



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

London Mooring Strategy

Engagement Workshop 24 May 2016 – summary report

1. Introduction

The workshop was the first event in a series of activities aimed at engaging waterways users, stakeholders and partners in the development of a London-wide mooring strategy. The objective was to identify the needs of the diverse range of waterway users, to establish some principles for the fair sharing of London's finite mooring space, and map out locations where improvements are needed or opportunities exist to improve mooring.

The event was targeted primarily at organisations and individuals who use the navigation and moorings in the London Waterway region. It was also open to wider users of the waterways (e.g. neighbouring communities and businesses).

The workshop was held at the Holiday Inn Camden Lock on Tuesday 24th May 2016, from 6.30pm to 9.00pm.

This is a summary report, based on a full workshop report which lists all participants and organisations that were invited to attend, with transcriptions of all the comments that were made and the mapping undertaken.

2. How was it promoted and who came?

85 people signed in as attending, plus six staff in attendance from the Canal & River Trust.

Promotion comprised web and social media promotion, posters around the London waterway network, a direct leaflet drop to all boats on the Regent's Canal and an email invitation to a list of over 160 stakeholders. Local authorities, other statutory organisations and commercial organisations will form part of future engagement activities.

3. What was the plan?

The workshop was structured to provide information to participants about the context for the Strategy, its aims and the proposed process for developing it; provide opportunities for questions and answers; provide opportunities for interaction and dialogue with other participants; and identify specific locations where opportunities exist or there are issues to be addressed.

4. What were the results?

4.1 What are your favourite things, and biggest grumps, about London's waterways?

In order to engage participants about their experience of the London waterways, they were asked to write comments on paper flags and attach them to the bunting in the room.

The main themes emerging from this exercise are shown in the table below.





<i>Favourite things:</i>	<i>Biggest grumps:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home and living on the water • Community spirit and diversity • Pace of life • Escape from the rate race • Environment, flora and fauna • Variety of wildlife • History • Recreational resource • Variety • Wildlife • Freedom to roam and explore • Mix of town and country – urban, green spaces and water • Moving around the city on water • Experiencing ‘backstage’ London 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of facilities • Lack of dredging and maintenance • Conflict • Speeding cyclists • Pollution (air, noise, fuel) • Moorings restricting clear navigation • Difficulty mooring (and perception of lack mooring) • Decline in leisure use of waterspace • Crowding / congestion • Behaviour (lack of manners and knowledge) • Uncertainty and fear around policies • The Trust’s communication and lack of transparency

4.2 What would a fair and successful mooring strategy look like to you?

Participants were asked to discuss this question in groups, list the range of needs and issues that were important to them and should be included in the strategy. They then grouped these comments into themes.

All the issues and comments made are detailed in the full workshop report. The key themes identified through this exercise, according to the number of groups that identified each theme, were:



1. *Effective management of moorings (including enforcement)*
2. *Moorings (new provision and range of models)*
3. *Education (knowledge, behaviour and fair sharing)*
4. *Facilities (new provision and maintenance)*

Other themes, in order of importance on the night, were: environmental quality, evidence/data; financial; fairness; licensing; business boating; towpath use; and strategic/tailored approaches.

All themes identified by each table are shown below, with number of groups identifying the issue shown in brackets:

Moorings management and enforcement (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring safe navigation through mooring control/clarification of the law and enforcement of current rules (5) • Incentives and fines as alternative to licence revocation (3) • Crackdown on illegal/irresponsible mooring and renting (2) • Fair application of policy to allow living and working in London (1)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple rules (1)
Moorings (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More, and range of, moorings (including bookable moorings) (4) Mooring zones and flexible control (2) Variety of mooring models for different use (1) Affordable residential moorings (1) A commitment to community space with no moorings / Fair sharing of moorings (1)
Education (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, promotion of considerate/safer behaviour & caretaker boaters' education role (6)
Facilities (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding, and better and more evenly distributed provision of, facilities (including in partnership and better boater information) (5)
Environmental quality (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply/quality (2) Air quality (1) Amenity of nearby residents (1)
Evidence / data (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat and boater data/census/needs and uses survey/ understanding capacity (3)
Financial (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas for generating additional investment (1) Not selling the canal/functions to private interests (1) Funding proportion for London (1)
Fairness (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation (1) Live-aboards are appreciated and taken into account (1)
Licensing (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of licensing (1)
Support for business boating (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business boating (1)
Considerate use of towpath (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and considerate use of towpaths (1)
Strategic & tailored approach (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic, local and area specific (1)

4.3 Mapping exercise

Participants then reviewed large-scale maps of the waterways in the Trust's London region. Using numbered stickers, they identified locations where improvements could be made, where issues need to be addressed, or where opportunities exist to improve the waterways. A post-it note was used to describe the issue at each location. The maps covered:

- Map 1: Grand Union & Paddington Arm
- Map 2: Upper Lee Navigation and River Stort
- Map 3: Lower Lee Navigation, Limehouse Cut, Hertford Union, and Regent's



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The full workshop report has a detailed breakdown of all locations identified, together with photographs of the annotated maps. The results show a variety of issues and opportunities:

- Locations for new facilities, including Elsan, Pump-outs, and rubbish facilities
- Locations where dredging is needed
- Businesses and partners that could help to provide facilities
- Suggested sites for new winter moorings, long and short term moorings and mooring rings
- Mooring sites where management improvements are needed.
- Location of regular pollution incidents
- Locations for more litter bins, signage and lighting
- Locations where pontoons or slipway access required for un-powered craft
- Navigation pinch points

5. Summing Up & Next steps

This is the start of a process to hear from different waterways user groups, and there will be other opportunities for individuals, communities, stakeholders and partners to take part around London. This will include local authorities and statutory organisations, as well as commercial partners.

The work undertaken at the event will help to identify the issues and needs that are important for the fair sharing of the waterways, including identifying locations where opportunities exist or where improvements are needed.

The results of the workshop are presented as a report rather than minutes, as it is not possible to record all verbal comments in such a large and varied meeting. The report and presentation, as well as responses to the questions raised, will be uploaded to the Trust's London web pages (<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/our-regions/london-waterways>) under London Mooring Strategy, and everyone who attended the workshop will be sent a copy.

The next steps involve a series of stakeholder meetings to hear from particular user groups, as well as completion of baseline mapping to identify the distribution of boats, moorings and facilities around the London waterway. The focus of work over the summer will be on: progressing a plan for winter moorings in London, as part of the national winter moorings scheme; a review of short term mooring provision; and an initiative to extend the bookable moorings pilot currently being delivered at Rembrandt Gardens in Little Venice.

There will be regular reports back to the stakeholder mailing list and to the London User Forum. A boaters' group will be set up as a sounding board to discuss the strategy's progress and future directions, drawn from the strategy's stakeholder list and complementing the existing Better Relationships on the Waterways in London Group (BRG).

