

## PSPO - Phase 2 responses - in favour of PSPO

Total responses in favour: 214

Email received	Name	Email	response
08/11/23			I fully support the proposed PSPO. As a 27-year river dweller at Thames Ditton we now find it difficult to enjoy our boat for day trips as cannot moor up anywhere due to unlawful traveller's boats filling all available mooring spaces around Hampton Court.
08/11/23			I am totally supportive of the proposed PSPO to help manage the riverbank at Hurst Meadows, Albany Reach etc. The river and common/council owned land is and should always be available for all to enjoy and not by just the few who are trying to claim it as their own. The riverbank is being permanently clogged up with vessels, owners rubbish and the land adjacent is also being commandeered and fenced off by boat owners. This has been an issue for years which has effected many in our community, visitors and must impact wildlife.

08/11/23			<p>I am writing to give my wholehearted support to the implementation of PSPO's to help administer and deal with unlicensed and unregistered boats on the Thames in Elmbridge.</p> <p>Having read your documents I am concerned at the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Your "Survey of Boat Dwellers" is from February 2022, almost two years out of date!! It refers to interviews with a mere 25 boat dwellers! The majority of these boats were unregistered! What action was taken?</li> <li>Since that Survey we have recently counted over 116 unlicensed / unregistered boats between Molesey Lock and Sunbury Lock. Are you going to take action / account of this?</li> <li>2. There has already been a public consultation with an overwhelming 85% of people in support of PSPO's!! So why are you spending so much time and money on yet another exercise, which seems to massively favour the minority 15% who I believe largely represent unlicensed and unregistered boat owners.</li> <li>3. Your report suggests PSPO's could be administered / issued at Hurst Park. My understanding is that they cannot be issued on land owned by the EA. Hurst Park is predominately owned by the EA, with the exception of a very small section. Please clarify?</li> <li>4. What action is EBC taking in relation to the 2 horrendous, dilapidated and unoccupied Slum Boats, moored at Hurst Park for many many years. They obstruct a historic view of Garrick House and Shakespeare's Temple, as well as having an environmental impact on the river and wildlife. How are you working with the EA to ensure these vessels are disposed of immediately?</li> </ol>
14/11/23			<p>Hi, We absolutely support the proposed action. Albany Reach and cigarette island are a particular disgrace. These people use the surrounding areas as toilets and it's a health hazard. Looking from the palace towards HC station the encampment building up there needs to be dealt with asap.</p>

14/11/23

I am a local resident to Hurst Park and I would like to say I strongly agree with the need for a PSPO. I question why there is still a need for consultation on this matter given that the behaviour of the people living on the boats is not only anti-social, it is criminal.

I have reported the behaviour of the people mooring on the Hurst Park stretch to both Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency on a few occasions and have been frustrated by the lack of action.

I witnessed one of the boat dwellers cutting down armfuls of branches from the trees along the riverbank and then dumping them on the other side of the tow path. This is destroying the local habitat in which birds, insects and other wildlife contributing to biodiversity live, and is breaking the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 among others.

This same boat dweller had set up a work-bench on the public land next to the towpath, complete with a chainsaw (presumably what he used to destroy the trees), electric drill and other dangerous pieces of equipment laying around. This makes the land unusable for locals, especially young children.

I have also seen numerous boat dwellers on a number of occasions filling up the public bins with their personal waste and then leaving what wouldn't fit in the bin on the ground. This not only creates an eyesore for locals who want to enjoy the natural beauty of the riverside, but is also a danger for wildlife as well as children who like to run around. Not to mention that half of this litter then ends up in the river itself, polluting it with micro-plastics, leaking toxins and posing a choking hazard to fish and birds. Why should the law abiding, tax paying citizens have to put up with mess created by people who are NOT paying council tax?

If the above criminal activity is not enough evidence already for a need for action, another huge point

of worry is the intimidating and antisocial attitude of these boat dwellers.

I used to feel incredibly safe walking along the river. As a woman, I no longer feel safe walking past these boats. I have been heckled, wolf whistled and followed by one resident. I felt scared. I have serious concerns about young teenage girls walking alone in that area, especially at night. According to Surrey Police statistics, the most commonly reported crimes in this area are 'violence and sexual offences'. I don't think it is a stretch to see that there is a correlation between the increase in number of these illegal boats and the increase in violence and sexual offences.

As our borough council, you have an obligation to protect the law abiding, tax paying citizens against these criminals. Not doing so wrecks not only of incompetence but also begs the question of who is profiting from leaving these people unchecked and unpunished for their behaviour? Why has every other borough evicted them and why should Elmbridge residents have to put up with them when Kingston and Richmond residents don't?

I do not believe implementing a 24 hour rule is extreme enough action: they will simply move a little up the river and then come back again! It is naive to think this will solve the issue. I also believe you will need a MUCH larger fine than £100 if you are to get rid of them for good. It is no secret that one of these larger boats is owned by a millionaire who rents it out on Air B&B- he was indeed fined, but the boat is still there and he still continues to profit from renting it out. There is no clearer sign than this that the current fining system does not work and it needs to be adjusted to have a proper impact.

For me, the idea of integrating these people into our community is offensive, not because they live on boats, but because their behaviour is antisocial and criminal, and they do not respect the natural environment and public space they deign to live upon.

17/11/23

I am writing to comment that the unauthorised moorings are a complete eyesore along the river. They are responsible for antisocial behaviour, rubbish/debris and goodness knows where their human waste is dispensed.  
Therefore I 100% support this proposal to get these boats removed.

17/11/23			<p>I 100% back getting control over our river banks once again. The illegal mooring has gotten out of control in molesey and the selfish people who are dwelling there are out of control themselves. Fights, drugs, out of control dogs and loud late nights of parties is what we've all been subjected to. Let alone the litter and pollution they add to the river as none of them know what there doing when it comes to living on a boat. They just want a council tax free life and somewhere they can drink and do drugs 24-7. It's unfair we pay an extortionate amount while they live on the land for nothing and cause the most trouble. Please! Finally save hurst park and the residents of molesey as we've had to put up with them for almost seven years now.</p>
19/11/23			<p>I completely agree to have a Public Space Protection Order, to help manage and protect the river side, for the following reasons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restricts the public from enjoying the river side.</li> <li>2. Pollution of the river by the potential rubbish and sewerage.</li> <li>3. In my experience these moorings are in general very unattractive visually.</li> </ol>

20/11/23			<p>I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED PSPO AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED MOORING</p> <p>I think it is essential that a PSPO is put in place AND enforced.</p> <p>I and my children are regular users of the river around Ditton Reach, Albany Reach, Cigarette Island. It has been noticeable that there has been more pollution in the river. On a number of occasions we were poorly after being in the river. I would strongly suspect this is down to increased waste being put straight into the river by boat owners that are moored upstream. It is a health hazard.</p> <p>It has been noticeable this year that there have been more residential boats moored up permanently. On a daily basis I pass over Hampton Court bridge and see the boats moored by Cigarette Island. In addition to the foul waste issue noted above, I do not believe they should be able to stay there long term for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>.These are not sites designed for permanent moorings. As well as the mooring, the boatowners take over all of the dockside space which is strewn with litter, motorbikes, bikes, chairs, a sofa was there for quite some time, children swing. No one else could go down there – I'd feel very intimidated to go down there.</li><li>.In the summer I also saw one boatowner cutting back the brambles and bankside vegetation so he could create his mooring – that boat is still there 6 months later. Is that allowed?</li><li>.The boat owners also park cars and vans on the inlet road going down to Cigarette Island. Why are they not fined/towed away? If I parked my car anywhere illegally, I am sure I'd be sanctioned quickly.</li><li>.They take up all the mooring space on that stretch so no other boat users can moor there.</li><li>.Do they pay for the privilege of mooring there? I suspect they don't.</li></ul> <p>Many thanks for doing this consultation.</p>
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20/11/23			<p>I strongly support the PSPO for unauthorised moorings.</p> <p>I live on cherry orchard road and we have regular issues with parking and litter due to the unauthorised boats, as well as dangerous dogs and aggressive owners who make me feel unsafe to walk a certain way down the river back which is right next to my home and one of the reasons we purchased the property.</p> <p>It hugely impacts the standard of life residents of cherry orchard road and gardens have with constant stress these boats create and is a consistent upsetting and ongoing conversation between us all - something MUST change, the first enquiry had 85% support and I am unsure why we need to go through this again and delay inevitable action sooner.</p>
20/11/23			<p>As a boater I support your proposals. I would suggest a possible change to make the restrictions a maximum of 36 hours rather than 24 hours. This would allow boaters who arrive in the afternoon the whole of the next day to visit the surrounding area. I understand this may make enforcement more difficult.</p>
20/11/23			<p>I agree to the PSPO these parasite's should be stopped and abide by the law's of the land like the rest of us have to</p>
20/11/23			<p>I have lived with my family in the area of West Molesey since 2011, on Hurst Road and now in Hurstfield Road.</p> <p>Over the past 3-4 years the number of unauthorised moorings in Hurst Park, on the stretch of water between the Old Hurst Park Primary School and the Molesey Cricket Club have quadrupled in number.</p> <p>Many junk boats have been tied to each other in a hazardous way with the area also beginning to show the impact of this habitation, with belongings and rubbish scattered along the river bank. Natural habitat on the bankside is being eroded too.</p> <p>An otherwise attractive area, used by tax paying residents and visitors to the area, is suffering greatly as a result of not being protected adequately by law from these unlawful dwellings.</p> <p>My household of 3 adults would support any new legislative powers to restore the area to its former state. These occupants are abusing the river bank with unauthorised moorings and with each month that passes more junk boats will exacerbate the impact.</p> <p>Action must be taken.</p>

20/11/23			<p>I live on Riverbank at the top of Hurst Park and approve of the proposed PSPO in my area if it would prevent illegal moorings.</p> <p>I love where I live but it is increasingly challenging to live here due to the illegal moorings which are causing a health and safety hazard and public nuisance. I have already written to Surrey CC, Elmbridge Council, my local councillors and the EA about this issue this year.</p> <p>The long-term boats moored right next to our house (Brae) (and in front of the old Cobham free school site) are noisy with generators running at all time of day or night, unsafe with rubbish being dumped on the bank (encouraging vermin) and are unclean with waste water being dumped in the river. Added to this, these boats also have various men hanging round them in warmer months - which as a mum to a 9 year old daughter I am increasingly concerned about our safety, whenever we want to walk into the park. This summer, we've regularly heard men drunkenly shouting at 3am and 4am from these boats.</p> <p>After I wrote to Surrey CC in August, they acted swiftly to impose removal orders on the boats. However sadly, none of them have yet left: indeed one boat has been obviously dumped and is rotting, the owner of another three boats continues to use the land as a personal dumping ground and another new boat even arrived since the removal orders (as he had lost his 'perma-spot' on the 24 hour mooring section downstream)! All these boats are in the area marked red on your Hurst Park map in front of the school site.</p> <p>Living so close to this activity, the PSPO would be a welcome move for us. We also see many fisherman camping on this land overnight who drink, play music, and have even lit camp fires in dry seasons. To have an authority being seen to stamp out all this anti social behaviour would be great and allow us to live here without disturbance. However, i do believe the illegal mooring order would need regularly reinforcing. Or more boats will arrive to fill the space!</p>
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20/11/23			<p>I live on Hurst Park, West Molesey. I am in support of a PSPO or whatever it takes to get the illegally moored barges/ vessels moved from the river. For years I have suffered the noise from parties on the boats near Sadler's Ride. I've seen sewage being dumped over the side of boats. I am unable to access the riverside as I should be able to.</p> <p>The stretch of river by Cherry Orchard Lane is occupied people trying to land grab. I was abused and photographed ( without permission) by one of the habitants when I went to walk through to the bank near their vessel. These boats are not in use year round. Many are empty second " homes".</p> <p>Send someone down on a January night and see how many people actually live there. They wish to claim the land and then sell it on at profit, or rent the mooring to others.</p> <p>The " boat dwellers" do not use sanitary means to dispose of their sewage. They dominate Hurst Park and are often loud and confrontational if they've been asked to lower the volume.</p> <p>Please register my support .</p>
21/11/23			<p>Thank you for your invitation to give a view on the proposed PSPO. I support the PSPO. However, I am surprised that the Council is even seeking views. By definition, these moorings are unauthorised and as resident and ratepayer I would expect the Council to do its job to take action and remove the moorings without the extra expense and delays involved in seeking views. Years have been wasted in dealing with this persistent nuisance.</p>

21/11/23			<p>'Yes' to PSPO for Hurst Park</p> <p>Once again and so there shall be no misunderstanding whatsoever, I am absolutely, completely, unequivocally, positively, definitely, irrefutably, undeniably, SURE THAT I SUPPORT A PSPO for Hurst Park and surrounding areas - in which I have invested substantially for some 45 years ( in terms of property ownership, maintenance, taxes, community involvement etc etc).</p> <p>More specifically, and like every local inhabitant I have ever met, I deplore the increasing amount of illegal moorers who permanently park their boats - in varying states of repair and visual appearance! - along our historic and once-attractive stretch of riverbank.</p> <p>I am appalled by the now so well-documented anti-social behaviours and inconveniences with which we all have to contend ( including land-grabbing and river pollution, to name but two - eg close to my home, there is one section where the river cannot even be seen from the towpath, through the man-made barricades of undergrowth which have been erected).</p> <p>The illegal moorers ( as far as I'm aware, tempory mooring has only ever been legally allowed for 24 hours?) are free-loaders - some sadly by circumstance, some by choice - but all of whom bring absolutely nothing to the community, except ill-deserved grief.</p> <p>It is grossly unfair to dump this decade-long problem ( and I've seen it happen, first hand) on largely hard-working, law-abiding people - mostly because incompetent government agencies and departments have failed so miserably, endlessly taking refuge in 'process' rather than 'outcome'. Let's hope this is not happening again ( nor that recently-emerged boating associations are not 'bogusly' going to drum up opposition from their (presumably) nation- wide membership, as happened in the Sea Scouts 'planning episode' a few years ago?</p>
21/11/23			I do support the PSPO to stop our riverbanks becoming a dumping area for boats & rubbish all along from Hamptoncourt to Walton on Thames
22/11/23			I support this action as the unauthorised moorings cause damage and debris in the river.
22/11/23			I support restrictions put on moorings in the areas mentioned.
22/11/23			This is a 24 hour mooring, obviously doesn't work. This is at Walton rowing club. You need to police these moorings, at least you have acknowledged the problem.

22/11/23			I strongly agree with this legislation, as unfortunately the area I am most aware of is Cowey Sale, and the rubbish and possible sewage is sadly spoiling this part of the river, for many animals that live along the riverbank.
22/11/22			<p>Having reviewed your documentation I fully support the proposed PSPO for unauthorised mooring.</p> <p>The unauthorised moored boats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are an eyesore to the beautiful area</li> <li>• the abandoned boats are a danger to children who explore them</li> <li>• the occupants of the habited boats create a nuisance to the locals (often parties and loud music played, as well as unauthorised parking of cars on yellow lines etc as these moorings do not have car parking)</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, it is not fair to those boat owners whom obey the regulations or to the local house owners whom comply with conservation area regulations to keep the area looking beautiful and attractive to tourists etc, only to be spoilt by abandoned and unauthorised moored boats,</p> <p>The PSPO is not only a fantastic idea, it is a much needed and very supported idea (as indicated by the 85% support in the initial consultation).</p>
22/11/23			We fully support the PSPO for unauthorised mooring.
22/11/23			I support the implementation of a PSPO regarding the mooring of the boats at Hurst Park.
22/11/23			My wife and I would like to register our support for the above PSPO..

