

**Head Office Bulletin – December 2007 – Issue 131**

Head Office Bulletin is available in pdf format on IWA's Internet site, along with a wide range of information about the Association and the inland waterways. [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) should be the first place to look for any information that you need. You can also subscribe to receive Head Office Bulletin in text form by e-mail as soon as it is published each month. Additional e-mail mailing lists ([news@waterways.org.uk](mailto:news@waterways.org.uk) and [pressrelease@waterways.org.uk](mailto:pressrelease@waterways.org.uk)) provide more frequent mailings of timely news, which enable the Association to keep members and other supporters more up-to-date with all that the Association is doing, but all the news is reported at the end of each month, updated where appropriate. If you wish to make any changes to the mailings that you receive, please contact Vicky Clark at IWA Head Office.

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About People

We are saddened to record the death of **Stu Carrie**, chairman of IWA's Middlesex Branch, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, after several months of ill health. He lived on his narrow boat *Dolphin* at Cowley, Uxbridge, taking up residence in Packet Boat Marina in October 2002. He provided boating advice in setting up the marina in preparation for the opening, becoming Site Warden on its opening in March 2003. He worked in airfield management becoming manager at Cranfield Airfield,

director at Biggin Hill and also Northolt before taking early retirement.

**Tony Hinsley** has been appointed as a member of IWA's Restoration Committee. An up-to-date list of the membership of IWA's Council and all its national committees is available at: [www.waterways.org.uk/Library/GoverningDocuments](http://www.waterways.org.uk/Library/GoverningDocuments)

**Derek Smith** has been appointed to the committee of IWA Festivals division of Inland Waterways Enterprises Ltd, with specific responsibility for trail boat festivals.

**Tony Davis**, IWA's honorary planning consultant has indicated that he would welcome assistance from someone else with appropriate planning experience, preferably still in current practice and up to-date in current regulations, etc, possibly with a view to eventually taking over Tony's role. Further advice on the services sought can be obtained direct from Tony (contact details available from Head Office) or from Roger Squires, chairman of IWA's Navigation Committee (e-mail: [roger.squires@waterways.org.uk](mailto:roger.squires@waterways.org.uk)).

British Waterways Head Office

British Waterways is to move its Head Office from Willow Grange (just north-west of Watford Junction Station), to 64 Clarendon Road, (just to the south of the rail station) over the weekend 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December. The new address is 64 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1DA. Telephone, fax and e-mail addresses are unchanged. There is no visitor parking at the new offices, but they are well served by public transport, and there are local public car parks.

#### British Waterways Licence Fee Consultation

British Waterways has announced that it is to hold a series of meetings, to be attended by BW chief executive Robin Evans, to listen to boaters' view on its licence fee consultation (see 'Current Consultations' below). Anyone is welcome to attend. The meetings are being held at BW's offices on  
 4<sup>th</sup> December Watford (01923 201365)  
 13<sup>th</sup> December Leeds (0113 281 6861)  
 14<sup>th</sup> December Gloucester (01452 318000)  
 16<sup>th</sup> December Hatton (Warwick) (01926 626 100)  
 10<sup>th</sup> January Northwich, Cheshire (01606 723802)  
 Exact details of location and timings are available from the telephone contacts above. By 29<sup>th</sup> November, the number of people who had advised BW that they intended to attend for each location was 22, 50, 2, 15 and 6 respectively (total 95). IWA strongly encourages boat-owners to attend, and to express their views. IWA is not sending 'official' delegates to these meetings as there has already been a dialogue between BW and waterway user groups, and these meetings are specifically for individual boaters to meet with BW management.

#### British Waterways Moorings Tender Trial

Results of the tenders for the first moorings made available under British Waterways' trial scheme (on the Aire & Calder Navigation, Lancaster Canal, Kennet & Avon Canal, Leeds & Liverpool Canal and river Stort), were published on [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com) during the last week in November. Many of the moorings gained a top tender of a little over the guide price, with just a few going for significantly more, or significantly less than the guide value. A number of moorings received no bids or failed to meet the (unpublished) reserve price. The most sought after mooring (on the Aire & Calder Navigation), received 8 bids.  
 water.

