

Report on meetings attended**a) Bosworth Community Forum**

The Clerk represented the PC at a meeting on 8th March: the full minutes and documentation are available from the Leicestershire County Council website. Key items discussed included increased flood risk on River Sence due to new development at Barwell and Coalville; proposed technology park on the MIRA site (details available from <miratechnologypark.com>); and the restoration and maintenance of unclassified county roads (UCRs) and BOTATs (Byways Open To All Traffic) following damage caused by 4-w-d vehicles. There was also a *Green Space Workshop* session.

The Clerk had asked the following question: " There appear to be more people living on canal boats. What are the rules for moorings, and do such residents make any contribution to Council Tax or local services? "

British Waterways (BW) had provided a written answer. Moorings were defined as:

1. Short-term moorings

- a) Casual Mooring - as used in the BW Act 1995, includes towpaths generally and visitor moorings where mooring is permitted for up to 14 days unless otherwise indicated;
- b) Visitor mooring - a length of bank which has been designated for temporary use for short periods only. Restrictions and time limits should be clearly signed.

2. Long-term moorings

A long-term or permanent mooring is also called a home mooring in BW boat licence terms and conditions, and is the place where a boat is lawfully kept when not being used for cruising.

- a) Residential mooring - has planning permission and BW permission for the moored boat to be used as the occupant's sole or primary residence. These are the only moorings that may be subject to Council Tax;
- b) Leisure mooring – where the boat is used for leisure or recreational purposes;
- c) Trade mooring – assigned to specially licensed operators of commercial boats; terms depend on agreement.

Further information was available from the BW website, in particular the *Policies for Mooring* document.

H&BBC had also provided a written answer. The onus was on an individual to inform the local authority that a moored boat had become their permanent residence. When this was done, an assessment would be made and the appropriate council tax banding applied.

b) Ashby Canal Landscape Project

The Clerk represented the PC at a meeting on 22nd March: the full minutes are available from the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council website.

Progress and potential projects were reviewed; a representative from the Crown Estate outlined possible projects. A car park in the Shackerstone area was needed at a focal point or new service area.

It was important to involve local organisations, individuals and special interest groups, and as a first step to review what projects were already taking place or envisaged in the area.

A working boundary for the project area was proposed based on the A444 and A447, but crossing the A5 and including parts of the urban areas of Hinckley and Nuneaton.

Project development would proceed using local volunteers and officer time, with British Waterways working up concept ideas for submission in February 2012. If a first-stage bid was successful, £100k development funding would be available.

C J Peat
10th April 2011