22/11/23			<p>Please get rid of all these illegal boats asap. This has been a problem for years and nothing is ever done about it.</p> <p>They are freeloaders. Not all these boats are wrecks. Some are very expensive boats so they clearly have money and should pay their way.</p> <p>As well as the boats other issues include cars/ vans/speedboats/lorries taking up valuable parking spaces and never move. Visitors cannot park near the park entrance in Ferry road so park illegally on the corners of Ferry road, Garrick Gardens and Hotham Close. Noticed have been attached to these vehicles but nothing then happens to them!!</p> <p>There is also an abandoned trailer in the bushes near the tow path.</p> <p>Other problems are the vicious dogs they own making it very unpleasant walking past them as they attack our dogs. This happened to me last week. When I asked the owner to get his dog on a lead and under control I received the most foul verbal abuse.</p> <p>Finally the boat owners smoke cannabis. The smell is unpleasant, it's illegal and the stubs are poisonous to dogs. Again nothing is ever done about this.</p> <p>We moved to the Hurst Park because of it's location. I wouldn't choose to move to it again!</p>
24/11/23			<p>I fully support the PSPO for unauthorised moorings.</p> <p>As a regular user of Hurst Park and the towpath up to Walton, over the last year I've see more and more boats moored on the riverbank, and in some case piled up 3 deep. The boats are usually in a state of disrepair, the towpath and riverbank are littered with their mess, both refuse and human waste, and many have dogs and other pets that are left to roam the towpath off leads, making more mess that is usually not picked up!</p> <p>All in all, this makes walking in the area very unpleasant at times and has certainly become an eyesore rather than the great views of the river we used to have.</p> <p>Additionally, none of this can be a good thing for the local wildlife!</p>

24/11/23			<p>I fully support the proposed PSPO in Hurst Park. I am a resident and feel at times unsafe walking my dogs when the people living in the moored boats congregate outside to smoke joints and drink during the day. I am especially appalled by the state of the park by their boats as rubbish, abandoned bicycles and other metal objects are piling up. Most of the boats are unsightly, unsafe and I can only assume human waste is thrown overboard even though regular swimmers swim nearby. They have also chopped a few trees which is quite upsetting. I also worry about some of their dogs as I can hear the poor creatures being verbally abused by their owners. Some of my elderly neighbours who live opposite the illegally moored boats are at their wits ends and upset that nothing is being done to move them along. The PSPO is in my opinion the best way to protect residents and visitors and preserve Hurst Park as the Environmental Agency does not seem to be doing anything about this matter.</p>
25/11/23			<p>I support your proposal to deal with illegal moorings on the river banks. This has gone on too long and needs to be dealt with.</p> <p>However, you will need a plan to enforce the action or the boats will keep coming back.</p> <p>Can I also suggest we find somewhere safe for river boats to moorings longer term with proper facilities like sanitation station, litter collection etc. this should not be near the palace but could be further along near Tesco's. I suggest legal long term mooring solution for licensed boats- maximum 5?</p>
25/11/23			<p>I think this should proceed, so support the proposed implementation. I also think that powers to remove 'wrecked' boats which are unoccupied should be exercised in conjunction with the EA. Between Molssey and Walton are a number of these. The section of river along past the Xcel should also be considered as otherwise this will likely take up the overspill. If mitigation of the impact on boat dwellers is to be fully shown, I suggest considering financial support for mooring fees at permanent authorised sites and licensing (marinas etc). This would also ensure that boats are compliant with appropriate safety certificates etc.</p> <p>I previously lived on a houseboat at Penton Hook marina for a number of years.</p>

26/11/23			<p>I fully support the proposal to deal with unauthorised moored boats by way of a PSPO.</p> <p>I am a rower, walker and swimmer who regularly encounters these vessels at Hurst Park and Albany Reach. I have concerns about how their occupiers/owners manage the disposal of human waste and household rubbish and the obstruction to river users and those on the banks wanting to get access to the water. Increasingly abandoned boats seem to be being moored in Elmbridge with no occupier.</p> <p>There is a danger that if the PSPO is not introduced Elmbridge will be seen as a soft touch compared to other riverside boroughs that have PSPO's and the problem will escalate</p>
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27/11/23			<p>I am lucky enough to live in a house that backs directly onto Hurst Park. This gives me both unfettered access to the park and the Thames Path but also an opportunity to see the many people who also use this part of Elmbridge (both river users and walkers). In this time one of the major issues I have noticed is that the unauthorised boats are creating a three fold issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Their presence blocks access to legal mooring sites for the irregular river users looking for overnight stops and forcing them to moor up at other improper locations on this stretch</li> <li>2. Their presence blocks up large swathes of riverside that could otherwise be used by local people so that they can access the river from the park. (One major example is the riverside next to the Hampton Ferry, where this area is seemingly used as a place for someone to store their boats instead of using a proper boatyard)</li> <li>3. Their presence has created a secondary "cottage industry" whereby a large number of old and unsuitable boats (most without any means of movement without assistance from other craft) are being stored for what seems to be no specific reason</li> </ol> <p>This has an overall effect of creating an unsightly and uninviting stretch of the river that detracts from what it used to offer and so ruins the riverside experience for a large number of people. This impact by the few on the many is not fair and takes away a massive part of what Hurst Park can offer to not just local residents but also river users who are passing through.</p> <p>Because of this I am in favour of the PSPO being sought. I would add at this point though, that there is no point in having a PSPO in place if it is not applied correctly. Having seen what little impact any of the existing and previous approaches have achieved, I have concerns that this will just lead to more paperwork, lots of hot air and a disappointed local population when they find out that this action changes nothing.</p>
27/11/23			I strongly object to these and support regulations to have them removed.

27/11/23			<p>I am writing to express that I am in favour of removing boats that have unauthorised mooring. As a regular river user these are a nuisance and unsightly.</p> <p>Why should those that actual moor legally and pay for their moorings have to do so when others just can't be bothered. Unauthorised boats - do not necessarily moor in safe spaces or with other river users in mind.</p>
27/11/23			<p>I whole heartedly agree with having a PSPO in place for the riverside. I live in Molesey and so many boats have set up permanent residence and litter the bank with their belonging spoiling the Beauty of the area.</p>
27/11/23			<p>As Molesey residents of over 13 years, it has been a significant detriment to our family dog walks and to our exercise in Hurst Park since the arrival of the long-term, run down, house boats on the section under consultation.</p> <p>My wife and I no longer feel safe to run or dog walk on that stretch in the dusk or darker evenings and now no longer allow our youngest teen to play basketball there, unless there is a large group of them. Whereas we were comfortable with him going in much smaller groups before the arrival of the boats. This naturally limits the amount of times he can play now.</p> <p>While I am not aware of theft or violence from the residents of those boats, they are in such disrepair it is hard to not fear the worst and therefore seems prudent to avoid the area at anything other than peak times.</p> <p>We strongly support the Proposed PSPO on the grounds of safety and also because it will improve the enjoyment of the riverside by local residents, and the host of visitors who come to this area and spend money with local shops, cafes and bars.</p>
27/11/23			<p>I am a resident of Bishop Fox Estate West Molesey and am a frequent dog walker along the towpath all the way up to Hampton Court bridge. Those occupying these boats along the towpath are intimidating, threatening and are polluting the river. There are also several boats that are unoccupied and appear to be derilict and I believe are there to merely try to reserve a space in the hope of claiming a right to reside. The area is becoming a dump-site and it will only get worse if nothing is done. I am strongly in favour of the PSPO initiative proposed by EBC and hope that after over 20 years of ineptitude by the Environment Agency that the unauthorised Thames moorings will be removed by the involvement of the local council.</p>

27/11/23			<p>We are strongly in favour of the above. The unauthorised boat moorings are a blight on the River amenity which is what makes our area such a wonderful place to live and visit.</p> <p>The inhabitants dominate the river bank, leave out rubbish, equipment and other detritus and there is often a strong smell of cannabis emanating from some of the boats. They block the beautiful views of the river and lessen everyone's enjoyment.</p> <p>We do accept that the boats are these peoples' homes and many have children living on them which is a worry in itself, but there must be somewhere else that they can moor or pay to moor? Rather like Travellers we personally feel that they contribute nothing to society and claim this public space as their own without treating it with any respect.</p>
27/11/23			<p>I would like to support this PSPO to remove illegally moored boats on the stretch of the River Thames from Hurst Park to the area beyond Cherry Orchard Road going towards Sunbury Lock.</p> <p>I feel strongly about this, having lived in Molesey for 38 years and knowing this stretch of river very well. My main areas of concern are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- there are no facilities for these boats eg sewage/fresh water/rubbish removal</li> <li>- the fact that some of these boats are claiming areas of common land on the towpath, fencing them off and making them into gardens</li> <li>- increased rubbish and parking caused by the boat owners at the bottom of Cherry Orchard Road</li> <li>- a feeling of unease when walking along the river from Cherry Orchard Road towards Sunbury, caused by boat owners dogs.</li> </ul> <p>I hope my concerns will be taken into account</p>

28/11/23			<p>Many of these boats are poorly maintained .          Dangerous for people to live aboard. ie conditions that do not comply with rented accommodation regulations.          Create an unsightly obstruction along tow paths          When they sink they create serious river hazard to other river users and the EA are extremely slow to do anything about removing the sunken boats . Eg one on Ditton Bend sunk several weeks ago and is still there poorly marked with a white buoy .          Create noise disturbance with parties &amp; loud music          Groups of dogs live aboard in what can only be imagined as unsuitable conditions for animals .          The EA / councils need to be proactive in regulating ,the boat dwellers , patrolling the river , issuance of licenses , and enforcing the warnings and removal of unauthorised vessels etc .          This problem has been going on for a few years .          Apart from authorised mooring for genuine river users with licensed boats , all others should be removed for the sake of the environment and river safety of ie. Rowers .</p>
28/11/23			<p>I fully support this initiative, EBC and the EA have kicked this can down the road now for years. KBC do not have this problem, if they can do it why can EBC not do the same?</p> <p>85% of people agreed with the proposal in the last consultation, what percentage do you require? I live in the area and I use Hurst Park for walking etc., and its disgusting to see what some of these river boat people throw in the bushes. I challenged their behaviour on one occasion and I was soon told where to go in a very threatening manner.</p>
28/11/23			<p>We are residents in Elmbridge and regularly use the riverbank to walk along and we are also members of the boat club so use the river in that capacity. We are also members of Hampton Court Palace. We are fully supportive of the PSPO- the unauthorised moored boats are an absolute blight on the most beautiful stretch of river, they pollute both the river and the bank and the Environment Agency do nothing to move them away. They also often take a portion of the riverbank to use as an extension to their boat and for their toileting facilities.</p>

28/11/23			<p>I am a local resident living in a riverside property in West Molesey and strongly support the proposed PSPO. I have lived in the area for more than 25 years and have used the river for recreation regularly throughout that time, as a kayaker and paddle boarder, and also enjoyed walking along the tow path. I am out on the water pretty much every day as I own and operate a local paddle sports business.</p> <p>The dramatic increase in illegally moored boats over the past few years is something I am very concerned about. Many of the illegally moored boats are either abandoned, or are occupied by aggressive individuals with equally aggressive dogs. The riverbank near these boats is disgusting. On a number of occasions, I have seen plastic bags, tied at the top, obviously containing human waste, floating down the river near the boats opposite Platts Eyot. The boat owners seem to think they own the bank and the local waterway and that everyone else should keep away.</p> <p>I do not believe the increase in boats is anything to do with the 'housing crisis', rather a community of freeloading chancers taking advantage of the lack of clarity on rules to get a free mooring. These people contribute nothing to the local area, make use of publicly funded services, and treat the river and the adjacent land as a rubbish tip.</p>
28/11/23			<p>I am writing in support of the proposed PSPO. The number of illegally moored 'slum' boats along the banks of the Thames in the Molesey area has reached unacceptable levels. As a regular towpath walker and river user I feel these boats are an eyesore as well as an oppressive presence and potential river contaminant. I would request a law be put in place that would force these boats to be removed.</p>
28/11/23			<p>I am strongly in favour of the PSPO to remove the ability of boats that act as floating hostels, to moor permanently.</p> <p>The boats not only spoil an area of natural beauty but I would rather not have to think about the extent of pollution they expel into the river - human waste / excrement, domestic rubbish, food waste, fuel etc. As there is no indication of waste collection / responsible disposal methods on deck, I have to assume it all ends up in the river, with inevitable consequences for anybody who comes into contact with the water, and for wildlife.</p>
28/11/23			<p>Very much support the introduction of PSPO. Too many boats moored and spoiling the environment for the many.</p>

28/11/23			I would fully support the proposed PSPO for unauthorised mooring.
01/12/23			<p>I strongly agree with the proposal to restrict unauthorised moorings, however I do not think these proposals go far enough.</p> <p>I live on Wheatley's Eyot, and island between Walton and Sunbury. The riverbank opposite our house has countless boats moored and many have been there for years. They are not only an eyesore but discharge waste into the river. By imposing restrictions in a few areas only, illegally moored boats are likely to move to other non restricted areas. For this proposal to work effectively, restrictions need to be imposed along all areas of the river and agreement needs to be reached between all councils.</p>
02/12/23			I am very strongly in support of tackling the illegal moorings. I do not feel safe walking on the river between Cowey Sale and Weybridge, frequently obviously drunk men on barges, playing loud heavy metal, smell of weed, and as I understand it discharging effluent into the river.

03/12/23

I would like to add my support for the introduction of a Public Space Protection order (Unauthorised Mooring) at all the sites and in particular Hurst Park.

The number of boats/barges has multiplied considerably over the past few years. The two barges moored near the Hurst Park car park and Sadler's Rise car park have been there illegally for years now and are a blight on this part of the river. There is activity on these barges though I am not sure if they are still being rented out by the owner.

There are now a considerable number of boats that have been illegally moored for several years now in the area around the end of Hurstfield Rd and Cherry Orchard Rd in West Molesey with numerous reports of antisocial behaviour (including tree cutting) by boat owners and cordoning off areas of the riverbank for their private use.

There are several boats that have been moored for months now close to the Memorial Sundial (near the Ferry) which, again detract from this historic, picturesque part of the river.

The issue of potential homelessness of the boat owners is not the issue and is not an excuse for illegal mooring. It should be dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Long term illegal mooring is not the answer.

I am very concerned that there has been very little publicity about this proposed PSPO. There were two notices placed near the barges by the Hurst Park Car Park which disappeared mysteriously after a week and it was only by luck that I found out about it. I know that this has been a very important issue for many residents and users of Hurst Park for years and I suspect there would have been many more comments if there had been more notices.

04/12/23

This is my response to the consultation with regard to the unauthorised moorings, following the recent material provided by the Council.

I support the introduction of PSPOs for unauthorised moorings and want the authorities to use these and all the other rules and regulations available in order to remove unauthorised boats from the Thames in Elmbridge without further delay.

It has been clear that past failure to do so has led to the arrival of more boats. Without a decision to remove the boats, a precedent is set which will lead to yet more moorings. There are a number of reasons why this must not happen.

1) Loss of a treasured public amenity:  
Already riverbank views have been lost, which often saddens me when I walk along there. Hundreds of people enjoy walking along the river and the views should not be hijacked. It is particularly upsetting when public land is fenced off.

2) Health and safety.  
There is human sewage in the water and bins overflow. A dog recently died from Weils disease caught by Hurst Park. This disease caused by rats in the river. There was a dead rat last month by the overflowing bins. I am now worried about my dog who loves to swim in the river.

3) Drugs use  
The strong smell of cannabis from a number of the boats affects the community experience of walking along the river. Many children use it as a route to school and it no longer feels healthy and safe.

4) Unauthorised moorings  
The fact that these moorings are unauthorised means that there is no contribution to the community from the residents. Council tax is not paid whilst the local community has been adversely affected. I have considerable sympathy with a number of the boat-dwellers who are pleasant and friendly and would hope that the Council will offer housing alternatives but it is clear that this stretch of river is not the ideal place for permanent dwellings when viewed from the wider community perspective.