Early Day Motion 67 states: *"That this House notes that moving freight by water is several times more environmentally sustainable than doing so by road and takes lorries off the congested road network; further notes that water freight makes a major contribution to the UK's economy and employs more than 200,000 people; welcomes the role played by Sea and Water in promoting water freight; calls on major retailers and others to do more to make their supply chains more green by making use of inland waterways and short sea shipping; and urges the Government to continue to*

#### Freight on Canals – House of Commons Early Day Motions

Two MPs have launched Early Day Motions in the new session of Parliament urging greater support for the carriage of freight on the inland waterways. Charlotte Atkins, Labour MP for Staffordshire Moorlands, has tabled an Early Day Motion urging government to create a dedicated freight unit to encourage greater carriage of freight on the inland waterways following the recommendations of the House of Commons Select Committee report on British Waterways.

Early Day Motion 169 states: *"That this House congratulates Tesco's for switching from lorry to water the transport of its new world wine over the 32 miles from Liverpool to its bottling plant in Irlam saving 50 lorry trips a week and cutting carbon emissions by 80 per cent.; notes Sainsbury's has recently conducted similar trials in London; believes the Department for Transport should create a dedicated unit to encourage greater use of our inland and coastal waterways as recommended by the recent Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee report on British Waterways recommending fiscal incentives to stimulate greater waterways use; and believes much can be learnt from other countries in Europe on using British waterways to reduce noise, pollution and traffic congestion".*

Mike Hancock, Liberal Democrat MP for Portsmouth South, has launched an Early Day Motion that notes the environmental benefits and calls on both Government and major retailers to support the movement of freight by

*support the water freight industry with policies to develop and maintain the inland waterway network and by ensuring that planning policies in particular encourage rather than hinder access to the waterways."*

IWA is encouraging members and other waterways supporters to contact their MP and to lobby them to sign and support both Early Day Motion 67 (51 signatures by 30<sup>th</sup> November) and 169 (60 signatories by 30<sup>th</sup> November), as the Association wishes as many MPs as possible to be made aware of some of the wider environmental benefits of the waterways to

society as a whole, especially at a time of funding pressures and increased costs to users. The following link can be used to find the MP for any area and contact them to register support for the motions: [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)

The following website links show the Early Day motions and which MPs have signed up so far: <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=34265&SESSION=891> (EDM 169)  
<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=34157&SESSION=891> (EDM 67)  
IWA asks that people write to their MP in support of the motions, even if they have already signed them, so that MPs know their constituents support their action and are grateful for their support.

#### Grant-in-Aid to Navigation Authorities

Over the weekend 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November, press reports indicated the likelihood of further cuts to waterways budgets, and IWA's own direct sources verified the correctness of these reports on 19<sup>th</sup> November. IWA understands that ministers are to be presented with a package for £130 million of immediate cuts to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' budget with radical options for another £140 million of savings. This would affect all the Department's-funded bodies, including British Waterways and the Environment Agency and would be in addition to 5% year-on-year cuts already reported. British Waterways is allegedly at the top of the list for further cuts to its funding. Whilst the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for the Department appeared to present a real increase to the Department's budget, it only later emerged that a number of new centrally-directed priorities had been added to the Department's funding obligations, and that the cost of these would have to be taken from existing budgets as no additional funds had been allowed for the new obligations.

IWA is concerned that British Waterways and the Environment Agency have not recovered from their share of the £200 million cuts to funding imposed by the Treasury in 2006 after the Department mismanaged payments to farmers following a reform of agricultural subsidies. Furthermore, British Waterways has suffered from the effects of this summer's flooding and the breach in the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal - a total additional cost of over £10 million, for which no allowance has been made by the Department. Other

navigation authorities have also suffered considerable losses. IWA argues that the Treasury should allocate additional funds to waterway managers to cope with these disasters as they were outside their control. IWA believes that the Government's decision to reduce waterways funding to help pay for the additional costs of the outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease, Blue Tongue Disease and Bird 'Flu is unfair, unreasonable and should be reversed before further damage is done.

