

# Wharfdale Way and Boakes Drive Canal Side Improvements Survey

## SUMMARY

- 64 people responded to the survey
- Percentages have been rounded up to nearest 0.5%, where necessary.

Questions regarding Site A - Former Garage Site, Wharfdale Way

**1. Take up some hard standings (leaving some parking spaces) and landscape the area.**

**Agreed 63%**  
Neutral 14%  
Disagreed 23%

**2. Provide seating**

**Agreed 71%**  
Neutral 11%  
Disagreed 18%

**3. Provide picnic tables**

**Agreed 53%**  
Neutral 17%  
Disagreed 29%

**4. Design planting to encourage biodiversity, for example, bees and other insects.**

**Agreed 82%**  
Neutral 5%  
Disagreed 13%

**5. Improve fencing to match fencing at Boakes Drive opposite or something similar**

**Agreed 82%**  
Neutral 5%  
Disagreed 13%

**6. Provide canal boat visitor moorings at this site with water and electricity (no waste disposal) Visitor moorings - are for boats arriving from the National network once the canal is connected (up to 48 hr mooring)**

**Agreed 56%**  
Neutral 11%  
Disagreed 33%

**7. Provide an area of hard standing serviced with power and water for mobile catering facilities for occasional canal side events?**

Agreed 38%  
Neutral 15%  
**Disagreed 48%**

**8. Provide a history board and signage to town centre.**

**Agreed 82%**  
Neutral 7%  
Disagreed 11%

**9. Provide space for public art (e.g. a sculpture)**

**Agreed 51%**  
Neutral 30%  
Disagreed 20%

**10. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site A?**

Moorings, signage and suitable landscape would encourage boaters to explore the Stonehouse area rather than just use the canal as a route to somewhere else. This would help local businesses.

Provision of cycle routes and facilities

Toilet and cafe facilities

Anything that can be done to improve the approach to stonehouse would be welcomed. We need to preserve what heritage we have left

Additional parking, people, noise to an already busy area. More is simply just not needed

Additional pressure on parking in residential area

More suitable site – on other side of the canal. There is car parking, a large derelict shed (which is an eyesore when walking along the canal towards Stroud) and as the land is virtually opposite Regents Street it would provide easy access into the town.

Moorings better on this side than Boakes Drive,

Permanent moorings difficult to police. Small area to have events. Limited room for moorings on both sides

Protected species and natural vegetation need to be considered

Safety provision for visitors (particularly young people)

Not a suitable location

Visitor moorings only NOT permanent moorings.

May be better used for car parking

We are concerned about Noise pollution, litter, car fumes.  
We are concerned about the wildlife, especially the swans who habit this area

Proper sizeable canal facilities i.e. community meeting rooms/ clubhouse, showers, toilets, disabled facilities need to be on the other side ie Ship Inn site. This site could provide additional moorings though, bringing more people into Stonehouse town

This area is too small for any moorings it's beautiful as it doesn't spoil it  
Since the canal was drained cleaned and the celebration weekend a few years ago hardly seen a canal boat on canal this is due to the canal doesn't go anywhere and until it's opened up to the glos sharpness canal it's a waste of public money  
Just spend money on public roads instead so we can all get to work safely not money on the minority with canal boats

### 10. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site A?

This is an ideal site for access into Stonehouse town centre as the bridge over the canal is easily accessed from this point. Once people have crossed the bridge they can use the pedestrian crossing to cross the main Bristol Road to walk up Regent Street.

