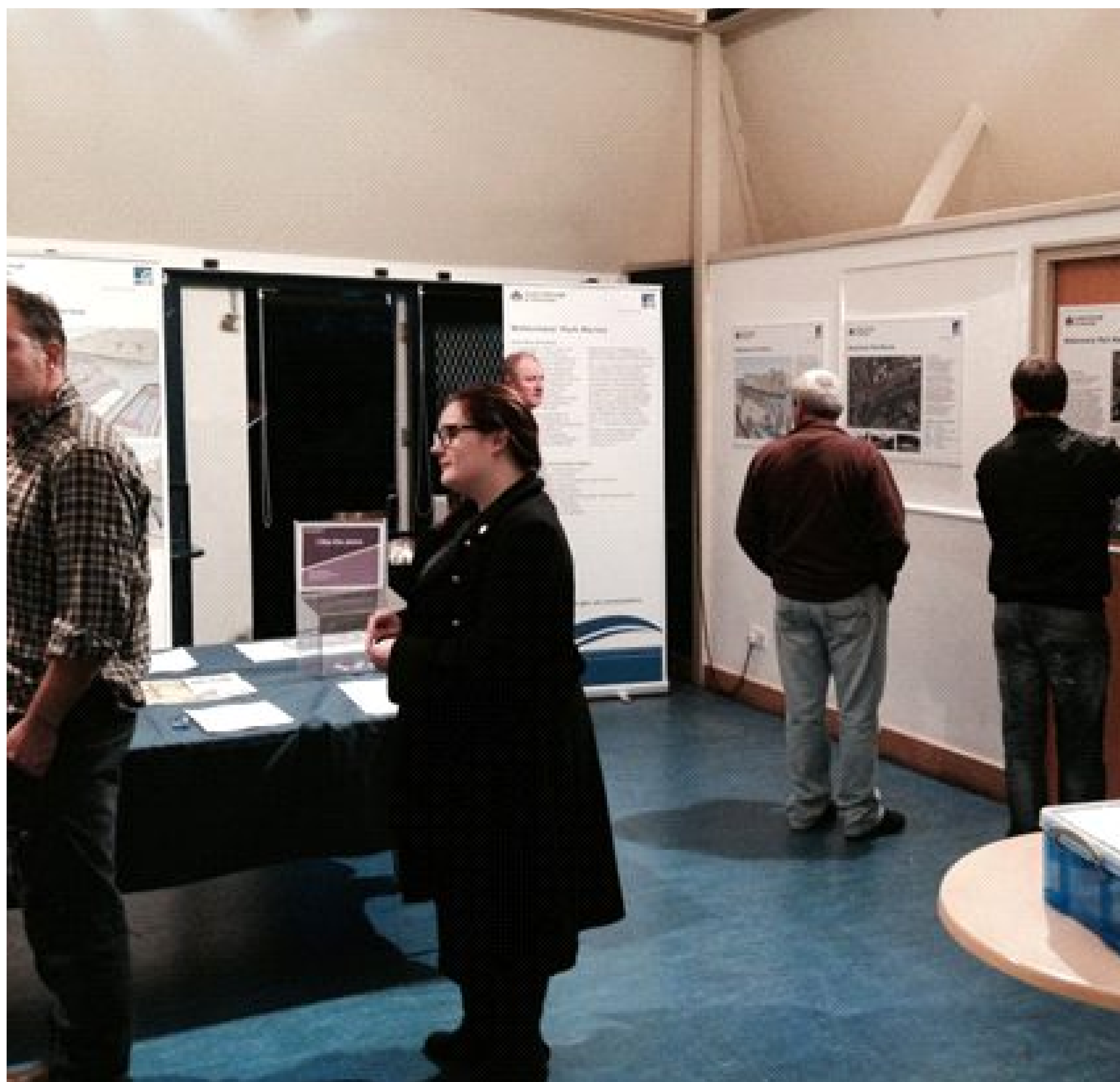


Watermans' Park Marina

NEWSLETTER



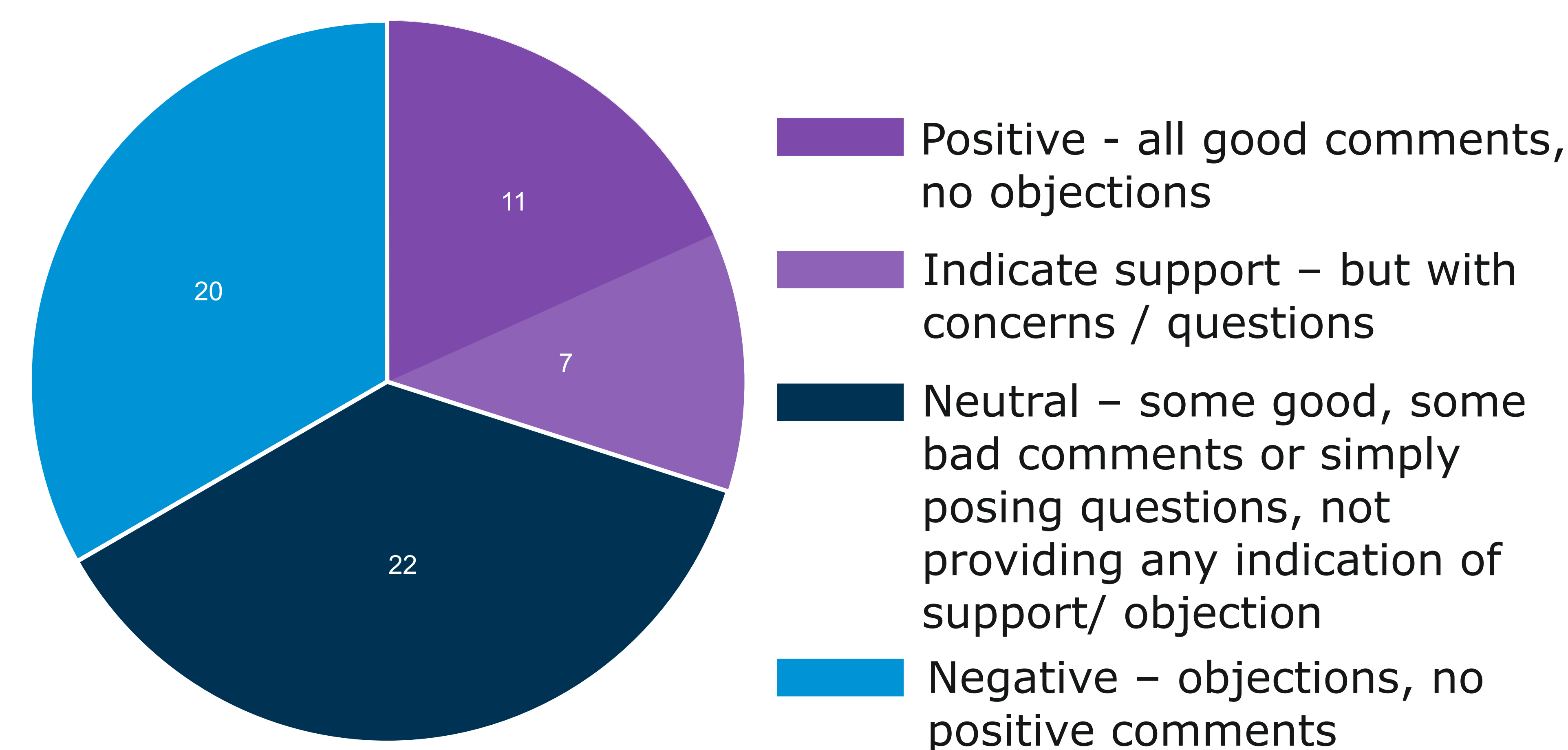
Introduction

This note provides a summary of the key themes arising from the October and November public exhibitions in respect of the proposed regeneration of Waterman's Park Marina.