IWA has encouraged waterway supporters to show their concern now by writing to their MP and raising the alarm before it is too late. Whilst the Association is appalled at the prospect of further cuts to the waterways it is, however, clear that the situation would have been worse had it not been for the campaigning and lobbying already undertaken. That work has been very effective and IWA has expressed its gratitude for the support received from many MPs, and has welcomed the quick resolve of many to resist these prospective cuts. IWA recommends that all waterway supporters should contact their MP as soon as possible, since important funding decisions are being made before the Christmas break. To delay raising concerns over the cuts and the latest funding proposals could allow the proposals to become consolidated before MPs have a chance to lobby ministers.

IWA is concerned that substantial budget cuts to British Waterways would raise the likelihood of closure of canals due to an inability to fund routine maintenance and safety requirements, risking the type of breach such as that recently seen on the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal in October. Supporters can find the name of their local MP at: [www.writetothem.com/](http://www.writetothem.com/)

Lobbying of MPs by waterway supporters has already had significant effect, with a number of MPs having applied for parliamentary debates on the issue, and raised questions to ministers. As always, whilst most MPs may be well-briefed on the issues, human nature dictates that MPs, like any politician, are bound to be reactive to the weight of concern expressed in letters, telephone calls and e-mails from constituents; so it is important that MPs are regularly reminded of waterways concerns. The prospective cuts and their implications for British Waterways and the Environment Agency have subsequently been taken

up by the national media, amidst considerable discussion of the Department's financial plight.

#### IWA Festivals Vacancy

IWA Festivals is looking for a volunteer to assist the Attractions and Entertainments Team to help plan, book and liaise with the attractions and entertainers that will be on site over the course of IWA's National Festival. This includes checking accreditation and insurance, and looking after their needs on site to ensure that they appear in the right places at the right times. Anyone interested to assist should contact Malcolm Fry via IWA Head Office.

#### IWA National Awards

Nominations for all of IWA's national awards should be made by 31<sup>st</sup> January (each year). Details of the awards and nomination process are available at: [www.waterways.org.uk/Ourwork/NationalAwards/AwardNominations](http://www.waterways.org.uk/Ourwork/NationalAwards/AwardNominations)

#### IWA's National Conference for Waterway Societies

IWA has announced that the next National Conference for Waterway Societies is to be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Austin Court conference centre, near the centre of Birmingham. Further details will be announced in the New Year. No conference was held in 2007 as IWA hosted the World Canals Conference in Liverpool, which many waterway societies attended.

#### IWA Restructure Proposals

At IWA Council's meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November, a paper on the progress of the Structure working group was received and agreed in principle. It is an update on progress so far, and has been circulated to branches and regions to inform them and members of progress to date. A copy is also on the web site, at [www.waterways.org.uk/News/IWAstructure](http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/IWAstructure)

Council is keen to point out to members that within the structure proposals as currently envisaged; it is the Board of Trustees that would have full responsibility for the running of IWA. The Board would make strategic decisions, instruct the Operations Executive to work within these decisions and have appropriate oversight and monitoring procedures in place to review progress.

Council additionally wishes to make members aware of the following points:

- The document is still a 'work in progress', and as such remains under development to take into account comments received from members and Council.
- There are areas such as the relationships that individual members, branches and regions would have with national committees that the working group has yet to consider but recognises as very important.
- There will continue to be ongoing consultation throughout the process, and Council welcomes further contributions from regions, branches and members.

Please send correspondence marked 'Structure' to Jo Gilbertson at: [Structure@waterways.org.uk](mailto:Structure@waterways.org.uk) or to:

✉ Jo Gilbertson, Campaign Coordinator, 3 Norfolk Court, Norfolk Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1LT.

