

Elisabeth Evans NHW Coordinator for Avon Lane and Mead Lane

On behalf of Mead Residents and the wider community I would like to thank the Council for their endeavours and for the opportunity to speak this evening.

The river is about everything that takes place on it and in it and despite upsetting comments made to us by a few, all we have ever tried to do is protect this area for the greater community to enjoy and keep safe the access to homes and businesses, all this is of paramount importance and to that end we see the termination of moorings here as imperative.

Coronavirus and the mooring suspension saw nature take back control, reeds that had previously been trodden or beaten down flourished, a reed warbler, a family of otters, swans and ducks returning, all good environmental signs.

Many boats generate electricity by running their engines, here they're moored just below our homes sending carcinogenic fumes into them from their diesel engines, often exacerbated when they double, triple or even quadruple moor. I understand that unlike road vehicles there are no checks on emissions from boat engines or generators, these are sometimes placed on the riverbank, all of this, just 8 meters from our homes.

The Atkins report:

- The structural survey of the riverbank did not, as we were led to expect, fully examine the rock armour under the waterline; only looking from the edge of murky waters. I can only reiterate the 2005 riverbank reinforcement was not constructed for the mooring of boats.
- The highway inspections report - Quite comprehensive, however it does not cover the numerous repairs made by utility companies, in recent years alone there have been at least 2 gas main repairs. No survey has been carried out on the whole carriageway; what issues could lie there.

The Cabinet recommendations:

- **"The long-term aspiration to relocate moorings from Mead Lane"**. We would not like this to run on indefinitely and would appreciate a swift conclusion.
- **"Ensure that suitable alternative moorings are identified and in place prior to reducing further any moorings at Mead Lane"**.
What progress has been made it's been 9 months since this was agreed.
- **"To remove the 48-hour moorings at Mead Lane from 1 November 2020, on a permanent basis etc."** The otter haul out should also be included, despite the no mooring signage boats frequently moor across it.
- A positive step removing moorings from **November to February**, it is foolhardy to moor here with the river in flood, as is the case this week, the summer brought lower water levels stranding boats on the rock armour, symptoms of global warming and proving this area is not safe or suitable.

The previous administration was negligent when setting up the mooring trial, they neither consulted nor followed their own guidelines and used financial restraints for the lack of controls

We tried for 4 years to obtain controls, endeavouring to, despite what others say, protect the wildlife and enable greater public access. We would not be where we are today if they had done this. A minority of boaters, and I stress it's a minority, have abused mooring timescales, used the riverbank as a dumping ground and in some cases threatened local people and with their nose to tail mooring preventing access to others

Whatever the outcome of tonight's meeting we cannot go back to that uncontrolled position.