The exhibitions were relatively well attended with 34 people signing in on Tuesday 28th October and a further 28 signing in on Saturday 1st November. A tally of attendees not signing in was also taken, which totalled 18 and therefore approximate total attendees were in the region of 80 persons.

Overall Response from Exhibition

A summary of all the comments received shows a fairly balanced response to the proposals, the details of which are provided below and later in this note.



TOTAL COMMENTS 60

Watermans' Park Marina

The overall response received is more negative than that seen at the exhibition. In this regard, a ballot box allowing people to simply vote in favour or against the proposals, which was provided at the exhibitions, indicated a fairly significant majority support with 51 voting in favour and 21 against. It is considered that the slightly higher level of objections received reflects the fact that supportive or neutral residents tend not to write in with comments. Receipt of objections is very helpful to us, however, as it provides a list of issues against which the proposals need to be tested and refined.



Responses

The Project Team will review all responses received to determine how to refine the scheme ahead of more detailed proposals being developed for discussion at the next public exhibitions in March. The individual comments made in each response are summarised below. A more detailed note will be made available for review on the Council's website – www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations

Positive Responses

The most common themes amongst positive consultation responses for the regeneration of Waterman's Park Marina refer to:

Regeneration (35 comments)

- Regeneration of a neglected area of Brentford
- Positive improvement and sympathetic development of the area. The proposal will have positive impact on residents, visitors and employees of Brentford

Project Design (12 comments)

- Like the berths / herringbone layout
- Improvement of mooring facilities, infrastructure, signage and storage (sewerage etc.)
- Regeneration of the park

Situation Regarding Boat Owners (4 comments)

- Boat owners are able to stay in properly maintained moorings
- Fair contribution to council tax and greater income for Council provided from mooring rent
- Plans will provide more accommodation to the boat owners

Watermans' Park Marina

Negative Responses

The most common themes amongst negative consultation responses relate to:

Project Cost (17 comments)

- I would like to understand the financial case and for the council to publish this
- £5.4m could be far better spent/waste of money

Impact on Character / Identity of Marina (25 comments)

- Proposal would sterilise the area / remove the bohemian feel / vibrant community
- The proposed marina will destroy one of the last remaining pockets of the borough with a unique and special character.

Impact on existing community (16 comments)

- Lack of consultation with current boat owner to consider a fairer solution / clean-up
- It is a scheme to make money out of river dwellers
- Many people enjoy the park as it is, the disruption to their enjoyment along with the loss of sections of the park will have no positive impact

Design (12 comments)

- The boats are an obstruction to the very fast flowing tide here –likely to cause problems (even in the Herringbone layout)
- Deep piling will be required to secure the moorings
- No provision for those with cruisers to be able to moor up on a daily/hourly basis
- Car park taking up too much of the park area
- Dislike the proposed storage and parking area

Exclusivity of Proposals (11 comments)

- Concern Brentford will become too expensive for the average resident
- Turning Waterman's Park into a sterile playground for the elite
- The requisitioning of Public Park land to facilitate private moorings

Environmental (7 comments)

- The development will destroy habitats and the diverse wildlife
- Piling into the River bed at this location
- The current site exists on the old Gasworks site, with likely contamination of the river bed

Engagement (7 comments)

- No other option was put before the public by the council, despite there being a 'low cost option' suggested by the council some years before by other council members

Traffic / Access / Parking / Safety (1 mention)

- Access – I would be worried about safe access in and out of the site of delivery vans and motorcars to the new berths

Watermans' Park Marina

Suggestions / Issues for consideration

The most common themes amongst negative consultation responses relate to:

Would be easier / fairer to tidy / clean the boats and area up (14 comments)

- Current boats should be given first refusal for a place by the park/ any development should make proper arrangement for the existing waterside dwellings
- The marina seems like a lot of money for 25 boats – the area could be cleaned up instead