#### National Lottery Funding – The People's Millions

Two of the four projects to have reached the final round of bids for a £50 million grant under The Big Lottery Fund's *The People's Millions* have canal and waterway connections: the Black Country Urban Park and Sustrans' Connect2. The final decision is to be made by public votes, encouraged by television slots on ITV during the first week of December. The Sustrans bid is to feature on 4<sup>th</sup> December at 11.05 pm, and The Black Country bid is to feature on 6<sup>th</sup> December, also at 11.05 pm. On-line voting has already started, at [www.thepeoples50million.org.uk/home](http://www.thepeoples50million.org.uk/home)

The Black Country bid intends to deliver a major package of improvements along the five canals in and around Wolverhampton. There would be improvements to the canal corridors by making them integral extensions of the open spaces and parks that they pass alongside. The towpaths in the Wolverhampton area, including those adjacent to IWA's 2008 National Festival and Boat Show site, would be upgraded and restored. This would include substantial landscaping and upgrading of the Rushall Canal and Tame Valley Canal towpaths that between them form much of the green link. There will also be three new bridges to encourage people to access the canals more easily, and new visitor moorings would be created in Wolverhampton town centre by the excavation and reopening of the former Hay Canal



Basin, which was in-filled in the 1970s. The Dudley Tunnel complex would be extended by reopening the Seven Sisters Mine and the connecting Wren's Nest Tunnels, where a new visitor centre would offer skippered boat trips and a funicular railway constructed.

Sustrans Connect2 is a national package of 79 schemes involving new bridges and connections to make local transport safer and easier for walkers and cyclists. Several of these projects would improve access near to waterways. These include a replacement for Riversdale Swing-bridge on the Weaver; removal of the first blockage to navigation on the Melton Mowbray Navigation; towpath improvements and access points on the Bridgewater Canal; reopening the towpath of the former Shrewsbury Canal in Shrewsbury; Rochdale Canal towpath improvements; a new bridge over the Regent's Canal; a new bridge link over Diglis River Lock on the Severn; a new bridge over the Great Ouse at St Neots, and a new bridge connecting the towpath at Banbury on the Oxford Canal.

#### Brecon & Abergavenny Canal

Following the major breach on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal at Gilwern on 16<sup>th</sup> October, British Waterways held a series of meetings with boating operators, private boaters and other local stakeholders to discuss options for reopening the waterway and the impact of its closure. The seriousness of the breach and the location where it occurred led British Waterways to carry out a detailed geotechnical survey of a 16-mile stretch of the canal, from Llanover to Talybont (bridges 84 to 141). British Waterways says it is increasingly of the view that the best option for the canal is to carry out a major programme of renovation across the central 16 mile length. Initial assessments indicate that significant works may be required to secure the canal infrastructure and thus the affected stretch of canal may not reopen for some time, possibly until 2009. The current investigation should provide a clearer picture of what work is needed, and how long it might take. BW has postponed substantial works on the Weaver Navigation to pay for costs of repairs on the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal. The canal and associated waterside businesses from Talybont to Brecon, and Llanover to Cwmbran remain unaffected by the works. The towpath remains open to the public.

#### Cotswold Canals

The bid to The Big Lottery Fund for an award under the Living Landmarks programme to restore the Stroudwater Navigation from Stonehouse to Saul Junction was announced as being unsuccessful on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The bid, made by British Waterways and Stroud District Council on behalf of the Cotswold Canals Partnership, sought £19 million towards the £24.5 million restoration of a four-mile stretch of the Stroudwater Navigation. However, the project did benefit from £250,000 bid-development funding, which enabled many of the essential studies to promote restoration to be undertaken, and will greatly assist future funding bids.