05/12/23			<p>I am a resident of Bishop Fox Estate in West Molesey and frequently walk my dogs along the Thames towpath at Hurst Park all the way up to Hampton Court Bridge. I am absolutely horrified at the abuse and deterioration of the area by owners of unauthorised boat moorings, particularly at the site to the west of Cherry Orchard Road where boat owners are seeking to claim ownership of the towpath.</p> <p>Also, the area close to Ferry Road where approximately 14 boats are moored and where the "encampment" has become a no-go area. There is no sanitation, there is a profusion of rubbish and intimidating and abusive behaviour by the boat owners. This problem has been going on for over 20 years, and as a result of the ineptitude of the Environment Agency, is getting worse. I strongly support the PSPO initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that, once obtained, EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions and restore our beautiful river views and feel safe walking along the river towpath.</p>
05/12/23			<p>I've lived in Molesey for 50 years and have been increasingly frustrated at the deterioration of our riverside spaces through unauthorised moorings.</p> <p>The slum barges at Sadlers ride have been a complete farce with the owner able to flout the law and run a B&amp;B business from those unsafe eyesores.</p> <p>The moorings opposite Platts Eyot are a no-go area for other boaters who may wish to visit the areas and in the summer, more boats stay for months at a time opposite Hampton with loud music blaring out and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Following COVID we have seen a big increase in usage of the riverside areas and I strongly support enforcement action against unauthorised mooring to ensure these areas remain accessible, clean and free from anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>None of these boats have access to rubbish or effluent disposal and enjoy services which are paid for by other council tax payers.</p> <p>A high number of residents are fed up with this lack of control and would like to see action taken.</p>

06/12/23			<p>I wish to support any initiative to remove the moorings along the river bank between Walton on Thames and Thames Ditton.</p> <p>I am a resident of West Molesey and frequently walk along the Thames towpath at Hurst Park all the way up to Hampton Court Bridge. I used to walk to the lock and leisure centre at Walton but now longer do so because of the current atmosphere of potential aggression from boat dwellers. I have in the past observed drug dealing on the towpath just near the path to Tesco's from the riverbank and have reported this to the police.</p> <p>I am horrified at the abuse and deterioration of the area by owners of unauthorised boat moorings, particularly at the site to the west of Cherry Orchard Road where boat owners are seeking to claim ownership of the towpath. Also, the area close to Ferry Road where about 14 boats are moored and where the "encampment" has become a no-go area.</p> <p>There are no human waste facilities along this part of the river and I do not believe that there is any form of refuse collection. Hence, there is a profusion of rubbish. This situation is very near to the Thames Water Walton intake area, which can not be good.</p> <p>The boat inhabitants can be very aggressive and intimidating. This problem has been going on for over 20 years, and as a result of the failure to take appropriate action by the Environment Agency and presumably others, is getting worse with some boats doubling up.</p> <p>I strongly support the PSPO initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that, once obtained, EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions.</p>
06/12/23			<p>We are resident of Bishop Fox Estate in West Molesey and frequently walk along the Thames towpath at Hurst Park all the way up to Hampton Court Bridge and also towards Walton Bridge. We are horrified at the abuse and deterioration of the area by owners of unauthorised boat moorings, particularly at the site to the west of Cherry Orchard Road where boat owners are seeking to claim ownership of the towpath. Also, the area close to Ferry Road where about 14 boats are moored and where the "encampment" has become a no-go area. There is no sanitation, there is a profusion of rubbish and intimidating behaviour by the boat owners. I have been attacked by a dog along the path belonging to the boat owners. This problem has been going on for over 20 years, and as a result of the ineptitude of the Environment Agency, is getting worse. I strongly support the PSPO initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that, once obtained, EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions.</p>

06/12/23			<p>Re the proposed PSPO against unauthorised moorings, I support this.</p> <p>There are now so many boats, rubbish, land illegally fenced as private and recently trees sawn down.</p>
06/12/23			<p>I fully support the idea of introducing a PSPO for Hurst Park and along the river towards Hampton Court Bridge, as you may be aware we have an issue with boats illegally mooring up and causing loads of damage by cutting down trees along the tow path.</p> <p>The illegal moored boats are an eye sore and not only make the area look a mess but people feel unsafe when walking past and there has been times when people have felt threatened by the people on the boats.</p>
06/12/23			<p>I am a resident of Bishop Fox Estate in West Molesey and frequently walk my dog along the Thames towpath at Hurst Park all the way up to Hampton Court Bridge. I am horrified at the abuse and deterioration of the area by owners of unauthorised boat moorings, particularly at the site to the west of Cherry Orchard Road where boat owners are seeking to claim ownership of the towpath.</p> <p>Also, the area close to Ferry Road where about 14 boats are moored and where the "encampment" has become a no-go area. There is no sanitation, there is a profusion of rubbish and intimidating behaviour by the boat owners. This problem has been going on for over 20 years, and as a result of the ineptitude of the Environment Agency, is getting worse. I strongly support the PSPO initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that, once obtained, EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions.</p>
07/12/23			<p>There has been more than enough time for the boat dwellers to find different legal accommodation. The excuse that they will be made homeless should not be accepted as a reason to let them stay. Illegal means illegal and they have no right to be living there making our public riverside space unsightly and inaccessible.</p> <p>The boat owners renting out these death-trap wrecks should be held accountable and their boats taken and destroyed to save them causing problems elsewhere</p>
07/12/23			<p>In response to this. Yes definitely, please reclaim the riverbank from the people that have illegally moored boats and in many cases cordoned off public land which they protect in a threatening manner. Apart from this serious matter, the rubbish and stench surrounding the vessels is quite revolting. Many thanks.</p>

07/12/23			<p>I support the PSPO against unauthorised mooring.</p> <p>As a regular user of the tow path for walking, running and cycling alone and with my family some of the unauthorised moorings burn fossil fuels causing toxic fumes beside the banks, leave piles of rubbish on the riverbanks attracting vermin and “hangout” drinking in excess and sometimes have witnessed illicit drug use.</p> <p>Please protect the public spaces for the general public to use without fear of being exposed to illegal activities or activities that can lead to physical harm.</p>
08/12/23			<p>As a resident living in Hurst Pk I think the proposed PSPO would be a good idea as long as it is enforceable as at the moment there are boats staying for months/ years and there is a big impact to the local community!!</p> <p>I am afraid to walk towards Walton anymore due to the behaviour of the long term boat residents and their dogs on this stretch of river. Just in the last month 2 boats have moored by the Molesey marker and they don't seem to be moving anytime soon!! Also there are big boats that have been moored at Sadlers Ride for years!!! They are an eyesore and no one seems to be living on them anymore!</p> <p>The rubbish and waste products from these boats have to be removed and our council tax is having to pay for this!</p> <p>Also my husband used to fish this part of the river but the boats have taken any good fishing spots. I hope this action will help to make the riverside safer for our children.</p> <p>Many thanks</p>

08/12/23			<p>I wish to support any initiative to remove the moorings along the river bank between Walton on Thames and Thames Ditton.</p> <p>I am a resident of West Molesey and frequently walk along the Thames towpath at Hurst Park all the way up to Hampton Court Bridge. I used to walk to the lock and leisure centre at Walton but now longer do so because of the current atmosphere of potential aggression from boat dwellers. I have in the past observed drug dealing on the towpath just near the path to Tesco's from the riverbank and have reported this to the police.</p> <p>I am horrified at the abuse and deterioration of the area by owners of unauthorised boat moorings, particularly at the site to the west of Cherry Orchard Road where boat owners are seeking to claim ownership of the towpath. Also, the area close to Ferry Road where about 14 boats are moored and where the "encampment" has become a no-go area.</p> <p>There are no human waste facilities along this part of the river and I do not believe that there is any form of refuse collection. Hence, there is a profusion of rubbish. This situation is very near to the Thames Water Walton intake area, which can not be good.</p> <p>The boat inhabitants can be very aggressive and intimidating. This problem has been going on for over 20 years, and as a result of the failure to take appropriate action by the Environment Agency and presumably others, is getting worse with some boats doubling up.</p> <p>I strongly support the PSPO initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that, once obtained, EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions.</p>
08/12/23			<p>I strongly support the PSPO. The riverbank should be enjoyed by all without access being restricted by unauthorised boats fencing off the bank. I'm also concerned about sewage from the boats going into the water.</p>

08/12/23

To whom it may concern

I wish to state that I am in favour of the proposed PSPO along the Thames River within Elmbridge borough.

I am a resident of Hurst Park and have lived here for 7 years.

In that time we have seen a notable increase in the boats remaining at the riverbank, exceeding what is supposed to be a maximum of 48 hours (at least on the immediate area) before moving on.

There had always been a minority of boat users that flouted the rules, however the situation gravely worsened just prior Covid and has remained ever since. The stretch of the river along Walton to Hampton Court now suffers far more boat users permanently moored with no real intent of moving on.

Many treat the adjoining river bank as their own private land, physically fencing it off or using the area as their own open storage, littered with personal effects and rubbish.

At the very least, many of the boats are an eye-sore and are poorly maintained. Some opt to

		<p>regularly play loud music at any time of day and night.</p> <p>However things can be more severe; some boat users are openly confrontational to the passing public and sometimes between themselves. There are several dogs kept loose all day, not controlled on leads and are a constant potential danger to other on-lead dogs and children using the public space. These dogs openly foul the ground without the owners removing and disposing of properly. I do not feel it safe for my 8 year old daughter to be able to play safely in the park.</p> <p>The boat users at Hurst Park have no permanent waste reception facilities nearby and do not evidently transfer any waste to the site at Hampton Court locks. Many opt to dispose their significant waste into the public bins either late at night or first thing in the morning. I also find my communal garage block area visited by boat users having used the area as their toilet.</p> <p>Some are regularly drunk or under the influence of other drugs and shout abuse. The very strong smell of cannabis is a regular occurrence and almost continual during the summer months.</p> <p>I feel there has been a lack of effort and coordination between Elmbridge Council and EVA to properly tackle the issue, to the extent the boat users treat the authorities as entirely toothless. Any boat users whom do “move on” are returning to their spot a few days later.</p> <p>As to any concerns as to placing the boat users going forward, the first question is where did they come from, since the boat users I observe are all mature adults. If they opt to live a way of life on the river, it should be consistent with the rules in place, whether they have been forcibly enforced or not. The majority of the boat users are, in my opinion, detrimental to the well being of the public space as a whole, and the wider public would benefit from the PSPO.</p> <p>I hope these comments are taken into account seriously</p>
08/12/23		<p>I support the PSPO  <a href="https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring">https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring</a>  The riverside needs the better uses and natural, biodiversity uses set out.  The community has a collective human right to green capital.  The community has a collective human right to freedom from the waste on unauthorised land and water which these vessels cause.</p>

08/12/23			I wholeheartedly support this proposal to help rid our stretch of the Thames of unauthorised mooring which has a major adverse impact on this precious leisure amenity, preventing legitimate users from mooring and otherwise using the riverbank, and adding further to the already excessive the water pollution.
08/12/23			Hi as a boater who's disabled I feel that 24hrs is sometimes not enough as having traveled to a destination I often need time to rest for 24hours or more plus time to do shopping or washing ect depending how long I've been travelling , while I do think that limiting unauthorised mooring is a good thing as there are lots of overstayers that making visiting places hard I feel 48 or 72 hours would be much more reasonable
08/12/23			We are residents of West Molesey and strongly support the PSPO unauthorised moorings along the towpath . The slum boats along the towpath particularly west of Cherry Orchard Road is especially shocking where the owners are trying to claim ownership. What was once a nice walk along the river in these areas has now become a complete eye-sore.
08/12/23			Action should have been taken against this illegal mooring a long time ago . Please get on and do something about it now. This problem has been allowed to drag on far to long I fully support this attempt to remove these law breakers. I fully support the PSPO to stop this illegal and antisocial activity. Please note I am hoping that this time action will be taken.
08/12/23			As a resident in West molsley who has a dog and young family I fully support this action. For to long this has been allowed to carry on u checked and with no action.  While some of these boats and people are just getting on with life the facts cannot be missed.  Anti social behaviour has increased. Land grabbing. Un supervised dogs running around. And the two hulks near hurst Park car park opposite hampton court sailing club I understand to be opened by one man. They have been checked by fire crews and are unfit for human inhabitance. If this had been cravans on the land this would have been sorted with in days.  I and my family support this action to remove these slum boats.

08/12/23			<p>I really do hope ,that after all this time , action will be taken.</p> <p>As pointed out ,this illegal mooring has had such a detrimental impact on boaters and those people who live beside the river.</p> <p>We actually sold our boat as we could no longer moor on public moorings. Particularly at Hurst park where all the moorings are used by illegally moored boats. Don't forget their waste which is put into the river, (the boats never move) ,more pollution .</p> <p>This also applies to Kingston.</p> <p>Please let's get something done to stop this .</p>
08/12/23			I fully support the pspo .. illegal mooring is unsightly , unhygienic and spoils the enjoyment of the river by the whole community
08/12/23			I am strongly in favour of the implementation of a PSPO to control unauthorised mooring along the Thames.
			My wife and I are strongly in favour of the proposed order to get rid of the slumboats moored on the riverbank at Hurst Park and elsewhere. The Environment Agency are totally useless. Let's hope Elmbridge Council can do something.
09/12/23			My wife and I are strongly in favour of the proposed order to get rid of the slumboats moored on the riverbank at Hurst Park and elsewhere. The Environment Agency are totally useless. Let's hope Elmbridge Council can do something.
09/12/23			I am in favour of a proposed PSPO against unauthorised moorings along the Thames. It is long overdue.
09/12/23			The continued saga of unauthorised moorings must be dealt with as a matter of urgency. I fully support all efforts to remove these vessels which are a blight on the River and the Riverside area.
09/12/23			I would like to make my voice clear. I support this movement against unauthorised moorings, which have become the blott on the beautiful Thames. Thank you.

09/12/23		<p>I am strongly supportive of a Public Space Protection Order to prevent unauthorised moorings on Elmbridge Borough Council-owned land at Ditton Reach, Albany Reach, Cigarette Island, Cowey Sale and Hurst Park and Surrey County Council's land adjacent to Hampton Court bridge (Parrs mooring).</p> <p>Restrictions on mooring time provide a positive benefit for local residents and boat owners. I am a member of the Small Boat Club on Steven's Ait and enjoy use of the non-tidal river and ability to moor for limited periods.</p> <p>Enforcement of mooring restrictions is recommended to deter long-stay boats 'clogging-up' moorings and leaving a mess on river banks. I don't buy arguments of increased homelessness because boat owners will still be able to moor for short periods and at reasonable cost. Never the less, enforcement should prioritise blatant, long-term mooring breaches, such as two barges (RoR and Hui) and their flotilla of associated boats against Hurst Park, over relatively minor breaches by single boats leaving no mess.</p>
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09/12/23			<p>I strongly support this proposal for the following reasons.</p> <p>a) Nobody should have the right to moor a boat permanently alongside the towpath as this prevents other river users who pay for their licences to temporarily moor their boats at those places whilst making passages on the river.</p> <p>b) Where lines of residential boats are moored in such places this prevents enjoyment of the riverbank by fishermen, swimmers and other members of the public.</p> <p>c) Boat owners are required to dispose of their foul waste (black water) at authorised disposal locations or pump out facilities normally provided by the EA at locks or at marinas. However, boats permanently moored for residential purposes have no facilities for foul waste disposal and so this is inevitably emptied into the river. Surely this should not be allowed to happen.</p> <p>d) Nobody should have the right to fence off land adjacent to the river where that land is owned by national or local authorities thus preventing members of the public their rightful access over and enjoyment of such land.</p> <p>e) In the case where boats are permanently moored without permission for residential purposes the boat owners should not be allowed to treat the adjacent land as private garden areas for their own exclusive enjoyment.</p> <p>f) It is clear from the surveys carried out by Elmbridge BC that there are no available/suitable sites that can be considered for permanent moorings for residential boats other than those provided by commercial companys</p>
09/12/23			<p>As a boat owner I support this proposal to help rid our stretch of the Thames of unauthorised mooring which has a major adverse impact on this precious leisure amenity, preventing legitimate users from mooring and otherwise using the riverbank, and adding further to the already excessive the water pollution.</p>

09/12/23			<p>I wholly support a PSPO and whatever other action is required to control unauthorised mooring. The Thames is a national asset and should be protected and managed properly. The impact of these boats is extremely negative not only visually but also environmentally. Additionally it completely unacceptable that those owners for whom this is a lifestyle choice should avoid normal requirements while also causing cost to the public purse and not paying their way. That any should be able to be used to generate income is beyond belief.</p> <p>It is a great pity that you declined to join Spelthorne Council when a joint PSPO was proposed by Spelthorne a few years ago in order to effectively manage both banks of the river in a holistic approach.</p>
09/12/23			<p>I went for a walk along the Thames from the Cowey Sale up towards Hurst Park last week I walked with my girlfriend for 30 minutes each way so we probably only covered about 1 mile up the river.</p> <p>We were appalled at the number of decrepid and abandoned boats the were tied up along the bank. Somebody surely should be removing these boats that look as though they have been abandoned for years.</p> <p>If they were abandoned cars on a public road they would be dealt with so why should boats on the river be any different.</p> <p>We would therefore support your PSPO to clean up the riverside for the benefit the public.</p> <p>Even if there is not a PSPO someone should remove these abandoned boats from the River Thames which are a total disgrace.</p>
09/12/23			<p>We need to get rid of the boats-all of them, straight away. Thee should not be one law for some and one law for others. Slum boats lower the quality of life for us all.</p>
09/12/23			<p>I vote for this PSPO, these illegal moorings are a disgrace and a blight on society. They pay no council tax, litter the surrounding areas and in cases I have seem them empty there waste into the river.</p> <p>Genuine boat owners lose out on mornings.</p>

10/12/23

I support the PSPO – whilst I appreciate the difficulties for some in obtaining affordable housing in the area. The illegal moorings do have huge impact on the local residents who are paying council tax.