### Questions regarding Site B - Play Area, Wharfdale Way

### 11. Are there any children / young people living in your household or who visit regularly?

Yes 35%

**No 65%**

### 12. If YES please indicate their age(s) - tick all that apply

**Under 9 years 82%**

10 to 15 years 36%

16 to 19 years 18%

### 13. Do you or your family use the children's play equipment?

Yes 31%

**No 69%**

Reasons given for not using it were:

- Don't live near
- Assumed it was private
- No need
- No children or children have grown up/ too old

### 14. If yes approximately how often?

Every day 14%

Most days 9%

Once a week 23%

**Once or twice a month 41%**

A few times a year 18%

### 15. Would you like to see more equipment?

Yes 39%

**No 61%**

If yes, what would you like to see and why:

- Better equipment
- Proper play park
- Skate park
- More for smaller children
- Zip wire
- Climbing frames
- Nature areas e.g. willow tunnels, bird boxes etc

**16. Would you like to see less equipment?**

Yes 17%

**No 83%**

- No children using it
- Muga –because of the noise

**17. Do you or your family use the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)?**

Yes 25%

**No 75%**

**18. If YES approximately how often?**

Every day 21%

Most days 7%

Once a week 21%

**Once or twice a month 36%**

A few times a year 14%

**19. Would you like to see Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) retained at Wharfdale Way?**

**Yes 63%**

No 37%

**20. Would you like to see the MUGA relocated?**

Yes 23%

**No 77%**

If yes where?

- Near proposed moorings
- Into Stonehouse
- Stonehouse community centre
- Laburnam Walk Park

**21. Do you have any other comments or ideas for the Play Area?**

Overall, this area is very off-putting. Fence it with something a bit more tasteful but allow a gate onto the canal path so people will understand that it is there for public use.

Additions will encourage possible undesirables.

There have already been problems with the comparison site opposite Frome Gardens

Remove the damaged fence to make the area more open but still with a fence around it to stop dogs fouling in the play area.

Please retain green areas and the large round net swing

Site could be enhanced with planting up edges with flowering plants that also benefit wildlife

To be accessed from canal and to entice all age children

The playgrounds at saul park and snakey park at eastington are excellent, something similar to those would be fantastic

Rubbish bins would be useful

It could reflect the canal area ....but what about parking for visitors to the area

A canal related use

**21. Do you have any other comments or ideas for the Play Area?**

I don't think many children currently use this area, this would be a better place for the overnight (48 hour) area and permanent mooring area along with the mooring at the new end of Boakes Drive

Questions regarding Site B Wharfdale Way Play Area - Other facilities

**22. Remove fencing at edge of towpath and fence around the play equipment (similar to the QEII Park at Cainscross)**

**Agree 48%**  
Neutral 31%  
Disagree 21%

**23. Provide seating**

**Agree 71%**  
Neutral 15%  
Disagree 14%

**24. Provide picnic tables**

**Agree 59%**  
Neutral 15%  
Disagree 26%

**25. Design planting to encourage biodiversity, for example, bees and other insects.**

**Agree 82%**  
Neutral 7%  
Disagree 11%

**26. Demolish the garages and then landscape the area**

**Agree 61%**  
Neutral 20%  
Disagree 19%

**27. Remove the parking spaces next to the garages and the canal then landscape the area**

**Agree 38%**  
Neutral 25%  
Disagree 37%

**28. Provide visitor moorings (without waste disposal) next to the Play Area Visitor moorings - are for boats arriving from the National network once the canal is connected (up to 48 hr mooring)**

**Agree 51%**  
Neutral 17%  
Disagree 32%

**29. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site B - Play Area, Wharfdale Way?**

## 29. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site B - Play Area, Wharfdale Way?

The more visitor moorings we have in Stonehouse the better. Therefore any scheme that encourages and promotes moorings should be applauded.

You don't mention cycles. It is important to ensure cycle routes and cycle facilities e.g. parking along the length of the canal including these areas. Too often money is spent on macho projects involving diesel powered boats and bridges for cars when a fraction of that money could transform the canal towpath into a path properly usable by cyclists and pedestrians together. Please move away from worshipping engines and thinking about some future barge filled nirvana to providing facilities for humans walking and on bikes right now.

The play area fencing needs to be retained for children's safety.  
Parking is already a district wide issue so to lose parking spaces would be a contentious issue.  
Canal boats stop and have a ready made parking space on the canal. Residents in the area wouldn't have the same luxury if you take away their parking spaces just to make the canal side look pretty for occasional boating visitors.