Further east on the Stroudwater Navigation, work to remove the infill from the waterway between Ryeford Double Lock and Oil Mills Bridge started in November. So far, 8,420 tons of earth and domestic waste have already been removed from 240 metres of canal; a mains gas pipe has been diverted; alternative access to houses and business built; over 300 slow worms and grass snakes relocated; vegetation cleared; and archaeological investigation carried out. Work to Oil Mills Bridge has started, and is due to be complete by March 2008.

On the Thames & Severn Canal, WRG regional groups have undertaken work to clear the canal around Gough's Orchard Lock, close to Brimscombe Port, removing trees and overgrowth. British Waterways has arranged training courses at nearby colleges for volunteers, offering training on the canals in archaeology, aquatic plant identification, brush-cutter and strimmer use; masonry repairs and use of chippers.

Regeneration of the area around Brimscombe Port is being led by Stroud District Council. This is to include the development of the site around the Port and the restoration of the water-space, and is closely linked in with the Area Action Plan being developed by the Council for Brimscombe. Further information on the restoration of the Cotswold Canals is available at [www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org](http://www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org)

### Derby Canal

Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust has announced that it has secured funding to employ a project manager with support to drive forward the canal restoration project for the next two and a half years. Funding of up to £150,000, phased until 2010, is to be provided by Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership with matched funding through the Trust's existing partnerships with local councils and the Trust's own fundraising efforts. The Trust is currently recruiting a project manager to start as soon as possible.

### Droitwich Canals

The construction of the mitigation 2.4 hectares reed bed near Droitwich, and the first phase of reed planting, has been completed. It provides improved, replacement reed beds for those that will need to be removed from the centre of the canal channel to make the waterway navigable. 40,000 reeds have been planted so far, with a further 80,000 to be planted next spring; half of these by volunteers. Volunteers are sought to assist this work – contact the Droitwich Canals Restoration team ☎ 01452 318000.

WRG's Forestry Group has assisted with clearance of the new line of the Junction Canal, east of Droitwich. Construction is due to start in the new year around the M5. WRG plans to undertake much of the restoration of the Barge Lock in 2008 and has pledged £5,000 to the Barge Lock appeal. Further information on the restoration of the Droitwich Canals is available at [www.britishwaterways.co.uk/droitwich](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/droitwich)

### Forth & Clyde Canal

The Helix bid to improve an area of about 300 hectares surrounding the eastern end of the Forth & Clyde Canal was one of the three successful projects to be awarded £25 million in funding from The Big Lottery Fund as part of its Living Landmarks grants. The project includes 750,000 trees to be planted; the creation of five biodiversity nature parks; 34 kilometres of paths and cycle tracks; a 1.85 kilometre new canal linking Grangemouth on the river Forth into the Forth & Clyde Canal, and two 30-metre high 'Kelpie' horse heads based on the mythical Scots creatures of the same name, which will function as a boat lift at the

entrance to the Canal, making it the largest equine sculpture in the world. The bid for the project was put together by Falkirk Council, British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust. Work is expected to start in 2008, to progress over three distinct phases, and to span a ten year period and beyond. A trust is to be established that will oversee the work, which will have representatives from each of the bid promoters as well as from the local community. The overall project cost is likely to be about £49 million. Further information is available at

[www.falkirkonline.net/helix/introduction.aspx](http://www.falkirkonline.net/helix/introduction.aspx)

### River Lee Navigation

With £750,000 funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government's Green Arc Growth Area Fund, British Waterways has started work on the river Lee Navigation to upgrade a total of four kilometres of towpath. On 12<sup>th</sup> November, work started between Aqueduct Lock and Old Nazing Road to upgrade a 1.4km stretch of towpath, which is due to be complete by the end of February 2008. A second phase of work started on 26<sup>th</sup> November, to widen and resurface a 2.7km section of towpath between Waltham Town Lock and Waltham Common Lock, which is due to be complete by the end of March 2008. The work includes the installation of new signs at towpath entrance and exit points. The towpath is closed whilst the work is being carried out and a diversion route is in place.

