

# CAMBOATERS - PRESS RELEASE

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## Camboaters overwhelmed by public support for city moorings

Members of Camboaters, the association representing many of the city's live-aboard boating community, are celebrating the results from the recent Council Public Consultation on River Moorings which delivered a **massive majority vote in favour of no radical changes to mooring policy**. Camboaters are pleased their vigorous campaigning and many meetings with various riverfront stakeholders over the last five months resulted in such a large turnout that delivers a strong message to The Council that their proposals are widely unpopular. The Council's consultation was formulated to test opinion on options including:

- 'Extinguishing' moorings along the Riverside Dock wall, on grounds of Health & Safety, despite there being no record of accidents or any surveys to provide reasonable grounds for concern.
- The relocation of boaters' homes from Riverside Dock to elsewhere in the City, despite the existing moorings being full to near capacity.
- Doubling of mooring fees for boaters who currently hold a City Council Residential Mooring Licence, causing financial hardship to many people and families, forcing many affected to choose between their home in the City, or moving away and finding employment elsewhere.

Highlights of the response to the consultation include;

- Over **774 people** responded to the Consultation
- Over **73% of those**, responding wished to retain moorings alongside Riverside Dock, bringing them into the existing Scheme. Moored boats are clearly an integral part of a wider community.
- Over **82% of respondents** believed that the current level of mooring fees [equivalent to council tax band A] remains an appropriate level of contribution.

The **Camboaters River Review & Recommendations Report is now also completed**, and has been sent to Councillors, other stakeholders, and press. It has been posted on [Camboaters.co.uk](http://Camboaters.co.uk) with the consultation results. The document, which runs to over 100 pages, is a rigorously researched analysis of the riverfront community and economy. It includes professional evaluations of health, safety, risk, income, cost, sensitivity and contingency, before concluding with strong recommendations for slow and steady generative investment to the benefit of all riverfront users. Amongst many surprising evidence based discoveries that overturned longstanding opinion, Camboaters found that income from moored boats was the only income set against all costs for maintaining the riverfront - for the benefit of all users between Grantchester and Fen Ditton -

contributing £35 to £55k pa more than their costs for facilities, which are limited to only fee collection, water, and waste removal.

Camboaters Chairman Jim Ross said, “We are extremely grateful to the public and our neighbours on both land and water for their support. And I’m very proud of Camboaters who have made such a huge effort to deliver a very professional response to the Council which has many findings of significance and useful recommendations for a more positive approach to change. We hope this all this is recognised in any proposals made by the council, and that we can all work together on this”.

## **Camboaters**

- The Association representing the interests of boats moored on The Cam.
- Camboaters 100 registered boats contribute c. £140k pa mooring fees and river licences.
- A Council Mooring Scheme boater pays c. £1200 pa plus c. £120 pa sewerage pump.
- Boaters also pay River Licenses for navigation c. £1000 pa for typical narrow-boat.
- Boaters pay high interest on mortgages eg 12% as opposed to 3% for a house loan.
- Camboaters mooring network is an informal, effective, free riverbank safety scheme.
- Camboaters organise and enjoy events with the public such as the annual river festival.
- Camboaters have a diverse range of backgrounds you’d find in most communities.
- <http://www.camboaters.co.uk>