Where will residence park?

If the plan is to encourage tourists to moor then we need to make a good first impression. The current state of these sites is atrocious, unwelcoming and off-putting compared to other sites along the canal (in the Stroud District.) Please put some resources into this area!

Why not put the provision for waste? Maybe just a bin and a dog poo bin.

The parking in the area is already excessive & at times dangerous.  
There is no need to change anything

would these moorings have electricity and water like those proposed in site A.  
Would this require piling the bank all along this stretch to facilitate the moorings, It would be better on this side than the Boakes Drive side as this is the tow path side.

Make signage to direct those mooring into Stonehouse to use local facilities/businesses

Need to be mindful of preventing balls going into the canal when considering fencing.

Visitor moorings usually have waste disposal.

I did not appreciate there are garages at this location so have commented neutral

Where do people go to the toilet ? Will litter bins and dog poo bins be dealt with. Life belts have never been maintained. We put them back when the kids remove them.

Need to retain parking for visitors to the area

Remove the garages to make more parking areas so as not to cause the current residents hassles with people parking outside their properties for lengthy periods

## Questions regarding Site C - Boakes Drive Open Space

### 30. Permanent moorings for canal boats at Boakes Drive (this would mean some widening of the canal)? Permanent moorings are for boats permanently based on the canal under licence, but cannot be lived on

Agree 27%  
Neutral 12%  
**Disagree 61%**

### 31. Improved signage to the Town Centre?

**Agree 69%**  
Neutral 12%  
Disagree 19%

## 32. Some planting to encourage biodiversity, for example, bees and other insects

Agree 79%

Neutral 8%

Disagree 13%

## 33. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site C?

A limited number of permanent moorings should be encouraged.

There is already a natural area for animals so why bother to get rid of it? There is no parking in Boakes Drive already which this will encourage even more. Parking in Wharfedale Way is also atrocious and dangerous as it is. Leave the green as it was intended!

This land is for Boakes Drive residents and is protected by a covenant, leave it alone and build your boat car park on your doorstep!!!!!!

Once again, please direct resources to this project! The canal could benefit Stonehouse greatly....bringing tourism and spending to the high street. If you consider the current plans to build MORE homes on the Ship Inn site and the proposed A419 widening, there won't be any 'nice' parts left to Stonehouse! Why is this area being overlooked? It is part of a heritage conservation area that the council seems intent on ignoring.

The 'open space' was built into the development of Boakes Drive for the use of the residents. This green area is regularly used by families, children & dogs that live in Boakes Drive.

It is a wonderful space that is secluded & enclosed from residents across the canal & users of the towpath.

The undergrowth edging the canal is teeming with wildlife & is home to all sorts including nesting swans, water voles & great crested newts that have already been reformed from the Bristol Road / Court View development.

There seems to be plenty of areas along the canal side that edges on to industrial sites & indeed on to fields.

Put your moorings elsewhere!!

The permanent moorings would be better placed in between Upper Mills and the road as there is easy access, space for parking and the area is redundant. By putting permanent mooring along Boakes Drive it will make an already congested area worse with people accessing boats and parking in a residential area that is already struggling for parking spaces

The reeds and bull rushes provide a safe haven for nesting swans, other waterfowl and mammals, if this area is cleared the wildlife will be pushed elsewhere and residents (particularly children) on both sides of this part of the canal will lose a wonderful wildlife arena on their doorstep.

See comments for Site A, there is more potential in developing the derelict land opposite the Upper Mills industrial area on the other side of Stonehouse canal bridge. Parking already exists at this site, knocking down or redeveloping the disused building there could potentially provide a refreshment area not only for canal walkers or boat users but also the people working on the industrial estate.