### River Thames

The effects of constraints on navigation budgets are being felt on the Thames, as well as other waterways, where the number of lockkeepers is being reduced from 76 (including relief keepers) to around 60. There has already been a reduction of nine people working on the Thames, with the total number of Agency staff working on the Thames Navigation being reduced from 142 to 122 over a three-year period. A consequence has been an increase in the number of locks that boaters find unmanned, and some lockkeepers looking after two or more sets of weirs. The Agency is reported to have to lose a total of 200 staff, over its full range of its activities, whilst taking on a steady stream of additional duties directed by Government. The Agency increased its boat licence fees in 2007 by 12%, and as the Agency considers the consequent decrease in boating numbers (about 8% by October) to

have been manageable, it plans a further increase by a further 11.5% in January 2008.

The Agency is also considering whether it might sell off some of its lock houses. IWA has warned against such proposals, since once sold there are risks that new owners of such premises could object against traditional boating activities (and have their objections legally upheld, as has happened on the Basingstoke Canal). There could also be future problems of access arrangements to such premises being across lock and weir structures, liability to structure of houses from lock and weir rebuilding operations, and loss of control over building alterations and extensions. IWA has suggested that if the Agency does find itself with a surplus of housing stock along the Thames, such premises should be rented out, thus providing a steady income stream to benefit the navigation.

#### **Recent Publications**

**Countryside Council for Wales  
Annual Report 2006-2007**  
[www.ccw.gov.uk](http://www.ccw.gov.uk)

**Department for Culture Media and Sport  
Taking Part - the child survey**  
Findings of the *Taking Part* child survey to establish baseline levels of engagement amongst 11-15 year olds. High levels of participation during the last 12 months are recorded with 94% engaging in both a cultural and sports activity. Between the sectors, 72% had engaged in a historic environment activity and 74% in an arts event. Top of the list were arts activities (91.3%) and active sport (95%). Attendance at museums came to 54.7%. The data shows that of the 72% who attended historic environment sites, the most common type of site visited was a city or town with historic character (45%) followed by a monument (37%) and a historic building (33%). Although respondents were not specifically asked if these visits were out of school hours, 81% cited going with someone other than their school.  
[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Publications/archive\\_2007/tpcs\\_headlinefindingschildsurvey.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/tpcs_headlinefindingschildsurvey.htm)

**Department for Culture Media and Sport  
Inspiration, Identity, Learning: The Value of  
Museums: Second Study**

Summary of the independent evaluation by the University of Leicester of the Department for Culture Media and Sport/Department for Children Schools and Families funded national and regional museums partnership programme of education work in 2006-07. The research concludes that the programme as a whole has been highly successful with a strong emphasis on working towards social inclusion; effective and deepening partnerships between the educational sector and the museum sector; powerful learning outcomes for pupils; and the potential for strong partnerships between museums and communities.

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Publications/archive\\_2007/nrmuse\\_edprog0607.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/nrmuse_edprog0607.htm)

#### **English Heritage Heritage Counts 2007**

Sixth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment looking at the principal changes which have occurred in the historic environment since 2002. It also includes a focus on the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. Alongside the national report, a suite of regional reports provides further detail on the state of the historic environment in each of the nine government office regions.  
[www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk)

#### **The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee Heritage Lottery Fund**

Although the Heritage Lottery Fund has already made a number of improvements to the way it operates, including a simpler application process and an end to its annual overspend, the Report highlights some problem areas. In particular it says there is a risk that those groups best equipped to prepare good quality applications will tend to get the lion's share of the money and recommends that the Fund should monitor application rates to check that smaller voluntary and community groups in particular are not deterred from applying. The Report also notes that funding in each region since the National Lottery was set up varies from £744 million in London to less than £200 million in the East Midlands, North East, Wales and Northern Ireland. In the run up to the London Games, the Fund's income is likely to fall by 25%, although it should return to previous levels after 2012. Other lottery distributors will also suffer reductions in their



income. The Committee urges the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to examine distributors' plans for managing their organisations through the run up to the Games and beyond, to assess whether distributors' costs can be reduced in proportion to their income.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmpubacc/502/50202.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmpubacc/502/50202.htm)

