side of the train tracks where the bollards were recently put will help this issue that keeps arising. Although maybe Unsighted, this is a potential health hazard. And Fly tipping and rubbish along the canal will only get worse with zero rubbish and recycling collections in these areas.

Thank you for having me here today

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/horrific-sun-seekers-dumped-rubbish-1554435>