

FOI Ref
9577

Response sent
13 Sep 21

(CCC) Floating Cam Bar

1) Is there an official process for applying for permission? If so, what is it? Or, is there a blanket ban on commercial activity from Council-owned riverbank? **To seek permission to undertake any activity on land under city council ownership, in this instance land under remit of Streets and Open Spaces would require an application to be made via this link** <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/hire-a-park-or-open-space-for-your-event> **Whilst this link deals with 'event hire' as a primary function more permanent requests can also be made. The new policy which underpins this was adopted at committee in January 2018.** If so, I would like to know how the Rosie and Camboats Eco boat are both permitted to moor and embark/disembark passengers on Council-owned land (please see attachments for a photo of this activity, taken yesterday) 2) Is there a previous policy decision/document banning all commercial activity from Council-owned Riverbanks? **No – any application is taken on its own merit and examines whether it contravenes any legal position, sets a precedent or conflicts with other users of the land. With commercial application the Council may choose to test the market to enable a fair and transparent approach and to achieve the most favourable market position. With regards the aforementioned businesses agreements were put in place prior to the 2018 policy development.** Has public consultation taken place on this topic? If so, could you send these over please?

A consultation to support the development of a residential moorings policy included questions in relation to commercial moorings. In the consultation that ran in the Autumn of 2016, Option 6.1 sought views on location, type and number of mooring berths. The current number of commercial moorings is 4 and most responses received to the consultation said the current locations and type of mooring berths are appropriate as the permanent number and type. The use of Jesus Green upstream of the lock for mooring at the time of the consultation was prohibited and remains so. You can find more details on the River Moorings consultation here.

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s38218/Appendix%20B%20-%20River%20Moorings%20Consultation%20Summary%20Report%20APPROVED%20FINAL%20dated%20060317.pdf>

And more about the River Moorings Policy here

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s38234/River%20Moorings%20Policy%20Committee%20Report%20APPROVED%20FINAL%20dated%20060317.pdf>

As expressed above the agreement pre-dates the 2018 Policy but would not have commanded a public consultation, the Council as land manager would have made this decision taking in any on the above factors 3) Has the council identified any specific concerns about allowing this business to sell to people on your land? No – the loading and disembarking of passengers to the land does not have impact on other users nor businesses which might be operating from the land or is the sole concern that 'this would set a precedent'? If so, whilst I

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understand that the riverbank is a vital asset and competing uses must be balanced, this appears to be an approach designed to stifle innovation. The idea of 'precedent' could be applied to reject every new business or development in the City. Licensing is the mechanism under which the council can control and balance impacts (e.g., residential amenity versus economic benefit). A new nightclub should not be denied permission to operate solely on the basis that another nightclub might open next door. **Each application should be considered separately, on its merits. As outlined above each application is considered on a case-by-case basis. The Council must also consider the cumulative impact of other business request and therefore as landowner has the right to accept or reject any application.**

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk