

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 April 2022 10:18
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Canal consultation

Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Hello

Canal Consultation Comments

Thank you for the detailed and well thought out strategy documents and thank for extending the conflation period, I wasn't here until yesterday.

My comments

- 1) The towpath is too narrow. The users of the towpath are and will be the main people benefiting from the canal. I would like decking to cantilever over about 1/3 of the canal width.
- 2) The canal is presently a wonderful diverse wildlife corridor. Very few local people have canal boats. Any boats will be detrimental to the wildlife, in terms of pollution and movement and distress to swans, ducks and fish. Using the canal for boats is unnecessary and harmful. Obviously that was its original function but it is not relevant today.
- 3) Fishing along the canal should be prohibited. It's a horrible sport that injures and kills fish. It's not really a sport at all, more like torture. The men (and it is men) who fish take up a lot of room, often block the narrow towpath, throw their lines backwards and sideways. This is dangerous and unnecessary and there is not enough room.
- 4) The towpath should follow the canal. This doesn't happen around Waitrose and Capel's Mill, where the path is diverted via a hairpin to the noisy main road. The towpath was not designed in but was managed as an afterthought. Please design the canal so that the towpath is central to the design.
- 5) Cycling should be segregated, to enable faster travel and make it safer for pedestrians. This would go with No. 1) above, entailing significantly widening the towpath.
- 6) Steps should be completely removed along the whole of the towpath. This is for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users.

In summary, please priorities the towpath.

Best Regards

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