I have lived in the area for over 34 years and in recent years since the arrival of the residential boats illegally moored along the towpath from the Millenium marker to the lock by the Weir Hotel, I have found it difficult to walk along the towpath and have not ventured from Cherry Orchard Road in direction of Walton for many years. Purely due to the boats. The inhabitants have no suitable means of disposing of waste – and it is evident that they use the towpath which make it very unpleasant. They have a range of unsocialised dogs guarding the boats and to intimidate the local walkers. The amount of the river bank now occupied means the opportunities to enjoy and picnic/sit at the river bank is very limited, and some even having audacity to fence off the towpath for their own use – and being abusive to anyone else who dares to try and sit on the bank on what should be space available to all tow path users.

The boats are not well kept or presented – they are not traveling boats – but poorly extended boats used to house as many people as possible and the owners/renters are not paying relevant rates or following HMO regulations. The lack of local elsan points and fresh water must give cause for concern for residents and the local users of the two path.

In addition the use of the road at the end of Cherry Orchard Lane is unusable and an eye sore with untaxed vehicles being used as “shed/storage” for the illegally moored boats. Access to the towpath if required in an emergency is restricted – and I feel sorry for the properties near by having such eye sore close by and why should they be allowed to “dump” vehicles there. If any home owners had untaxed vehicles that were unfit to be driven on the roads parked outside their properties I bet they would be penalised.

11/12/23			<p>Further to your request for or against the PSPO proposal regarding unauthorised boats, both myself &amp; my husband are strongly for the councils proposal.</p> <p>Being both an Elmbridge Council Tax payer &amp; a boat owner, paying 3 boat licences with the EA every year, along with several thousand pounds per year to moor these boats in marinas-2 of them being out of the water on hard standing during 6 months of the year during the winter season. In recent years, when we have been out in our boat for leisure purposes, it has become increasingly difficult to find an overnight mooring because of the same boats being moored on the 24 hour moorings long term. We have put many complaints into the EA over the years regarding these long term overstayers.</p> <p>It has become so stressful so much so that we have put our boat with overnight accommodation up for sale.</p> <p>As a council tax payer, we are appalled by the way the boaters along Desborough Cut have carved out their own parking spaces along the grassy banks on Walton Lane enabling them to have their own personal parking spaces, something which eludes many council tax paying residents in Elmbridge &amp; in particular, Weybridge.</p> <p>They leave rubbish, mattresses, boat toilets (they're quite distinctive so it could only have come from a boat &amp; dumped there). There are cans, beer bottles, all sorts of rubbish left along Walton Lane regularly. This is collected by the council with not a single penny of council tax paid by these dwellers.</p> <p>In addition to this there are always liveaboards using the 24 hour moorings long term at the Weybridge moorings, and using the car park full time-I have mentioned this before that putting time limits and no overnight parking in both the car park and designated parking along Walton Lane, would quite likely help alleviate this problem.</p>
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11/12/23			<p>I strongly support the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict mooring to 24 hours (no return within 72 hours) at Ditton Reach, Albany Reach, Cigarette Island, Cowey Sale and Hurst Park and Surrey County Council's land adjacent to Hampton Court bridge (Parrs mooring).</p> <p>I am a Lower Sunbury resident and I regularly run, cycle and walk the Thames tow paths, and spend time on the river as a member of Sunbury Skiff and Punting Club.</p> <p>There has been a increase in vessels moored long-term along this stretch of the river, accompanied by extra belongings and furniture along the bank. It has become harder to access the river, rubbish is not always cleared, and many vessels are in poor state of repair, sometimes sinking below the waterline. The tow path feels less safe late at night.</p>
11/12/23			<p>I support the proposed PSPO against unauthorised moorings on the Thames - in particular along the Molesey and Walton stretches</p>
11/12/23			<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond again to the proposal for a PSPO covering unauthorised mooring at riverside sites in Elmbridge. I strongly support this proposal and note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The unauthorised moorers are not from any recognised traveller community but are taking advantage of lax enforcement since the EA budget was cut back</li> <li>-Many of them do not live on board but just use public land as free long-term parking space</li> <li>-Many openly empty toilets and kitchen waste into the river, often directly in front of swimmers and boaters</li> </ul> <p>I hope that this second consultation will result in a stronger response.</p>
11/12/23			<p>Supportive of a PSPO</p> <p>The majority of those crafts which will truly be impacted by a PSPO should be moved for scrap, theyre ill maintained, typically have limited/none environmental credentials and are occupied by individuals that have no respect for the local community or their interests.</p> <p>I'm not clear why 85% majority isn't enough to have passed this originally.</p>

13/12/23			<p>I'd like to bolster my support of the proposed introduction of a PSPO with some details of the problems/unpleasantness I have experienced as a sculler/rower on the Walton reach. I have been an active rower on the Thames for 30 years and have supported the safe use of the river throughout. More recently, I have witnessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effluent being released directly into the river water as I was sculling past</li> <li>- A boat dweller brushing his teeth and spitting directly into the river water</li> <li>- A glass wine/whisky bottle thrown out of a boat moored along Desborough cut into the river. I had just sculled past the boat and would have been hit by the bottle had I been a few seconds slower</li> <li>- Excessive music played from moored boats early on Sunday mornings in the summer</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the feel of the river has changed significantly over the time I have been rowing on this stretch. I now feel less safe and more wary of other river users, particularly the moored boats. This feels like a great shame as the river is a haven to be enjoyed by the majority but it often feels challenging.</p>
13/12/23			<p>I strongly support the proposal for a PSPO to deal with the issues of unauthorised moorings on our river banks.</p> <p>I live close to the river, in West Molesey and have become more and more unhappy with the situation. The numbers of boats along the stretch from Sadlers Ride Car park to Molesey Lock is increasing - along with the rubbish that they deposit on the riverbank. The boat owners have displayed anti social behaviour and it impacts on the quality of life in Elmbridge. They are an eye sore and should be moved.</p> <p>They leave trailers on public land and park their vehicles in Ferry Road for months on end without moving. A motor boat has been parked on the road for over 3 years with it only moving from one end of the road to the other - presumably as it was about to be towed off! This severely reduces the parking available for people who wish to enjoy the Hurst Riverside lands.</p> <p>It makes me very sad how this has transformed the place where I live and used to love.</p>
13/12/23			<p>I think you should introduce a Hurst Park due to diesel leaks, faecal matter in the river and threatening behavior exhibited by those overstaying.</p> <p>The impact of us not feeling safe and not being able to allow our children to visit the park unattended, is affecting family life in the area.</p>

14/12/23			<p>I do think that Hurst Park and the other locations listed need a public space protection order.</p> <p>The unauthorized moorings along the river cause several problems for other park users. They pollute the water with their diesel, spills, and sewage wastewater. They leave refuse by the public bins. Their moorings prevent access to the water for other river uses such as; swimmers, kayakers, and other water apparatus. The boats spoil the view of the river.</p> <p>The boat inhabitants in Hurst Park create noise pollution with their boat repairs such as sawing, and drilling, and they play loud music from the river's edge. Large groups of boat inhabitants gather on the river's edge, taking illegal drugs from early in the morning throughout the day. They also engage in other intimidating behaviours.</p> <p>The riverside should be a safe, clean, and tidy space for all. Introducing a PSPO to protect the riverside is essential for this to become the norm again.</p>
14/12/23			<p>I am a resident of east Molesey and in favour of the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>I walk my dog most days along the river in Hurst Park, my family paddle board there in the summer and my child rows on that stretch of the river. The boats illegally moored are an eyesore and a nuisance. Many of them are dilapidated and have not been used in many years. These should be removed for safety reasons, and to provide more space to legitimate users.</p> <p>There boats that are moored long term and never move should be required to comply with the proposals to restrict their mooring to a limited period with a restriction on return. This will improve safety and the beauty of this river.</p>
14/12/23			<p>I wholeheartedly support the PSPO order. Unauthorised boats should NOT be permitted to moor in these locations.</p>
15/12/23			<p>I write to complain about illegal moorings on the river. These boats are a health hazard and a clear violation of planning laws.</p>
15/12/23			<p>Good morning I would like to express my concern about the increasing number of boats moored along the river bank in Elmbridge.</p> <p>They make visitors to this beautiful natural river walk feel unsafe, they quite often have rubbish left along the river in amongst the trees. As there is no sanitation at these locations I do wonder how they dispose of the waste they produce.</p>
15/12/23			<p>I fully support those who wish to place PSPO orders on all public and similar EA sites. The River is now over-run with unsuitable craft hogging the attractive public areas.</p>

15/12/23			I support the proposed PSPO for illegally moored boats, they take away the ability for other boats to enjoy the area, plus many are not licensed and look in an unsafe condition which also poses a serious environmental hazard let alone untreated effluent being discharged into the river and taking away the enjoyment of an attractive riverside with unsightly and poorly maintained boats.
16/12/23			I do support this , so please addy me to your list.
16/12/23			I would like to support your campaign and vote to continue to eviction process.
16/12/23			I am amazed, having secured an 83% vote, the council is not acting on implementing a PSPO solution, (it only took 52% to create Brexit). I would like to register my approval of a PSPO scheme, the issue of unauthorised moorings is going to get worse as more people look for somewhere to live. Unless you act now the issue will only get harder to implement. YES TO PSPO.
16/12/23			I AGREE with the proposal to limit mooring periods on the river. The right to moor there should be maintained to provide visitor moorings which will provide an income to the area from restaurants and provisions sales etc. Rather than 24 hours the maximum would it be better set at 72 hours so visitors can explore the area using their boat as a base. I humbly suggest you contact Abingdon Council as they seem to manage their 3 day mooring very well whilst preventing overstayed. All with very minimal management it would appear. Good luck with your task,
16/12/23			Whilst we have not had issues recently at Ditton Reach, we have historically had some trouble with some small boats moored illegally off the reach. PSPO will not negatively impact river dwellers as the Ditton Reach location is not readily accessible (steep brambled bank), and there are no moorings available as the Ditton Reach/ City Wharf already sports a marina and moorings for two sea scout troops. To that end as PSPO will resolve any issues of unauthorised mooring/ overnight camping quickly and fairly we are in support of it.

17/12/23			<p>I'm a resident of Cherry Orchard Road in West Molesey and have been for 5 years. One of the main reasons I chose to live here and why I used to enjoy it so much was access to the river and riverside. My house is a stones throw from the footpath.</p> <p>However over the past 3 years or so there has been influx of boats making permanent moorings and claiming the riverbank as their own.</p> <p>This has meant that there is poor access to the river, rubbish, raw sewage discharge into the river and general decline in the beauty of the area.</p> <p>Not only that but the people living on them have been verbally aggressive and threatening to me and my family. I have been bitten by one of their dogs. In general it's intimidating walking past them. On three occasions I've reported this to the police but nothing has ever been done.</p> <p>They are also clearly taking drugs, not contributing in anyway to council tax, income tax or society.</p> <p>In one case I walked round the bottom corner of my road in broad daylight with my 3 year old and one was urinating in the middle of the street.</p> <p>It's an absolute disgrace nothing has been done so far.</p> <p>I fully support the PSPO.</p>
17/12/23			I would support a riverside PSPO as proposed in the recent consultation document

17/12/23			<p>It is without question that the riverbank alongside Hurst Park should be protected, and the illegal moorings there (and any future moorings) should be removed.</p> <p>I support the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>The moorings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emit discharge into the river, including faeces. I used to be able to swim there but certainly can't now.</li> <li>• Are daily consuming illegal drugs, clearly evident by the appalling smells when walking down the river.</li> <li>• Try to make private sections of riverbank where I used to walk my dogs, by cordoning off areas.</li> <li>• Have abusive occupants who try to intimidate the general public when they question the moorings.</li> </ul> <p>They also deliberately remove any notices about the consultation from notice boards, so no one feels that they have a voice. They are also abusive in social media to anyone questioning their mooring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are an eyesore and block beautiful views across to Hampton Church and the yacht club.</li> <li>• Devalue the area.</li> <li>• Leave waste along the riverbank, including rotting food matter. This causes a bad problem for any pets that go near and may try to eat these.</li> <li>• Often have viscous dogs that lunge at innocent pets being walked.</li> </ul>
18/12/23			<p>I am writing in support of the introduction of PSPO's being proposed against unauthorised moorings. Some of the boat residents who live at the end of my road make me scared to walk past as they and their dogs are aggressive. They also cause issues with fly tipping, parking, over flowing refuse bins and taking over river banks that can no longer be used by other local residents (children, dogs, and adults trying to enjoy the local area and natural beauty of the river bank and where we live)</p>
18/12/23			<p>I have lived in cherry orchard road for over 30 years and I don't enjoy the presence of so many boaters.</p> <p>Their presence often means I can't park close to my home (I have a 90 year old mum). I don't recognise people that congregate at the bottom of the road so returning home in the dark isn't always a comfortable experience. On occasion the two wheelie bins provided are nowhere near enough, rubbish is strewn everywhere and it creates a local tipping point.</p> <p>I'm sorry I want to say it's fine but they don't enrich the community. They can be quite aggressive, they are cutting down trees for fire wood and the smell of weed, during the summer, was incredible.</p>