I would not like to see a solid edge to the canal on this side, birds nest on the edge of the canal and if the other side of the canal is piled for moorings there would not be a shallow edge to the canal along this area for the wildlife. I would be happy to see some more planting for wildlife biodiversity on this side.

I would not like any of the green taken away.

I don't want any trees removed.

Taking bank away would make it worse for wildlife, especially vertical sides on both canal banks.

Parking would be a problem (as it already is in Boakes Drive) with people coming to visit/use the boats and it would encourage parking on the grass.

How would the moorings be policed?

I'd like to see more detailed plans. I live at the Southern end and the new moorings might come close so I'd want to consider noise and light pollution and issues with extra vehicle movements.

### 33. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site C?

See comments previously on local ecology and protection

Permanent moorings could be made available at The Wharf at the end of Boakes Drive. This proposal would be at the expense of our green space which nobody wants to lose. Also car parking would be required presumably, which again would impinge on the green.

No permanent moorings required, excess noise and litter

We own an apartment - xx Boakes Drive - which will be one of the closest properties to this development. While we are in favour of much of the renovation of the canal and the provision of new canal facilities, this development would be extremely close to our property. We feel there is a risk of increasing usage of the land between the property and the canal, and a great risk of increasing visitor use of the green and Boakes Drive itself. There is an area of land to the east of the Upper Mills Industrial Estate Rd bridge that is vacant and has a car park, is closer to Stonehouse and would be a far more suitable site. There could be opportunity also of renovating the Wycliffe College boat house for community use. We could not support the development at Boakes Drive.

Permanent mooring just becomes an empty space when the boat goes cruising the system. This space CANNOT be used by visiting boats, so it just becomes a total waste of good mooring that we should be providing for visitors. With 11 EMPTY business premises in Stonehouse we need to encourage visitors. Stonehouse is NOT the place for Permanent Moorings!

Having heard some of the adverse comments of Boakes Drive residents attending the Stonehouse consultation, whilst I support the principle of the moorings, unless and until the resident's concerns are met regarding the inevitable attendance of motor vehicles to the location and their long term parking whilst the boat owners are sailing away, I feel that dropping this part of the overall plan, particularly as it's finances are not tied to the Lottery Bid, may be politic and enable the rest of the plan to proceed with less opposition.

Would not be happy with widening of the canal at this site as far along as indicated as it runs in front of our property. Would be acceptable up to trees next to electricity sub station where green area is wider and therefore not intruding on existing properties.

This is a beautiful area with lots of natural wildlife.....put the moorings on the new part of canal. Parking is already a nightmare on Boakes Drive we can't cope with more cars parking here  
Strongly opposed to add to existing parking chaos in Boakes Drive which moorings would , without question.

No Mooring Boakes Drive side of the canal should be permitted. The natural habitat for kingfishers, swans, newts, great crested newts will be destroyed.

The green area could be a great wildlife area with seating.

We feel the town centre needs to be improved before any of these ideas are considered. The centre is full of charity shops .... it's hardly an attraction for people to visit. The supermarket, chemist or doctors are the main reasons people visit. The town is hardly appealing to those morning boats with few facilities...concentrate on making the town better with a good variety of shops and facilities. By widening the canal and having boats moored will damage the natural beauty. The green is a great attractive space for the families who already live here. The recently developed canal and towpaths, and fishing is adequate for this green area. We don't feel there is any reason for people to bring boats here. Perhaps develop the back of Stonehouse court so boats can moor there, encouraging people to have lunch or drinks. It's a good family area.  
We are very concerned about the wild life being affected. The peace and tranquility of this area is second to none.

There should be no moorings on the green in Boakes Drive, the green is used by lots of wildlife -swans, birds, frog, common newts, great crested newts, kingfishers, herons and moorhens.  
The mooring will destroy this habitat and will create noise for residents and increased parking problems.

