

Peter Denmead Statement – 8 October 2020 Cabinet

The initial findings of the riverbank survey found no immediate danger of failure, but it states it was never designed for boat moorings, and needs further investigation as it was only a visual inspection.

The Cabinet paper has produced some interesting data which perhaps needs putting into context in places:

For example “some 40% of boats between Bath and Foxhanger Devizes have continuous cruising licenses”. The national CRT average is 16%. The difference may be explained by some being second holiday homes, Air Bnb and house owners opting to rent their houses and live a subsidised lifestyle and will find no mooring fees very attractive. This will distort any liveaboard count statistic involving social housing provision.

Item 3.2

The distance between Bath and Foxhanger is 20 linear canal miles, 15 of which is not in BANES and coincidentally 20 miles is the total range CRT cruising license requires Boats to move yearly. Therefore, if local access is required this can be accommodated within this area, boats need not travel further unless they wish to.

The high numbers of boats - 985, produces in this stretch alone nearly £1 million in license monies for the CRT. BANES has no such funds to offset its' moorings provision.

Item 3.9

'Charging for entering network' implies charging on entry, infact it is just added to the berthing charge. Quotation from Bristol harbour office – 40 foot visiting boat £12 a day total payable. Bristol is 7 miles from Hanham, has waiting pontoons on the way, is good value, with plenty of availability.

As well as Bristol, BANES has 2 1/2 miles of alongside berthing six marinas, one it owns - an existing functioning facility which can be modified or enlarged, 6000+ metres of riverbank, access to 87 miles of Kennet and Avon Canal mooring much of it free

A huge capacity.

The relocation of a small number of moorings from Mead Lane should present a few difficulties and I'm sure 200,000 BANES taxpayers will only welcome the availability of the natural river bank for recreation.

Duncan and Alistair are the best ward councillors Saltford have seen and we would not wish to lose them. The amount of time given to this problem and the risk of placing them at odds with the local community is completely unnecessary.

Thank you.

Peter Denmead