18/12/23			<p>I wish to support the Illegal boats Protection Order the council is proposing. The River is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people and is being blighted by the illegal boaters who cannot be bothered to pay for proper moorings. Sent on 27/12/2023: I support Elmbridge removing the illegally moored boats on the Thames as a local resident.</p> <p>The Thames is enjoyed by a great number of the public who have a right for it not to be disfigured. Sent on 29/12/2023: I support the use of PSPOs to remove illegal boats on the Thames.</p> <p>I am a local resident thanks. The illegals are a blight on the Thames and are a way of not paying for official moorings.</p>
18/12/23			<p>I fully support you PSPO to remove the offending craft from the bank of The Thames on the Molesey Reach.</p>
18/12/23			<p>I totally agree with the PSPO, which would mean that boaters could be fined for being moored in one place more than 24 hours. Restricting mooring time limits to 24 hours would make it possible for other boaters to moor. Boaters wanting longer time to moor to keep jobs, work on our boats, look after our children and everything else that goes along with living in on their boats should pay the money for permanent moorings not expect to freeloader at the expense of everyone else. The so called community in the area is just a collection of people unwilling to pay the cost of their life style and it is debatable whether they raise or lower crime in the area since their active presence on the river bank encourages people who don't respect the law to be there. They say they deserve the chance to responsibly moor their homes on the Thames. Well responsible mooring is to get a long term residential mooring not selfishly clutter up short term mooring.</p>
18/12/23			<p>I am strongly IN FAVOUR of PSPOs for this area.</p> <p>I (and every local resident I know ) are heartily fed up with the illegal moorers on our stretch of the Thames. We have had to put up with them for nearly a decade ( before about 2014, there were virtually none - I have lived here for over 40 years so do know!!)</p> <p>They contribute absolutely nothing to the community - materially or in any other way.</p> <p>There may well be the very occasional worthy cause - but unfortunately the vast majority do not fall into this category and cause problems that include land-grabbing, anti social behaviours, fly-tipping, river pollution, drug-taking etc etc. They have spoilt the area for hard-working and law-abiding people.</p> <p>How lovely to paint a picture of the river in yesteryear - how different is the reality we're talking about ( just in our stretch) with over 150 illegal moorers/freeloaders!</p>

18/12/23			<p>I am writing as a concerned resident of Bishop Fox Estate, West Molesey, to voice my support for the proposed PSPO by Elmbridge Borough Council against unauthorised mooring along the River Thames at Ditton Reach, Albany Reach, Cigarette Island, Cowey Sale, Hurst Park, Surrey County Council's land adjacent to Hampton Court Bridge (Parrs mooring).</p> <p>These unauthorised moorings are creating an eyesore as well as destroying/vandalising the river bank, and spoiling it for other users of the Thames &amp; towpath. The problems are getting worse. These boat/owners need to be evicted and I hope with the PSPO it will allow the appropriate authorities to take eviction actions.</p>
18/12/23			<p>Having read the consultation literature at <a href="https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring">https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring</a></p> <p>I support the introduction of the mooring PSPOs as the unauthorised mooring is attracting anti social behaviour, crime and diminished enjoyment for local residents.</p>
18/12/23			<p>Having read the consultation literature at <a href="https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring">https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring</a></p> <p>I support the introduction of the mooring PSPOs.</p> <p>The illegal unauthorised mooring community are committing anti social behaviour, indecent exposure, pollution of the river, assaults, criminal damage, drug use, drug dealing, intimidating abusive and threatening behaviour, driving motor vehicles on the towpath, abandoning vehicles on surrounding streets, animal cruelty, and overall diminishing the enjoyment of the river for all local Molesey residents. Local residents have made numerous reports of these crime types to Police.</p>

19/12/23			<p>Having read the consultation literature at <a href="https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring">https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/proposed-pspo-against-unauthorised-mooring</a></p> <p>I support the introduction of the mooring PSPOs.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>The bedraggled boats spoil the look of our beautiful riverside. The possessions of the owners spill out of the boats onto the riverbank; their rubbish also litters the riverbank. Where once the general public could enjoy a picnic, or quiet contemplation of nature sitting by the river, the boats now take up the space. Many of the owners of the boats are aggressive and rude. They have dogs who are similar, roaming free. The boats pollute the river with their waste, including human waste.</p> <p>There are places along the river, where boats can moor legally, paying a fee, and that is where they should be. What started off as the odd boat has grown into a multitude of boats and must be stopped.</p> <p>I live by the river, I love the river which is now no longer peaceful or safe.</p>
19/12/23			<p>It is imperative that a PSPO is put in place at Hurst Park to stop the long term unauthorised mooring that has been taking place, especially since the onset of the Covid outbreak. The riverbank has become a dumping ground for rubbish creating a health hazard to all and a danger to pets and their owners who are residents in the vicinity or visitors generally. As there are no WC facilities nearby or sanitary pump out station, it is inevitable that all waste goes straight into the river, an even greater health hazard. It should also be noted that a great many of these unauthorised moorers are rude and aggressive if approached, many of whom leave their cars / vans parked inconsiderately, especially in Cherry Orchard Road and Cherry Orchard Gardens.</p> <p>Finally, a section of the riverbank in Hurst Park is already designated as a 24hour mooring area, but this appears to never having been enforced! Would that be the responsibility of Elmbridge B.C. or the E.A. ?</p>
19/12/23			<p>I support wholeheartedly the PSPO to remove and restrict the illegal moorings along the riverbank.</p> <p>I do not understand how it has been allowed to get to the stage where boat owners are not only moored all along the river and allowed to put the belongings on the riverbank .</p>

19/12/23			Dear Sir, These boats are an eyesore and most in various stages of disintegration. The local residents and anyone who enjoys a walk along the river bank have been trying to get the authorities to do something for several years, but despite various court orders etc the owners still manage to wriggle their way out of removing them. This latest appeal is laughable. But still no one is prepared to take decisive action against them. I wish to register my protest. Molesey resident. I am withholding my name as these people are quite prepared to threaten and intimidate anyone who speaks out.
19/12/23			I support your application to protect the public riverside spaces in Elmbridge
19/12/23			I strongly support the proposal for the PSPO as outlined in your consultation document. The stretch of the river from Cigarette Island to Weybridge is one of the best walking routes along the Thames and as you must know is used by a large number of both residents and visitors. To see, what look like wrecks, littered alongside the path in the river together with the blatant antisocial behaviour of the squatters including destruction of the vegetation for firewood or to facilitate mooring, savage looking dogs off the lead and people openly using the bank to urinate in front of all passers by, are just some of the things myself and my wife have seen when using the path. I doubt if you would tolerate this behaviour anywhere else in the borough therefore I believe it should be prevented along the river.
19/12/23			The PSPO should be implemented immediately , these people and their boats are a blight on our beautiful riverside

19/12/23

I am a resident of West Molesey and am writing to add my views to the proposed PSPO to protect the green spaces along the riverside.  
My comments only really relate to the Hurst Park riverside and Cigarette Island/Hampton Court areas, as these are the spaces used regularly by me and my family.

I am strongly in favour of introducing a protection order in these areas, particularly in relation to the many illegally moored boats that are permanently positioned along the riverside.

I have complained a couple of times already about the huge junk boats that have been moored by Sadlers Ride car park for so many years. My teenage children cannot remember how this beautiful spot used to be before those boats arrived! They are an ugly mess and I'm pretty sure they release waste directly into the river, right next to the area that the sea scouts use almost every day in the summer and where countless swimmers and other river users enter the water. I've previously seen them burning something that emits a strong chemical cloud and smell into the air - it's disgusting that they are still there. They have ruined this section of the riverbank for the residents and wildlife. They have ruined the view and visitors' perceptions of this lovely part of Molesey.

I don't think Sadlers Rise is included in this particular consultation, but I do believe that the lack of action in removing these two huge boats has encouraged many more illegal moorings along this stretch of the river. I walk my dog twice a day, mostly in Hurst Park, sometimes on Cigarette Island and I feel intimidated by the amount of boats now moored closely together along here. I've noticed a massive increase in litter and belongings of the moored boats along the river bank. This is obvious, visible pollution and I feel this is a threat to the environment and the wildlife in the area. I now have to keep a very close eye on my dog as I'm worried he might find something edible, discarded by the boat owners that would make him sick or worse.

I'm not too concerned about overnight fishing/camping or BBQs, as these don't seem to be such a frequent issue. I do however think a PSPO would be a positive start in discouraging illegal boats and the related antisocial behaviour. A PSPO would encourage authorised moorings, as long as it can be enforced and the boats monitored more regularly.

19/12/23			<p>Having read the consultation literature below on the PSPO - Elmbridge Unauthorised Mooring, I am in full support of the measures that are being proposed to limit the period of the moorings along the stretches or the River Thames as mentioned in the link below.</p> <p>Proposed PSPO against unauthorised mooring   Elmbridge Borough Council  <a href="http://elmbridge.gov.uk">elmbridge.gov.uk</a>  </p> <p>The amount of inhabited and abandoned boats along the Hurst Park stretch is increasing rapidly with little or no effort from the EA to move them on, or to retrieve the sunken vessels which are polluting the river.</p> <p>On a regular basis, rubbish is dumped on the riverbank adjacent to vessels and the boat owners have no intention on clearing the rubbish despite there being bins situated along the whole stretch. Structures are being built to store wood and BBQs which indicates these boats are intending on staying and not moving on. Bicycles are being abandoned on the Riverbank and motorcycles being driven down the towpath at night and parked by the boats. The motorcycles are a menace to any pedestrians as are the boat owners who are often aggressive and threatening with menacing dogs. There is no pleasure for local residents now in terms of enjoying the open space, fisherman can't fish and benches commemorated to loved ones have their views blocked by these unsightly and unkept vessels.</p> <p>One morning I openly saw a man urinating over the side of the boat onto the riverbank in full display with his trousers down. This is not something I want any woman or child having to witness. If they are this brazen in daylight, what are they doing to get rid of their toilet waste at night?</p> <p>At one point in October, there were over 40 vessels counted on a 200-metre stretch in Hurst Park, some partially sunken, a large proportion in need of repair and most looking abandoned. This is just not acceptable and not fair to local residents who take pride in the area we live in and abide by rules so others can enjoy our beautiful river space too.</p> <p>I urge you to please consider all these points so the locals and visitors can once again enjoy Hurst Park and immediate areas surrounding on the Thames and move the boats on.</p>
19/12/23			I agree to PSPO TO STOP UNAUTHORISED MOORINGS
19/12/23			I strongly support the PSPO regarding the river in Elmbridge.

20/12/23

I strongly support the proposed PSPO, especially in relation to Riverside Ditton Reach & City Wharf House

The above riverside is plagued in the summer months by illegal mooring, especially in proximity to the the public slipway. Vessels moor for long periods at night and often for the whole night. This is accompanied by fishing, drunkenness, vandalism, barbeques, drug dealing, excessive noise, aggressive and abusive behaviour towards the public and littering. If approached by the police, the boats simply slip their moorings and move off. At least two boats are involved in drug dealing, year after year. With regard to the 10 additional licensed moorings that are being sought, this stretch of river is wholly unsuitable for the following reasons:-

- a) Ajax and Warspite scouts are already using all available space to moor their boats
- b) The river and slipway are required for scouts to boat safely (kayak/ canoe/ paddle board / gig/ sailing boats)
- c) Mush of the riverside cannot be used for embarkation and disembarkation - to toa a steep, crumbling 4 metre high riverbank
- d) The riverbank is one of the few remaining, safe areas with natural growth to provide shelter for riverside wildfowl animals
- e) The Ditton Reach green space is made secure at night due to previous anti-social behaviour and burglaries, so offers so limited access
- f) The riverbank retaining wall that Elmbridge Borough Council is obliged to maintain, is damaged and crumbling due to sycamore growth and will require significant repair if traffic is increased on it. At present it is too dangerous for river users to embark or disembark
- g) The river changes direction at this point and refuse will accumulate if the flow is impeded at the bend
- h) There is no space for larger houseboats to moor safely - some have tried bt had to give up.

20/12/23			<p>My comments regarding the proposed mooring at Ditton Reach/City Wharf House are as follows)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Already there are scout boats moored - The piles at Ditton Reach were placed in order for the sea scouts to moor their boats and nothing else. refer to planning app 2007/1805</li> <li>b) Space is required for the scouts to safely use the river for their activities - boat safety essential (kayak/ canoe/ paddle board/ gig/</li> <li>c) No ability to disembark - The riverbank here is 4m high steep slope</li> <li>d) The bank is one of the few remaining areas with natural growth to provide shelter for riverside animals</li> <li>e) Area is made secure at night due to previous anti-social behaviour so limited access</li> <li>f) Wall is already suffering due to sycamore growth and will require significant repair if traffic is increased on it</li> <li>g) The river changes direction at this point and rubbish will accumulate if the flow is impeded at the bend</li> <li>h) Not enough space for house boat to moor safely (which is why they don't).</li> </ul> <p>There are numerous incidents reported regarding ASB. Instances of public defecation and urination along the side of the houses.</p> <p>The area is simply not suitable for overnight mooring.</p>
20/12/23			<p>I have read Elmbridge's comments on the need for a second consultation on a PSPO for overstaying boats. I stand by my original comments that a PSPO is necessary and should be enforced for all overstaying boats. As a riverside resident of Hurst Park, I see that our riverside is blighted by these boats which restrict access to the riverbank for legitimate users, pollute our river and take over parts of the riverbank with their detritus.</p> <p>Views like this can now be seen from our window and when we walk along the Hurst Park towpath. I am disappointed that Elmbridge did not alert me, as someone who supported the original PSPO proposal, to the second consultation.</p> <p>I strongly support Elmbridge using all available powers, including the proposed PSPO, to remove these overstaying boats which have blatantly flouted the rules for months and in some cases years.</p>

21/12/23			<p>I have read the comments by Elmbridge on the need for a second consultation on a PSPO for overstaying boats. I still believe that a PSPO should be enforced for all overstaying boats as they are illegally moored and have been flouting the mooring regulations for months and in some cases years. As I have lived for over thirty years in a flat overlooking the river at Hurst Park I have seen how these illicit boat owners have grown in number, polluting the river and taking over the riverbank with their belongings, rubbish and garden furniture, thus restricting legitimate users from having access to the riverside.</p> <p>I strongly support Elmbridge in using the power of PSPO to remove these overstaying boats and enabling the riverside and riverbank to be returned to its natural state for all to enjoy at their leisure.</p>
21/12/23			<p>I am writing in support of the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>The number of derelict-looking boats permanently moored seems to have increased considerably over time. In my view they spoil the look of the river and the river bank.</p> <p>I also do not understand why some boat owners can claim the river bank where their boat is moored as their private property. They appear to be able to fence off areas and place 'keep out' notices. I thought this was land we could all enjoy as we walk by the river. Do they pay for this land that they have cordoned off? Can anybody cordon off part of the riverbank and claim it as their own? If so, the whole of the riverbank will one day be a no-go area for the rest of us.</p> <p>Thank you for all the thought and work you have put into trying to consider what is best for everyone.</p>
22/12/23			<p>Unauthorised, overstaying boats should be removed from the river Thames in Elmbridge.</p> <p>In response to the two consultations, I am emailing you to add my support to the introduction of PSPOs.</p>

22/12/23

I am a resident of Cherry Orchard Road in Elmbridge.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed PSPO against unauthorised mooring.

I wrote in the first consultation and am disappointed that given the strong support in the first – 85% - that there is a second.

The argument (if something so weak can be called that) was that 13% disagreed and so a further review of their alleged concerns was needed. I look forward to the next council elections where a losing opposition candidate with more than 13% of the vote says there needs to be a re-run just to be sure they lost.

That said, the arguments remain unchanged. The boaters who are clogging up the riverbank are a pestilential nuisance, who despoil the riverbank, intimidate passers-by, undoubtedly pollute the river with their waste, dump refuse on the path and general make the place look like a dump. Their ignoring of regulations and rules is blatant and they are laughing at the council and EA, and frankly making you look like fools. They are also attempting to annex the bank permanently, taking public land and making it theirs.

Their arguments that they need permanent moorings etc to raise their kids etc are intellectually vacuous. Effectively, having broken the law they are saying you must now protect them from the consequences of breaking the law. Societies only work when there is a common understanding and acceptance of laws, standards, rules that allow us to live together in harmony. They are saying the rules don't apply to them. The restrictions on permanent or long-stay moorings are not new, what is needed now is enforcement.

I know of people locally who no longer walk on that part of the path or speed up to get through it. I myself feel uncomfortable on that section, have been shouted at or most often have the slumboat occupants staring at me in a clearly hostile 'screw you' manner. They think they own that part of the bank and it is now up to you to show they do not.