Visitor moorings with signposts to town centre would be ideal as then visiting boaters would have a place to stop which would give easy access to the road crossing and Regent Street. Permanent moorings here would discourage this as spaces would be full and there would likely be nowhere for visitors to stop

### 33. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site C?

Permanent moorings would also require parking spaces and road access so that boaters could load on/off and have somewhere to leave their vehicles while they are on board their boats and cruising the canal. This would definitely occur - I speak from experience as a boat owner. There is no reasonable solution for this to be provided at Boakes drive without compromising the residents, which would be unfair.

I am also opposed to the loss of any green space along the canal and widening the canal here would mean this would happen at Boakes drive.

The ideal solution here is visitor moorings and picnic tables,

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Would Not want to lose of the green, lots of children and adults use this area daily!

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This would be utterly detrimental to the area. We have biodiversity in this area, we regularly see the kingfishers, grass snakes etc. People get round the permanent moorings regulations by moving for a week or two per year. They would bring their cars so that they could get to work - where would these be parked ? It would be like building eight houses on the open space. Not exactly an IMPROVEMENT ! There are already houses on the other side, boats dont want to go passed boats and houses constantly.

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Need to retain as much green area as possible for local residents. Need to ensure that any moorings are not live aboard but there will need to be water, parking, sewage disposal and electricity nearby.

How will moorings be managed/policed to ensure no abuse of the facilities?

Sewage disposal is critical as majority of narrow boats run on cassette toilets which need to be emptied every 3-5 days (pump out tanks every 3 weeks on average)

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Why are the council cutting down trees on my freehold without consulting me??

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We do not want any of the green sacrificed to provide additional parking. Currently there is little to no room on Boakes Drive to access moored boats. We would prefer that you use the site of the old Ship Inn if you need to provide parking

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Parking in Boakes Drive is already a big problem, there are times when I cannot park within 500m of my property.

Creating a public area and canal boat mooring would be a disaster for Boakes Drive residents, in reality the incoming public will park in Boakes Drive , please don't think that they will walk from a car park in Wharfedale....

they won't. .... people park in disabled spaces because they are too lazy to walk any distance.

Please be realistic with your planning.

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The land that is marked for this area is regularly used by residents of Boakes Drive and also surrounding areas. There is always someone on the green either walking dogs, children playing or having social events. There is also a lot of wildlife around this part of the canal (bats, herons, swans to name a few) and if the canal was widened we would lose their habitat. There is already a permanent canal mooring area outside the new houses on Boakes Drive, with a wharf and easy access to the town.

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The access to town from this site is the most difficult as there is no direct route to get into town without walking through the estate in either direction.

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Noise travels across water. We have had to put up with increased traffic noise from the road widening at the back of the house. Currently the front of the house is quiet. This is the fourth planning notice this year within feet of my property. Agree with canal development but it must be carefully managed.

No wood burning or other smokey chimneys right outside my window, and no running of engines or generators. No partying or playing of music outside the boats. All this will need to be strictly enforced.

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The land that is marked C in the proposal suggests that the canal be widened which would result in loss of the public green area which is regularly used by local residents including children. There is also a lot of wildlife living along the borders of the canal at this point such as nesting swans, moor hens etc.

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If mooring is required then why not put the resources into redeveloping the large area of canal known as the "ocean" which is a bit further up the canal towards Eastington ? There is also a bridge near to this point which provides easy access into Stonehouse for those mooring at this site.

### 33. Do you have any other comments or ideas for Site C?

The proposal does not elaborate on how much the canal will be widened nor on aspects of the tow path / footpath, landing stage/jetty nor on access for cars etc.

Parking in Boakes Drive is already a big problem, there are times when I cannot park within 500m of my property.

Creating a public area and canal boat mooring would be a disaster for Boakes Drive residents, in reality the incoming public will park in Boakes Drive , please don't think that they will walk from a car park in Wharfedale....

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Please be realistic with your planning.

## 6. Equality Monitoring Questions

Majority of respondents were between 35-54 yrs old (44%) and 55-64 yrs old (21%)

With no long-term health problems or disability (91%)

British (89%)

Female 52%, male 41%