Allow for current boat occupiers to stay (9 comments)

- The Current boat owners should receive an official mooring for which they pay mooring fees.
- The Current Boat owners are all registered and Pay Council Tax
- A set of standards in terms of appearance of the boats is established for which the boat owners must comply with for licencing their mooring
- Open dialogue with the current boat owners

Traffic considerations (3 comments)

- The impact of increased traffic out of the High Street must be addressed with this scheme
- There should be access and spaces for emergency, delivery and other service vehicles only
- We ask that the proposals are properly coordinated with the proposed widening of the High Street (A315) to accommodate proposed Cycle Super Highway 9

Design suggestions (25 comments)

- Include a coffee shop/tea/sandwich bar or restaurant
- Reduce the number of boats
- Attractive lighting on site and along the walkway for security purposes (design needs to minimise light spill to protect ecology)
- Connect the Thames Path to Kew Bridge without having to go onto the main road
- A mock-up of what the storage area would possibly look like
- Keep boats parallel to the riverbank as they are now to limit their impact on the wildlife and visual impact of this stretch of the river
- If possible, space should be provided to house the Gloriana as an exhibit
- An enhanced play area and picnic area is required, as is a dog exercise area and foul bins
- Seating and paving surfaces in the area require upgrading and enhancing
- Provide leisure-activity access for local communities, including Duke of Edinburgh for boating, use of water etc.
- Better provision is required for management and disposal of on-site rubbish
- More trees, shrubs and plantings, such as green walls along the north boundary of the park. This to help break up and mask more of the continuous run of old brick walling
- Provide a Sewage Outlet for the park
- It would also be good to see some provision for boats of historical interest as part of the Development,

Watermans' Park Marina

Plans/ Design (14 comments)

- More detailed plans would be appreciated
- It is not clear from the plan that the normal services for professional moorings are catered for - pump out, water, additional storage etc. etc.
- Will the moorings be fully residential and if so will sewage, water and electricity be supplied?
- Will there be any quality and safety controls on the boats offered moorings? – the existing ones are mainly unseaworthy, mostly scruffy and probably unsafe in terms of electrical and gas installations
- Is there some way to provide some parking for the people who use Victoria steps so they could be redesigned somehow? Or just give them some other access to their boats also through the floating boardwalk?
- How many parking spaces would there be for the 26 berths?
- The info states initial capacity of 26 berths, this implies future expansion might happen?
- How will there be space for 30m boats – surely they will block the tideway completely?
- Will the site have moorings nearer the bridge removed?
- Will the river bed be dredged flat under the proposed pontoon berths, or barge grids built under each one (expensive) or even dredged fully to allow boats to remain afloat at most or all states of the tide? If not any boat moored at the angle your illustration shows will dry out at quite a steep angle.
- Is coat wall listed as a remnant of the area's historic industrial past?

Project Costs / Revenue (4 comments)

- What are the costs?
- How many services will need to be cut to pay for the project
- An example of tax payers' money being converted into profits?
- Will the be moorings be rented out, leased or sold?

Public Consultation (3 comments)

- The local Brentford community have not been given any choice to review any other options for improving the moorings at Waterman's Park before the council decided to present their 'Preferred Option 2A' Why?

Other (3 comments)

- Who will operate the moorings
- Will visitors' moorings be available for people wishing to visit Brentford by boat?
- What about the toxicity of doing the piling?

Next Steps

The Project Team will now consider the comments received in greater detail and conduct discussions with a number of statutory consultees, such as the Port of London Authority, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation. This will help the Project Team to understand all considerations prior to progressing the scheme design further.

It is anticipated that further public exhibitions will be held in March to explain our response to the comments submitted and enable discussions on more detailed proposals to take place.

To keep up to date with progress, either review the project website at www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations
Or contact us at watermans.marina@hounslow.gov.uk.