



Elmbridge

Borough Council

Anna Burns
Area Director for Thames,
Environment Agency
Kings Meadow House,
King's Meadow Rd,
Reading RG1 8DQ

Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
Surrey KT10 9SD

Date: 13 June 2024

Reference: Unauthorised moorings

Dear Anna

Unauthorised Moorings - Elmbridge

We are extremely disappointed and frustrated to be writing to you again on the above subject. Despite repeated assurances from yourself and your officers, we have seen little to no progress in Elmbridge. If anything, it has been reported by river users that the situation has got worse in the last 12 months.

Further to our meetings with you and your predecessors on 19 September 2023, and 4 February 2024 and letters with your predecessors dated 27 November 2023 there are still a number of agreed actions, promises and timescales that the EA have failed to meet. Namely:

1. Resolving the long-standing unauthorised moorings at Hurst Park within 2 months (Agreed September 2023, due 19 November 2023).
2. EA to confirm the legal basis for EBC being responsible for the removal of partially sunken boats at Cigarette Island (3 November 2023)
3. EA Targets/figures for removing boats from Thames in Elmbridge (5 February 2024)
4. EA confirmed priorities once river conditions allow twice weekly patrols would target Desborough and Cigarette Island while also looking for storm debris and obstructions. (15 April 24)
5. Links and information about the EA's water testing on the Thames, what the EA already do, and any reporting mechanism into the EA for concerns from local river users (16 April 2024)
6. A clear action plan for the first 2 weeks of river enforcement once stream warning allows. (8 May 24)

More recently, officers had contacted the local EA officers about conducting a joint patrol with Elmbridge Enforcement Officers and Surrey Police to target some of the worst areas in Elmbridge. This was originally intended to take place on 12 June targeting 55 vessels moored along the riverbank to issue them with Enforcement and

Compliance letters. However, this week we have been informed that this will not now take place, as the EA do not have the resources to deliver an outcome following any enforcement.

The EA has repeatedly given officers, Councillors and local residents assurance that they have the resources in place to work in partnership and to deliver a long-term solution. However, the EA has repeatedly failed to deliver on these assurances which is causing a great deal of frustration locally and continues to damage the reputation of the EA with our Councillors and local communities.

We would welcome your urgent response to each of the above points and we ask for some dates that you would be available to meet to discuss this matter. At the same time, we request that you urgently provide a clear and measurable enforcement plan to demonstrate how you are going to recommence the registration checks on the unregistered boats and enforce any of these boats that are overstaying on EA moorings and EA land.

Yours sincerely



Adam Chalmers
Chief Executive, Elmbridge Borough Council



Mike Rollings
Leader, Elmbridge Borough Council



Bert Dean
Borough Commander, Surrey Police



Peter Aron
Molesey Riverside Action Group