

Dear LDF Team,

Thank you for this recent consultation.

The Canal & River Trust is the new charity set up to care for England and Wales' wonderful legacy of 200-year-old waterways, holding them in trust for the nation forever. The Trust has responsibility for 2,000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with museums, archives and the country's third largest collection of protected historic buildings.

The Trust launched on 2nd July 2012, taking over responsibility from British Waterways and The Waterways Trust in England and Wales.

The Trust has a range of charitable objectives including:

- To hold in trust or own and to operate and manage inland waterways for public benefit, use and enjoyment;
- To protect and conserve objects and buildings of heritage interest;
- To further the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of inland waterways; and
- To promote sustainable development in the vicinity of any inland waterways for the benefit of the public.

The main sources of the Trust's funding are from a 15-year contract with government and income from boating, property and utilities. This funding is important for keeping our precious 200-year old waterways running, but it is not enough to fully support our canals and rivers as valuable resources for people and nature, particularly when under increased pressure and intensified use from expanding development.

Our canals and rivers are today used by more people and for a wider variety of purposes than ever before, with over 35,000 boats and 13 million towpath visitors using them as an escape from the pressures of modern life. Once Britain's most important transport system, our waterways are now a focus for economic renewal in the towns and cities they helped to create.

We have no particular comments to make on the specific points made below.

Kind regards,

**Claire M'Lean**

**Area Planner – Canal & River Trust London**

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Please visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) to find out more about the Canal & River Trust and download the "Shaping Our Future" document on the **About Us** page.

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