Frankly, the arguments put that these are nice, decent folk who just want to moor their boats is a joke and their lawyers' arguments are specious. They are not nice people and they are hostile unpleasant neighbours. This is a conscious effort by a group of rule-breakers to keep breaking the rules through your lack of enforcement and in so doing to occupy the bank on a permanent.

Please, do your job. Get the PSPO into effect and use it.

22/12/23			<p>I would strongly support the issue of PSPO for the unauthorised boats mooring on the river Thames. The boat owners contribute nothing to Elmbridge and are obtaining facilities free of charge to themselves with Council tax payers footing the bill.</p>
23/12/23			<p>Theresa stretch at Ditton Reach is not suitable for mooring boats for the following reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Already there are scout boats moored here. They had specific planning permission for this with conditions 2007/1805 refers.</li><li>b) Space required for scouts to boat safely (kayak/ canoe/ paddle board/ gig/ picos) additional mooring will hinder their safety.</li><li>c) No ability to disembark - 4m high steep slope</li><li>d) The bank is one of the few remaining areas with natural growth to provide shelter for riverside animals</li><li>e) Area is locked at night due to previous anti-social behaviour so limited access. If access is granted they will in effect have nowhere to go and could cause nuisances to residents.</li><li>f) Wall is already suffering due to sycamore growth and will require significant repair if traffic is increased on it</li><li>g) The river changes direction at this point and rubbish will accumulate if the flow is impeded at the bend</li><li>h) Not enough space for house boat to moor safely (which is why they don't).</li></ul>

26/12/23			<p>My opinion and observations on what the current lack of enforcement of temporary moorings is doing to the area. Taken from a recent complaint I sent to the environment agency:</p> <p>A small floatila of barely river worthy boats have been moored on the environment agency's land for months. In some cases years.</p> <p>This is what it brings to the area:</p> <p>Fly tipping, the river side path and bank has numerous incidents of fly tipping throughout the year.</p> <p>Illegal wood gathering, the most prominent incident that comes to mind was a male using a petrol chainsaw. Whilst smoking cannabis 2 feet from the tow path. Logging green wood from the meadow.</p> <p>Poor air quality, the boats use DIY style wood burners. They burn anything and everything. Treated pallets, green wood, coal. The London smoke free zone is only on the North bank where there are legitimate residential moorings.</p> <p>Generators and Solar arrays deployed on public property.</p> <p>Boats full of Dogs, that are routinely released to foul the meadow. Many of which seem to be bred for security.</p> <p>Effluent discharged into the river. I have witnessed foul water being tipped into the Thames.</p> <p>Use of nets to fish the river. I have witnessed nets being used by the occupants to fish the water way.</p> <p>I'm not interested in what mechanism is used to remove the boats. Only that they are removed. Hopefully with the occupants being assisted into more appropriate accommodation.</p>
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26/12/23			<p>I am in favor of a public space protection order.</p> <p>The unauthorized moorings pollute the water with their diesel, spills, and sewage wastewater. They leave refuse on the waterfront and by the public bins. Their moorings prevent access to the water for other river uses such as; swimmers, kayakers, and other water apparatus. The boats spoil the view of the river.</p> <p>The riverside should be a safe, clean, and tidy space for all. Introducing a PSPO to protect the riverside is essential for this to become the norm again.</p>
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27/12/23			<p>has drawn attention to the opportunity of a cheap method of living for some people. A parallel could be drawn from travellers occupying Council or privately owned land. In most cases the councils or courts took action to remove the travellers from occupied land. This no different. Our remaining public spaces should be protected for the enjoyment of all and should not be abused by the few. Walking along the riverbank around Cherry Orchard Road and Gardens is no longer enjoyable and the 'boats' (?) on Hurst Meadows are an eyesore and should be condemned, which may have already been done.</p> <p>Regarding relations with local resident, I gather that is not as good as the boaters make out. Of course accessing fresh water is a problem, as the areas mentioned are not meant for long term mooring, have any of the live on boaters moved their boats to Molesey Lock where fresh water is available and the opportunity to empty chemical toilets. I don't want to think about what happens to the contents of their toilets currently!</p> <p>There is obviously no easy solution to the problem, but if the boaters are moved on, it might give them the impetus to move into social housing. Surely if some are working, then they are able to pay their way? If not, then an effort should be made to identify a possible site a disused boat yard perhaps which could offer facilities for longer term or permanent mooring. I notice that Elmbridge has not been able to identify a suitable site, but this should not condone the continued unauthorised mooring. Perhaps consultations with councils bordering the length of Thames and the EA might come up with somewhere.</p> <p>I would support a PSPO being placed on the sections of riverbank specified and indeed from Weybridge to Kew which is a particularly unique section of the Thames known as The Arcadian Thames. I refer to the website for Thames Landscape Strategy.</p>
27/12/23			<p>I support PSPO. I object to the boats moored to the land at Cherry Orchard Gardens. My reasons are that they are using the towpath for storing their own private property on what is public land. The public is intimidated by the boat owners and their dogs. Also why should EBC council tax payers foot the bill to clear up after these people.</p>
27/12/23			<p>We both continue to support the introduction of PSPOs for the continued mooring of illegal boats at the above.</p> <p>The authorities need to get a grip, use the powers they have to remove these boats. These boats and their continued anti social behaviour are unauthorised and need to be removed.</p>

27/12/23			I support the introduction of PSPOs to assist in removing unauthorised overstaying boats from EBC/SCC owned riverbank land on the Thames in Elmbridge.
27/12/23			I am strongly in favour of introduction of PSPO being introduced on Hurst Park water frontage in an attempt to control misuse of the river bank by overstaying boats.
27/12/23			<p>I live in Thames Ditton and therefore a resident within Elmbridge Borough.</p> <p>I fully support the proposed implementation and enforcement of PSPO's for unauthorised moorings within Elmbridge Borough</p> <p>Positive action is long overdue.</p> <p>As evidenced by the comprehensive surveys undertaken by Elmbridge BC it is clear the majority of the boat dwellers have made a lifestyle choice.</p> <p>Their actions by occupying prominent locations along the River Thames has created an number of antisocial situations including being an eyesore, creating litter and untidy river banks, abusing (possibly illegal) parking on the public highway, unhygienic depositing of effluent etc.</p> <p>I understand that not all the boat dwellers make any contribution to the local infrastructure by paying EA registration fee and/or Council Tax yet are a burden to the respective Authorities. This is unfair to the local law abiding residents.</p>
27/12/23			<p>I am wholly in support of the riverside area having a public space protection order. The traveller boats moored permanently up and down the Molesey to Sunbury stretch must be removed. I run the towpath nearly every day and have done so for more than 15 years. The traveller boats strew rubbish and debris all over the riverbank. The men on these boats are (to me) frightening, they leer and stare and are very intimidating. They block the access to the river so people cannot sit on the bank. I have seen them chopping down trees, clearing the areas where their boats are. These riverside spaces should be for the public to enjoy, not taken over by a few who have no right to occupy the river and he bank.</p>

27/12/23		<p>I strongly support the introduction of PSPOs to assist in removing unauthorised overstaying boats from EBC/SCC owned riverbank land on the Thames in Elmbridge.</p> <p>There are very many people who are unable to afford accommodation, either at all or in the area they would like. Virtually all abide by the law and I have great sympathy for them.</p> <p>However, there can be no excuse for those people who deliberately flout the law and moor boats illegally – if the boats were treated in the same manner as vehicles on the road they would simply be towed away. Those on the boats make no financial contribution to Elmbridge, despite taking advantage of its facilities, and expect others (many of whom will be less well-off than the people on the boats) to subsidise them. I have seen several instances of them discharging sewage into the river, some of them are down-right anti-social and some of them are now trying to claim land as their own – and are aggressive. It is sometimes not very pleasant walking along the towpath.</p> <p>If they moored on private land, they would be expected to moor in suitable locations, make appropriate financial contributions and to act in a reasonable manner. Why cannot the same be required of those who moor on public land? PSPOs would help achieve this.</p> <p>PS I know that most local residents are very concerned about the profusion of overstaying boats (many of which have been there for a long time) and the adverse impact they have on the community. They are also concerned about the lack of action to do anything to resolve the position. Any lack of response to the consultation from members of the local community should not be taken as acceptance of the position.</p>
27/12/23		<p>I am a local resident living in Lower Sunbury and fully support the use of PSPO's .</p> <p>This particular stretch of our beautiful River Thames is blighted with a large number of illegally moored boats and I believe it is the responsibility of the environment agency to protect our rivers but they must be given the appropriate powers to do so. Many of these boats are badly maintained and unsightly. We are disturbed at night by the generators they run for power and I am particularly concerned they may discharge effluent into the river.</p>
27/12/23		I support the PSPO.

27/12/23			<p>I am emailing as I AGREE with the introduction of a PSPO which should deter and deal with the presence of the over 115 unauthorised overstaying and (in some cases land grabbing) boats on the Thames in Hurst Park and Molesey.</p> <p>Those who dwell on the boats create an anti social presence along the river. As an example, the river bank and Hurst Park is full of litter and various objects and debris which are no longer used by those who live on the boats. I have also been sworn at by boat dwellers as their dogs have rushed at my own dog and myself. Furthermore, the parking situation on roads like Cherry Orchard Road (my own road) along with Hurstfield has become untenable as boat dwellers now use these roads to park their various vehicles. Furthermore, boat dwellers often congregate along the Thames path smoking illegal substances that linger in the air - again very anti social when I am walking with my 8 year old son and our dog.</p> <p>Anything to discourage those who own boats from overstaying their welcome is very much needed. Please act Elmbridge.</p>
27/12/23			<p>I am writing to address the ongoing issue related to the presence of boats on the river and to express my concerns regarding the negative impact it has on our community. I want to show my support for the introduction of PSPO's for this purpose.</p> <p>Over time, the situation has escalated, making it increasingly problematic. Previously, I enjoyed using the pathway next to the river for my morning runs. Unfortunately, the current atmosphere caused by the boats has made it unsafe for me. The residents' intimidating behavior, including wolf whistling and attempts to gain my attention, has created an uncomfortable environment. Particularly during dark and solitary runs, I no longer feel secure. This is disheartening as proximity to the river is one of the beautiful aspects of living in this area. The inability to engage in my morning runs has taken a toll on my mental and physical health, given the importance of exercise in maintaining well-being.</p> <p>Equally distressing is the environmental impact caused by the waste left by these river boats. The pollution is not only unsightly but also detrimental to the overall area's cleanliness. While we strive to maintain the aesthetics of our homes, roads, and the river walkway, the boats are contributing to the degradation of this shared space with their irresponsible disposal of rubbish and waste.</p> <p>In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that measures be taken to address these issues promptly. Removal of the boats would not only enhance safety and security but also contribute to the protection of our environment. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, and I hope we can work together to maintain the quality of our community.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding and prompt action.</p>

27/12/23			<p>As you are aware, the Riverside in Molesey and beyond from Kingston to Walton, is a local beauty spot enjoyed by thousands of local residents every day.</p> <p>The Molesey stretch of the river during the week is invariably full of young mothers taking their young children to play and elderly people getting their daily exercise whilst at weekends it becomes a hotspot for families enjoying the outdoors for free.</p> <p>I mention the above specifically to emphasise how important this space is for the well-being and cohesiveness of the community of Molesey.</p> <p>The invasion of unauthorised boat moorings is literally destroying our valued outdoor space. Riverside trees, especially the younger trees are being routinely hacked for firewood. I have twice now witnessed the residents of the boats using a CHAINSAW and an AXE chopping up firewood from nearby trees. You can see freshly cut stumps of branches on the trees, so there is no doubt where this wood is coming from. People are furious that this destruction of their local beauty spot is going on but after understandably reluctant to confront the offenders wielding such tools.</p> <p>From an aesthetic standpoint, not only are the boats ramshackle eyesores destroying the view, but the Riverbank itself is becoming littered with piles of scrap, including what looks like DIY and household waste, such as broken old furniture, broken down kitchen cupboard carcasses, bicycle wheels etc. This is particularly prevalent in the stretch of river behind the Tesco complex.</p> <p>The lack of action in addressing this squatting problem when it first appeared near the Riverside carpark several years ago has encouraged a gradual and accelerating number of these illegal moorings. The cluster behind Tesco started relatively recently and only in the last few weeks has grown to six or seven boats.</p> <p>Failure to address this problem decisively now will inevitably encourage ever more illegal boats being attracted to the area and the total destruction of our once beautiful Riverside open space to the severe detriment of quality of life of local residents.</p> <p>The people of Molesey have chosen to live and contribute here because of the quality of life in the area, of which the Riverside is a major factor. The rights of a few people destroying the environment</p>
27/12/23			<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I am emailing as I AGREE with the introduction of a PSPO which should deter and deal with the presence of the over 115 unauthorised overstaying and (in some cases land grabbing) boats on the Thames in Hurst Park and Molesey.</p> <p>We must discourage those who own boats from overstaying their welcome along the tow path at Hurst Park. Please act Elmbridge.</p>
28/12/23			I agree with a pspo to stop these slum boats

