



# Elmbridge Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

Civic Centre, High Street  
Esher, Surrey KT10 9SD  
Switchboard: 01372 474474  
DX: 36302 Esher  
Website: [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk)

Emma Hill  
Acting Director (Thames Area)  
Environment Agency  
**Via email**

contact: Adam Chalmers  
direct line: 01372 474380  
e-mail: [achalmers@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:achalmers@elmbridge.gov.uk)  
my ref:  
your ref:

27 November 2023

Dear Emma

I am writing to you again, further to the meeting between the EA and Elmbridge Borough Council on the 14 June 2023, at which the EA gave a “total commitment to continue to work in partnership with EBC and others to seek a resolution to the ongoing issue of unauthorised moorings.” Since that meeting, now 5 months ago, and despite a further letter from me dated 17 August 2023, to which I have not received an acknowledgement, it is extremely disappointing to see that there has still been little progress on the more significant actions that the EA undertook to progress, which casts significant doubt about the priority to which the EA is giving this long-standing issue which continues to affect our residents and the enjoyment of the riverside in Elmbridge.

To reiterate, the commitment previously made by the EA on 14 June 2023 was to:

- Formally respond to EBC with their legal view on EBC taking over the enforcement of the riverbank from the EA within 2 weeks (i.e. by 28 June).
- The EA further committed to a regular public newsletter detailing local action and statistics.

These actions have been regularly chased on 17 August, 29 August, 19 September, 16 October and 3 November without resolution. Most recently the newsletter was discussed on 3 November and a release date of 8 November was agreed, this was received on 24 November.

More recently at the meeting on 19 September with senior Elmbridge officers, the local MP and representatives of the local community, the EA further committed to:

- Resolving the long-standing unauthorised moorings at Hurst Park within 2 months (due 19 November).
- EA to clarify decision making process for new Boat removal procedure consultation.

These 2 further actions have been chased on 16 October and 3 November but at this time, we are still awaiting a written update.

**[and if we want to go further]**

And more recent actions at the meeting on 3 November

- EA to prepare public statements ahead of Cherry Orchard Court decision
- EA to confirm the legal basis for EBC being responsible for the removal of partially sunken boats at Cigarette Island.
- EA to confirm that the registration checks have been undertaken on vessels moored at Cigarette Island
- EA to provide updated public statement on enforcement at Desborough Cut following return visit (by 7 November)
- EA to confirm the November court date, venue and which boats at Hurst Park this covers
- EA to provide updated statement for Hurst Park following court case in November.

I would ask that you provide an urgent update, with timescales for delivery, on these outstanding points that can be shared publicly so that we can update our stakeholders. I would also welcome your reaffirmed commitment to demonstrable action in the Elmbridge stretch of the River Thames, as the lack of action, and following through on promises, is damaging to the reputation of both the EA and the Council as local public bodies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Bruce McDonald  
Leader – Elmbridge Borough Council