### **Current Consultations**

#### **British Waterways Boat Licence Fee Consultation**

British Waterways has concluded that it is necessary for boat licence holders to increase their contribution to its costs. British Waterways expects part of this increased contribution to come from modest growth in boat numbers and improvements in collection of fees; but believes the remainder must be generated by price increases of approximately 9% per year in real terms over the next three years. There are eight proposals that together are designed to generate an increase in licence income and on which British Waterways would like to receive comment. Within the proposals there is one which asks whether part of the revenue should be raised by lowering the discount for prompt payment. Alternative proposals are also welcome providing they are clearly substantiated and recognise that licence fees have to be raised to generate the required increase in real income.

[www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)

Closing date for comments: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008

#### **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Consultation on the review of schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and a ban on the sale of certain non-native species**

The Department and the Welsh Assembly seek comments on proposals to review schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The schedule lists non-native species that are already established in the wild, but which continue to pose a conservation threat to native biodiversity and habitats, such that further releases should be regulated. The consultation includes proposals to ban the sale of certain non-native species.

[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wca-schedule9/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wca-schedule9/index.htm)

Closing date for comments: 31st January 2008

#### **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Pesticides Safety Directorate Non-compliant paints for historic buildings and vintage vehicles**

Proposals for a licensing scheme which implements a derogation in the Paints' Directive 2004/42/EC. This is a deregulatory measure which would enable a licence-holder to continue to obtain non-compliant paint products in limited quantities for the purposes of restoring and maintaining historic buildings and vintage vehicles. The introduction of a licensing scheme is intended to benefit the specialist companies undertaking this restoration work and help to ensure that the cultural value of historic buildings and vintage vehicles is maintained. Questions are set on the definition of historic buildings (limited to listed buildings but excluding non-listed buildings within conservation areas unless this consultation reveals a strong case in favour). There is also a proposed definition of vintage (pre 1973) but some other criteria are suggested. Comments are also invited on the licensing authorities and licensing procedures.

[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/paint-buildings-vehicles/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/paint-buildings-vehicles/index.htm)

Closing date for comments: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007

#### **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs**

##### **Towards a Defra Third Sector Strategy – A consultation on emerging issues and options**

The consultation invites views and suggestions about the way in which the Department can improve the way it engages with the Third Sector. The results of this consultation will help it prepare its Third Sector Strategy which it aims to publish in spring 2008. The document covers a range of issues. It asks about ways in which the third sector can make an even bigger difference in tackling climate change, protecting the environment and supporting strong rural communities. It also asks about the way in which the Department can create a level playing field for third sector organisations in the way it does business.

[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/thirdsector-strategy/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/thirdsector-strategy/index.htm)

Closing date for comments: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

#### **Department for Transport Green Paper: Towards a new culture for urban mobility**

The consultation aims to pull together a considered UK position on the European Union urban transport Green

paper and the potential impact it will have for UK urban transport policy.

[www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/)

Closing date for comments: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### Environment Agency

#### Water abstraction charges scheme – third consultation

Since the second consultation, the Agency has been reviewing other possible ways of recovering compensation costs to fund changes to abstractions that are damaging the environment. Government and the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) have now agreed that the Price Review 2009 can be used to fund changes to water company abstractions to meet

the needs of the Habitats Directive. The Agency is now consulting for a third time on its proposals to recover the remaining compensation costs.

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Closing date for comments: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007

### Environment Agency

#### Summary of significant water management issues

Consultation on the best ways to tackle significant water management issues, such as diffuse pollution and river flows and abstraction, in an effort to further protect and improve rivers, lakes and groundwater.

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd)

Closing date for comments: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008

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