28/012/2023			<p>I strongly support the imposition of PSPOs in respect of unauthorised overstaying boats in this area of the River Thames.</p> <p>Taking 'ownership' of public land, blatantly ignoring instructions/requests to move, river pollution and anti-social behaviour such as has been experienced by residents for a number of years would not be tolerated in any other public areas controlled by the authorities concerned.</p> <p>The result of the first consultation was overwhelmingly in support of action being taken. It should now be carried out as speedily as possible.</p>
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28/12/23			<p>I strongly support ALL of the Council's proposals for the installation of PSPOs in ALL of the areas designated.</p> <p>I am Totally Frustrated that for many years now the growth of anti-social behaviour in all its forms on the beautiful public spaces in Elmbridge has not been clamped down on by the Authorities despite the huge cry for help from the overwhelming majority of local residents made to our representatives at the Borough and County Councils, the Environment Agency, the Surrey Police and even to our Member of Parliament.</p> <p>LITTERING</p> <p>As a small example I attach some photos of the current littering of the river bank at Hurst Park west of What Three Words WTW///gets.boxer.lists.</p> <p>BOATING</p> <p>The riverside is full of illegal and antisocial boats in all stages of decay, moored for years even on the official EA landing areas previously used by licensed visiting boats as stopovers for one or two overnight stays or visitors wishing to use and spend time and money in the local amenities supplied by the shops and ratepayers of Elmbridge. See more pics below..</p>
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28/12/23			<p>As a local resident and regular user of Hurst Park I am in favour of the PSPO but feel that 24 hour limit is too short for genuine boaters Perhaps 48 or 72 hours would be more suitable. Regardless of any time limit, whom will be responsible for enforcement of this and how will the enforcers be monitored to ensure that they are enforcing?</p> <p>The boats that do need dealing with are those that are allowed to deteriorate in a dilapidated condition, the "slum boats" and the like, and those such as the ones near the Metropolitan water works where boat owners have unlawfully fenced off large sections of bankside and put up signage to the effect of This is Private Property, Keep Out, denying users of the towpath access to the river as has always been the case. Lastly, both of these user types have reduced the number of trees (for firewood) and damaged the riparian and other bankside vegetation quite extensively over the past 10 years as the situation has worsened from Molesey Lock to Walton on Thames. This has had a detrimental impact on the wildlife here.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I would like to add a comment to this PSPO to say that both myself and my fiance, living on Boleyn Drive, west Molesey, both agree with the proposal that unauthorised moorings should be restricted. We regularly walk our dog along the river and since the moorings there are sections of the river we now no longer like to walk due to rubbish and mess on the side of the river. I have had to report, on multiple occasions, overflowing rubbish.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need any more information for this.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I write to add my support to proposed PSPO for unauthorised moorings. The liberties being taken by illegally moored vessels is an embarrassment to the EA, the council and makes a mockery of the system in place and those that do abide by the rules. These vessels are generally poorly maintained (the number of sunken and abandoned vessels on the Thames is disgraceful), and there are concerns over their waste and refuse disposal. In an increasingly eco aware world the blind eye being turned to the human waste and garbage being dumped in the Thames is shameful.</p> <p>The Environment Agency and the local councils must work together and support eachother before The Thames becomes a lawless dumping ground.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I strongly support all the Council's proposals for the installation of PSPOs in the designated areas. My particular area of awareness and concern is the mooring alongside the Hurst Park open space and the Cherry Orchard reach.</p> <p>The unconsented mooring blights the views to and across the river; many of the boat owners appear to have an aggressive attitude to anyone walking past, making the towpath a no-go area for many members of the public - including Molesey children cycling on the towpath to access Walton Heathlands School; the litter left by the boats is not only an eye-sore and a possibly danger to young children playing on the river bank, but presumably has to be cleared by EBC, at council-tax payers' expense; and registered boaters are unable to moor for a short period to re-stock or for emergency repairs.</p> <p>I can't understand why, when the initial consultation was so overwhelmingly in agreement of a PSPO, that a further consultation needs to be carried out, but as this has been such a long drawn out issue, and can only get worse, I trust that the views of the local (legal) residents, as well as our local councillors, local police and MP, will be taken into consideration.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I really don't understand why there has to be yet another consultation when the results of the first demonstrated an overwhelming majority in favour of the PSPO and even the council's response was to state that the situation regarding the unconsented mooring was and presumably still is unacceptable. The situation certainly hasn't improved and indeed has deteriorated, the latest insult being the dumping of rubbish which presumably will have to be cleared up at Council Tax payers expense. Currently, the area affected by these freeloading individuals is relatively small but like most contagions will spread to affect the whole area and indeed this has already begun with more and more boats setting up camp on Hurst Park. The current moorers have made the riverbank at Cherry Orchard Gardens virtually a no-go area through their behaviour and totally ruined what was a peaceful and very scenic part of the riverbank and this can only be repeated in many other locations which is why the PSPO must be implemented.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I am writing to register my support for the introduction of PSPOs for boats illegally moored on the Thames in order for them to be moved. I do this in the belief the Thame river and bank should be available for the enjoyment of the entire community and not be annexed by one small self-interested group.</p> <p>In the last few years hundreds of boats have illegally moored along the river bank in Molesey; they have in effect commandeered the land through restrictions of ropes, fences and 'private property' signs. They have littered the local area and given they never move are presumably dumping human waste into the river. The towpath is no longer a pleasant walk as there are aggressive dogs on many of the boats in addition to several derelict and half sunken vessels. These boat owners are not people who are 'caring' for the area as some suggest or building a meaningful community.</p> <p>The previous Elmbridge survey indicated 85% of respondents agreed with the PSPOs and 13% were against. How is it possible in a democratic nation that the majority is ignored and further consultation is required to further support the minority? It has been suggested these boat dwellers will lose their homes; this is incorrect as they will still own their boats, they should not however be permitted to seize what is common land entirely for their own use. The PSPOs are a way to return the area to the entire community.</p>
28/12/23			<p>To whom it may concern . We against all illegal moorings along the tow path between Walton and Hampton Court . The owners of the boats are now putting up fences and some 6 ft gates . The tow path and the rivers edge should be for the use of all not the few ..</p>

28/12/23			<p>I welcome and support the introduction of the mooring PSPO's. Being a resident of Cherry Orchard Gardens, I feel that my mental wellbeing is suffering at the hands of these illegal moorings, who have a complete disregard of respect, manners and the conservation of Hurst Park and tow path near Cherry Orchard Gardens/Road.</p> <p>I am sick and tired of trying to go for a peaceful walk, or a run along the Thames, only to have this interrupted by the smell of cannabis, constant swearing, riverside resembling a refuge, and dogs running around like we are in a dystopian landscape. Tired of the noisy generators, trees being cut, beer cans strewn everywhere.</p> <p>Its about time these boats where removed and crushed, as everyone is an eyesore, along with being potential death traps.</p> <p>Lets make a stand, and bring back the once beautiful riverside, we all truly deserve.</p>
28/12/23			<p><b>Reference the 2nd Consultation on Unauthorised Moorings</b></p> <p>My wife and I live in the Bishop Fox Estate in West Molesey and use the Thames towpath from Cherry Orchard Road along to Hampton Court Bridge on a regular basis for exercise and dog walking. We are very worried by the way the river bank along this area is being abused by the occupants of the boats who appear to be expanding their moorings by taking ownership of the river bank. There are areas where we are now reluctant to pass because of the build up of rubbish and lack of sanitation. We have even heard reports of fellow walkers being intimidated by some of the boat owners and this situation cannot surely be allowed to continue.</p> <p>We therefore support the Public Services Protection Order initiative proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council and hope that once obtained EBC will be successful in enforcing the mooring regulations to achieve evictions.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I wholly support any action to remove the boats that are moored alongside the river path between Hampton Court bridge and Walton bridge.</p> <p>I am a female who enjoys going on solo runs along this stretch of the river. However on several occasions I have been shouted at or verbally abused by the people in these boars, particularly in the warmer months when they sit on the riverbank in the areas they have cordoned off as 'private property', drinking and smoking. The smell of cannabis is always very strong along this stretch of the path as well. It has put me off running along this route which is a shame.</p> <p>These boats not only look dreadful, but are very probably disposing their waste into the river which is a revolting thought. The fact that the residents of these boats have taken possession of the land next to their moorings, with fences and signs telling us that this is their own 'private property' is also pretty galling to those of us that pay our council tax and mortgages/rent, knowing that they are paying nothing and are probably hoping to claim the land eventually under squatters rights or similar.</p> <p>Please consider the feelings of the majority of local residents who just want our riverbank returned to how it should be - an area for the use and enjoyment of all, without any risk of verbal abuse and the visual and environmental damage these boats are causing.</p>
28/12/23			<p>These illegally moored boats are a menace as in most cases the owners dump sewerage waste into the river, do not have boat safety certificates, have no perminant moorings and no licence. I feel sorry for those who have no where Elise to live but the clear up of rubbish etc is being paid for by the ratepayers.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I would like to put forward my view of the illegal boats moored in West Molesey. These boats since their arrival have had a massive social and environmental impact on the local community. The areas where they are moored cannot be accessed by the public. The rubbish generated is overwhelming. The occupiers use the wilderness as a toilet and dispose of their toilet waste in the river. The boats are a fire hazard and unsafe for the occupants. Any derelict boats are left to subside and never removed by the owners. Some boat occupants cause anti social behaviour and there are regular smells of cannabis coming from these boats plus alcohol consumption and the impact of that. The safety of the public is put at risk especially after dark as the occupants are unaccountable for their actions. I am too afraid to walk along the river as a female. The other issue is the parking in local roads that lead to the river. There are a number abandoned vehicles/unused vehicles at the end of my road which are used as accommodation and storage for the boat occupants. They are unsightly and they prevent residents who pay council tax etc from parking near their home. These boats should be removed immediately to improve the quality of life for the local residents who have had to endure all the above problems for a considerable time.</p> <p>Submitted for your consideration,</p>
28/12/23			<p>I fully support this The boats are an eyesore</p>
28/12/23			<p>I support this proposal.</p>
28/12/23			<p>Whilst I am all for people enjoying the river and its associated land, I feel there should be stricter rules which are actively enforced on the amount of time boats are allowed to moor in one place. Over night is sufficient before they should move on to another venue. The boats along this stretch have been allowed to stay for many months or even years in some cases which should not be allowed. Whilst the occupiers keep themselves to themselves they take up a large area of the rivers edge which takes away the enjoyment of land based users. For this reason I feel permission to stay should be denied.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I am in favour with the introduction of the mooring PSPO's. I have lived in Cherry Orchard Gardens since 2008 when the river was not contaminated with illegal boats who are spoiling the ambience of the river.</p> <p>As a resident, I cannot believe that I pay for all the amenities from Elmbridge Council, including paying for a mooring where these boats are not contributing at all but they are leaving rubbish everywhere on the banks, they are filling up the bins to overflowing and even fly tipping (a mattress was left at the bottom of Cherry Orchard this week- disgraceful!)</p> <p>These illegal boat residence are also parking their vehicles in our road, adding on horse boxes, tailers, wood and even pieces of machinery.</p> <p>We cannot go for a nice walk anymore as there is NO such thing with boats 3 deep with all their junk on the tow path and they hardly keep to themselves as we have seen them drunk, falling out of vans, and falling all over the tow path.</p> <p>If this is not resolved soon, then more and more boats will come (they are multiplying every week) as why wouldn't they with free mooring and no fixed legal address and therefore no council tax! Honestly, I cannot believe that the council have let this get to this stage.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I am a resident in East Molesey. We strongly support the proposed PSPO as these boats are a major environmental and health hazard.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I support the pspo particularly in relation to hurst park moorings where many of the boats are using the banks of the river verges to store all manner of flotsam.</p> <p>The boats have been increasing in number and have become unsightly. There is one boat that is attached to its morning and completely sunk which presents a hazard for other river users. It needs to be an enforced policy of boats being transient and not setting up what have now become permanent campsites along the river bank.</p> <p>If they were caravans on the fields they would be moved on promptly the same needs to be applied to the boats</p>
28/12/23			<p>I am in favor of a public space protection order.</p> <p>The unauthorized moorings pollute the water with their diesel spills and sewage wastewater. They leave refuse on the waterfront and by the public bins. A beautiful place is being turned into a slum!</p> <p>Their moorings prevent access to the water for other river uses such as; swimmers, kayakers. Introducing a PSPO to protect the riverside is essential.</p>

28/12/23			<p>Hello, as a resident of Hurst Park, I just want to say I do feel intimidated by the many boats that have appeared along the towpath in the last few months. I normally go for one or two walks along the towpath a day to get to my 8000 steps a day but now avoid late evenings and other quiet times. Many of the boats look messy and in bad shape and firewood and plastic sheeting etc are now piled up in many places on the bank. I would like to enjoy my walks just looking at nature and wildlife and not feeling like I am somehow trespassing. It can't be good for the wildlife in and on the Thames either.</p>
28/12/23			<p>This is to confirm our full support for the removal of what is commonly recognised as illegal mooring of boats being used as residential purposes on the river Thames. Also to claim mooring rights and land grab, fencing of tow paths and to say nothing of the disposal of human waste and highly pollutant chemicals from porta loos into the water.</p> <p>We are all river users and are in full support for the removal of these boats and their blatant abuse of the River Thames and it's banks.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I support the introduction of PSPOs for unauthorised mooring and want the authorities to use these and all the other rules and regulations available to them in order to remove all unauthorised overstaying boats from the Thames in Elmbridge without further delay.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I would like to state that I support the proposed PSPO to remove all boats from unauthorised moorings.</p> <p>As well as the build up of rubbish, fire wood and personal belonging on the river bank the anti-social behaviour is becoming too much. I live in Buckingham gardens and we can sometimes hear music in our garden coming from the boats</p>
28/12/23			<p>I support the introduction of PSPOs for unauthorised mooring and want the authorities to use these and all the other rules and regulations available to them in order to remove all unauthorised overstaying boats from the Thames in Elmbridge without further delay.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I support the issuing of a PSPO for the Hurst Park riverside. Some of the boats are abandoned eyesores that are a potential health and safety concern. Multiple local trees are cut down for firewood to heat the moored boats. Fly tipping is becoming more common place. Some experience of loose dogs and antisocial behaviour. I can't move my dwelling to not experience this, but the boat owners can.</p>

28/12/23			<p>Definitely in favour of PSPO. I firmly believe that if this problem is left unresolved it will get much worse in view of the fact that over the past few years the amount of live aboard boats has dramatically increased at Hurst park and beyond. I do appreciate people are struggling in these difficult times however, watching our riverbanks strewn with rubbish and being turned into somewhere to store their belongings is wholly unacceptable. I think if left it will become a serious problem as more people will struggle and then consider living off grid , contributing nothing to society and spoiling a much valued area.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I would like to state the I support the proposed PSPO to remove all boats from unauthorised moorings.</p> <p>As a resident of hurst park I feel vulnerable and worry for the safety of my family as a result of the antisocial behaviour these unauthorised moorings bring. My dog has been attacked by other dogs that aren't controlled, my partner has had abuse and been followed home and the mess and paraphernalia around the boats makes me worry a lot my child playing on the rec.</p>
28/12/23			<p>As a frequent walker of the River Thames I'm all for of the PSPO against unauthorised mooring. The boats permanently moored with their positions &amp; rubbish lead around make it look untidy. I feel temporary mooring is acceptable but people setting up permanently is not acceptable. I'm therefore all for the PSPO against unauthorised mooring.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I am emailing to express my strong support for the proposed PSPO against unauthorised mooring on the Thames.</p> <p>I grew up living beside the Thames in Sunbury and returning now I find it genuinely heart breaking to see the deterioration of what were once beautiful sections of riverbank, free to use by all visitors, commandeered by the owners of these (permanently!) overstaying boats.</p> <p>I am writing, like many others, in the hope that something can finally be done to restore these beautiful sections of the Thames to what they once were and allow them to be used and enjoyed be everyone, not just people exploiting the loop holes they have found.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I would like to register both mine and my partner's (Mike Moores) support for the PSPO to restrict the moorings on the riverbank. We live on Hurst Road and I often cycle along the riverbank on the way to work. The boats are not well kept and often an eyesore, as well as often cannabis smell coming from the moorings.</p> <p>Additionally there is generally more rubbish and it can be intimidating passing them at points. As a woman I personally would not walk there alone later in the evening.</p> <p>I can't believe it's good for the river hygiene or general river environmental health to have the illegal moorings who are not following any regulations.</p>
28/12/23			<p>Totally in support of proposals for new legislation and laws to give rights to enforce the illegal moorings &amp; residents.</p> <p>Whilst I understand the desperate need for reasonable affordable accommodation and appreciate some moorings are pleasure craft the River, towpath and surrounding areas have should be safe and enjoyable for all to use.</p> <p>Over the last ten years (and very much so over last 4) it has gotten totally out of control. It feels as if the ability to actually do anything with these is pushed from pillar to post and everyone hopes someone else will do something about it. Slow enforcement and vague rules/laws allow these to be flouted and abused.</p> <p>I have been a local for 20 years and often walk with family, friends and dogs along all these stretches but do feel often unsure and unsafe in doing so now.</p> <p>The blight and eyesore of ramshackle boats, half sunken vessels, sheds, rubbish and faeces seems beyond controlled.</p> <p>I have been verbally abused on many occasions by boat owners when dogs have gone near.</p> <p>I've helped 2 young ladies with cases who thought they were staying on Airbnb boat lodging mortified when seen boats and become upset and scared. Actually taken them home and then booked them in and driven to local hotels as so they felt safe.</p> <p>My dogs have become ill having eaten rotten food and god knows what else (including hash/drugs) if not caught quick enough. I've seen dwellers in bushes as toilets and generally felt very uncomfortable walking alone along parts of the river / towpaths.</p> <p>I used to paddle/swim with my dogs in Thames but haven't done for few years now as it feels more like a toilet and strewn with rubbish.</p> <p>Anything which gives the ability to actually deal with these illegal moorings and dwellers in an enforced manor going forward definitely has my support.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing a positive outcome.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I am writing to confirm my support for the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>The open river bank is a public space for all to enjoy. The currently illegally moored boats, unfortunately bring with them lots of river bank rubbish, which is dangerous and unsightly. It's dangerous for children, dogs and wildlife.</p>
28/12/23			<p>My family and I are residents of west Molesey. We strongly support all measures to get rid of the illegally moored boats around hurst park. Having a young family in the area means we spend most weekends in hurst park and the floating contraptions that are moored in the area are hideous death traps. Children and animals are at risk because of these boats. If I built a large shed with no permit on my street made of junk I would be fined and ordered to take it down. I don't understand how they have been permitted to stay there this long.</p> <p>I hope this vote goes successfully.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I fully support the suggested PSPO to prevent unauthorised mooring.</p> <p>As a relative of a nearby resident I cycle along the towpaths from Walton to Hampton bridge regularly. This stretch of river is no longer a pleasure to use. Many of the lived on boats moored there have no means to dispose of sewage other than directly into the river, some boats however are so mired in the riverbed they will never move under their own steam again. Raw untreated sewage is a huge health risk to people and wildlife alike!</p> <p>While I appreciate the housing dilemma for transient people the river bank has become a ghetto, a dumping ground for decaying or sunken boats along with large amounts of unwanted/unused items collected by those living on them. The Tesco stretch of river is beginning to look like a boat graveyard! Instead of a tranquil view for residents and visitors alike there are boats in various stages of decay with boat dwellers possessions littering the riverbank!</p> <p>Many of these boats have dogs for security/companionship, not all are safely contained and all are naturally protective of their home, posing a risk to anyone including other dogs near enough to be considered a threat!</p> <p>Along with taking over areas of river making these a no-go area for residents, some boat dwellers have fenced off sections of riverbed erecting "private property" signs. The boats are an eyesore, some draped in tarpaulins to keep out rain others under rotting camouflage netting failing to hide the wrecks beneath!</p> <p>The antisocial behaviour from some of the boat dwellers is also unacceptable. Several park their vans in areas designated for rate paying residents causing increasing friction.</p> <p>I therefore approve of a PSPO for all stretches of the river where it affects local residents.</p>

28/12/23			<p>Why is this still even under discussion?</p> <p>The boats in question should be removed and no repeat of this waste of time and public money should recur.</p> <p>We support any efforts to remove these eyesores and threats to public hygiene.</p> <p>Thank you and here's hoping some action occurs soon, this has been too prolonged a discussion.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I am writing to give my full support to the introduction of the PSPO In Molesey and Thames Ditton. In my opinion the riverbank has been blighted for far too long by these illegal moorings. It is ridiculous that it has taken so long for anything to be done to tackle this issue.</p>
28/12/23			<p>The boats moored and either lived in or abandoned along the south bank of the river between Hampton Court and Weybridge really had become an eye sore.</p> <p>I do appreciate that people need somewhere to live but in my opinion, occupying the riverbank in this fashion is selfish, unhealthy and detrimental to the area and its level of amenity. I have witnessed an occupant openly urinating in the river in daylight which is clearly unacceptable. Who knows what the sanitary arrangements for this 'community are'?</p> <p>Access to the riverbank is now restricted for the general public and it seems as the years go by the situation is getting worse. In short, I am in favour of measures that would lead to the removal of these craft.</p>
28/12/23			<p>I feel very strongly against the boats and support any action to get rid of them. They are a blight on the landscape and make me feel ashamed when I walk past them. Until very recently I have owned a boat. I love the river and don't understand how they have been allowed to be there so long blotting our beautiful landscape.</p>
28/12/23			<p>To whom it may concern at EBC/SCC</p> <p>I strongly support the imposition of PSPOs in respect of unauthorised overstaying boats in this area of the River Thames.</p>

28/12/23			<p>I am writing to you about EBC's consultation on the use of PSPO's to assist in removing unauthorised overstaying boats from EBC/SCC owned riverbank land on the Thames in Elmbridge.</p> <p>The increasing number of unsightly boats mooring on the Hurst Park is ruining the open space of Hurst Park as a recreational amenity for all and restricting access to the river for the public to enjoy a variety of water based activities, swimming ( for humans and dogs), paddle boarding, inflatables etc. The owners of the craft are generally single males alone or in groups with dogs who have attacked other dogs and people. Some boats have piles of wood and other possessions across the riverbank. The Hurst Park and river bank has been a source of pleasurable outdoor activities for my family since 1986, providing physical and mental health benefits. We now avoid going there because the deterioration of the area is depressing and reduces our mental health.</p> <p>I would like to see these boats removed .</p>
28/12/23			<p>It is evident that open public spaces are being incorrectly used and lost as an amenity for the community.</p> <p>I would suggest that that an Open Public Spaces Order should not only prevent unauthorised boat mooring, which presumably local residents have objected to, but also include the banning of Unauthorised and illegal encampment</p> <p>Fly tipping</p> <p>Disposal of land by the council for profit</p> <p>Change of use even for public functions such as schools, waterworks, extraction.</p> <p>Cannot be used in contracts with third parties whereby the third party benefits in exchange for 'at their cost improvements' including social housing.</p> <p>Not only do the sites listed need to be permanently protected from being anything other than open public spaces but there are others that create the character of Walton and stop it being an urban desert</p>
28/12/23			<p>I fully support the PSPO to ensure that all illegal boats moored up on the Thames.</p>

28/12/23

as per the flyer that has been passed around social media  
In My opinion, I firmly believe the land should become protected  
I have seen your own document  
<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/environment/unauthorised-moorings/updates-unauthorised-moorings>  
Updates on unauthorised moorings | Elmbridge Borough Council  
Find updates on unauthorised moorings in Elmbridge.  
[www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk)  
maybe everything is well in hand. Thanks for all you are doing  
But to give my support Ill carry on;  
I have moved away from Elmbridge recently, having lived there for around the past 30 years.  
I do though still have a boat on a paid mooring nearby the river squatters on the Sunbury reach.  
The EA and the council have already lost control along the river bank, I think its a duty to reclaim it for the residents of the local area.  
As a boater the squatted river bank means reduced casual mooring for legitimate pleasure trips.  
As a pedestrian it means the banks and footpaths have been stolen with the fencing and signage apparently unopposed by the authorities.  
talking to locals there is a feeling these landgrabbers have somehow got one over on the council and that its all legal. Magna Carta and all that.  
I can understand how they cannot be simply shoved off. and that legal costs will impact council budgets.  
I am watching this case as many others. On the day they get permission to stay ill move from the £3000 per year mooring in Walton marina and stake my own claim assuming I can wriggle in among a few thousand others poised to do the same.  
I think you have no choice.

29/12/023

I should like to raise comment on the two above points:

**Tow Path infringements**

Along the stretch of TP between Hampton Court Bridge and Shepperton Ferry there has over the last few years, been major encroachments along this stretch of river. Flats and houses that back onto the TP have reclaimed common land by erecting fencing, hedging and by using other forms of soft landscaping and thus claiming this land as their own. Some long term moorings along the length of the TP particularly between the Resivour and the Thames have erected similar fencing between the TP and rivers edge, thus also removing common land from public use. I assume that this 'land grab' has not been sanctioned by the LA. All this land should be reclaimed by the LA and all such errections should be removed.

**Boat Moorings**

Over a similar time period there has been a major increase in long term permanent moorings along sections of this stretch of the Thames that has had a significant adverse effect on trees & bushes used for fuel. Many of these moorings are damaging the bank and in some cases have caused erosion to the physical structure of the banks.

Many boats are unregistered or unlicensed as evidenced by recent individual Thames Authority Warning Notifications. However, this stretch of the Thames is exceptionally poorly monitored by both the TWA and the LA, which has led to the current 'out of control' situation.

Monitoring and enforcement should be significantly improved.

**Open Spaces**

We are exceptionally fortunate in that along the Surrey side of the stretch of the Thames between Hampton Court Bridge and Shepperton Ferry there are a large number of open spaces, public Parks, Leisure, Recreation and dedicated specialist Sport facilities, not forgetting of course the National Trail of the Thames Path route.

It is critical in this day and age that these open spaces and their associated facilities are both preserved and protected from any development that removes or alters their function.

29/12/23

Dear Team,  
I would fully support a PSPO being issued by Elmbridge Council to restrict illegal mooring at the aforementioned site. My reasons are as follows.  
My Background: I am a longstanding resident of West Molesey and have, and continue to use and enjoy this stretch of riverside over many decades. I am a retired local government officer (qualified environmental health officer) with broad base local authority experience. I have seen a degradation of our Thames riverside environment due to illegal mooring pre-Covid, with things having escalated post-Covid.  
Observation and Facts:  
a. Illegal boat mooring is a live and festering issue for at least 6 years for Elmbridge Council. I assume you have fully interrogated your complaints database eg involving Parks and Countryside, Environmental Health and Environmental Services etc. and analysed the results. You could publish this information if you have not yet done so. I know there are a significant number of complaints, many of which have never been resolved - to the detriment of the complainants. There have been unsuccessful attempts to partner with other agencies - all of which ultimately fail. The Environment Agency now has no teeth as a result of deliberate Government cutbacks to nullify its effectiveness. I also have grave reservations about the resourcing, ability and commitment of Elmbridge Council officers to actually undertake any enforcement action should the PSPO be approved. If you invoke a PSPO, most people will expect you to rigorously enforce it.  
b. Even with enquiries from the likes of Dominic Raab, Surrey County Council and certain well-intentioned local Councillors etc, the overall story is one of failure- particularly of leadership and resolve to get to the heart of the issues and explore all possibilities eg with existing legislation that could potentially be applied. I understand that houseboats et al fall outside of most housing legislation but provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, public safety and public health legislation could be invoked for certain complaints eg noise from generators, burning and polluting smoke, illegal and polluting waste disposal, storage of LPG and engine oils and flammability issues. The EA has no commitment to dedicating appropriate resources to resolving this issue- for reasons

29/12/23			<p>I am a Hurst Park resident and would like to register my support for the proposed PSPO to restrict overnight moorings, camping, fishing bonfires etc.</p> <p>The matter of moorings is in my opinion more pressing. The riverbank along Hurst Park has become festooned with boats being used for residential purposes; some owned, others rented as a business concern. The residents of these boats have commenced a land grab that has sprawled across the river bank. Land has been fenced off, depriving local residents of its use. There are regular complaints about aggressive behaviour from the squatters. The riverbank has been filled with private property such as outdoor furniture, bbqs, canoes, solar panels and other detritus and sprawl. The area has become an eyesore Further afield, the boat dwellers have parked their vehicles throughout Hurst Park, depriving residents of their spaces. There are multiple vans in Ferry Road, some of which are being regularly slept in. Several of the boat residents have dogs which have become territorial in the vicinity of the boats and can be aggressive towards towpath users, especially 'legitimate ' dogwalkers. Further to this many of these dogs are fouling the public areas and front gardens with their excrement. I and many other residents would love to see these people moved on or managed in such a way that they no longer spoil the neighbourhood for other residents.</p> <p>The subject of overnight camping and fishing is far more simple. Many of the campers/ anglers respect the locality however this is a case where the minority that do not, are having inexcusable detrimental impact. The bushes and riverbank can be littered with human excrement, fish entrails and campsite litter.</p> <p>Irresponsible campfires, disposable bbqs scar the grass and vegetation which is not quick to recover.</p>
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29/12/23

I am writing in respect of the proposed application in respect of the unauthorised moorings along the Surrey stretch of the River Thames.

As a local resident and daily dog walker along this stretch of the river, it has been very disheartening witnessing the demise of these areas over recent years with the significant increase in unsightly unauthorised boats mooring up.

The increasing volume of boats arriving and mooring along this stretch is creating a very unsightly view as they are all in a state of disrepair, often piled high with rubbish along with the creation of excess rubbish and unwanted items across the adjoining riverbank area.

The owners of these boats have no regard for the area, the area surrounding the boats is often littered with rubbish, food cartons and takeaway rubbish. All the nearby public bins are overflowing with rubbish, which is then worsened as foxes and dogs attach the rubbish spreading it further afield.

In addition the residents on these boats are quite unsavoury. As a female I often feel unsafe walking along this stretch of the river. The residents are often drinking alcohol and smoking drugs at all times of the day. The majority are young men who are often in groups together - it feels quite intimidating to walk past them. There is one boat in particular where the man appears very unstable. He regularly shouts and is abusive to passersby for no apparent reason. I have witnessed him knock a gentleman off his bike for no reason in the past. In addition he has a very aggressive dog that he is unable to control or let off the lead - when he is out this can feel very intimidating.

It is very disheartening to witness the total disregard for our lovely open space. The riverbank should be an area all the local community should all be able to enjoy.

I strongly believe additional powers should be granted to the local council to be able to enforce greater restriction and move on the unauthorised moorings.

29/12/23			<p>I am writing to you about EBC's consultation on the use of PSPO's to assist in removing unauthorised overstayng boats from EBC/SCC owned riverbank land on the Thames in Elmbridge.</p> <p>The increasing number of unsightly boats mooring on the Hurst Park is ruining the open space of Hurst Park as a recreational amenity for all and restricting access to the river for the public to enjoy a variety of water based activities, swimming ( for humans and dogs), paddle boarding, inflatables etc. The owners of the craft are generally single males alone or in groups with dogs who have attacked other dogs and people. Some boats have piles of wood and other possessions across the riverbank. The Hurst Park and river bank has been a source of pleasurable outdoor activities for my family since 1986, providing physical and mental health benefits. We now avoid going there because the deterioration of the area is depressing and reduces our mental health.</p> <p>I would like to see these boats removed .</p>
29/12/23			<p>I fully support the introduction of the proposed PSPO to protect the Thames riverside.</p> <p>I agree with the Elmbridge Borough Council analysis of the situation and the detail of the PSPO.</p> <p>Public access to the river has been severely diminished by the occupation of the river and riverbank by an increasing number of boats In many places the riverbank is covered by the boaters' possessions.</p> <p>Residents' quality of life has been severely impacted by many factors associated with unauthorised mooring including parking, noise from generators and rubbish</p> <p>It is essential that the Environment Agency introduce a similar PSPO in respect of the riverbank to which they have title.</p>

29/12/23

I just wanted to send an email in support of the PSPO against unauthorised moorings. I only recently moved to Surrey and subsequently Hurst Park, but I am shocked at how many unauthorised moorings there are along the river Thames. Not only has the number increases significantly in the four months I have lived here, but the amount of rubbish and destruction of the river bank has also been very sad to see.

I also feel quite intimidated by some of the residents of the moorings who seem to think that they have a right to the riverbank and as such don't appear to like walkers and dogs going past their homes. I also feel sorry for the nearby residents who must have to listen to the consistent sounds of petrol generators going off all day and night. I appreciate everyone has rights but those of the general public and nearby residents don't seem to apply.

As for the almost consistent smell of cannabis.....

I just don't understand why there is a need for a constant congregation of these boats in the same location and all together. Surely boats are specifically made to travel up or down a river not to be consistently tethered to a river bank whilst being used as some form of a floating scrap yard. Given the vast distance of the River Thames surely there are other places these boats could moor as opposed to opposite people's houses and directly in the sight of a public park.

Hopefully by the summer 2024 the park can be enjoyed by the many and not used as a scrap yard by the few.

04/01/24

29/12/23		<p>I wish to register my strong support for the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>As a resident of Molesey for 40 years and living very close to the riverside I have witnessed the bankside deterioration due to illegally moored boats around Hurst Park for the last 6 years. I would like to make a number of comments as to why I support this proposal.</p> <p>Because of my background I will focus on environmental issues as these are now of paramount importance.</p> <p>As a trained biologist who formerly worked for Thames Water in Pollution Control during the early 1980s I regularly monitored rivers and waterways in the Thames catchment for pollutants and the resulting impact on the river flora and fauna.</p> <p>My latter career has been as a senior lecturer and researcher at the University of Westminster (30 years) specialising in Aquatic ecology and environmental and sustainability issues.</p> <p>Illegally moored boats are damaging the habitat in a number of ways leading to a decrease in Biodiversity.</p> <p>I have actually witnessed trees being damaged and large branches cut off simply because they were in close proximity to boats. There is also damage and destruction to bank vegetation linked to boat owners clearing spaces on the banks for their own activities and due to trampling. The river banks are an integral part of the river ecosystem and support other organisms including numerous insects (emerging from water larvae), waterfowl, terrestrial birds, juvenile fish and small mammals. The physical presence of illegally moored boats occupies potential spaces for wildlife.</p> <p>Some illegally moored boat owners/tenants have even taken to 'land grabs' erecting fences on the bank.</p> <p>Pollutants are entering the water as a result of illegal disposal of human and other waste . Not only will there be the contamination of water by faecal bacteria in elevated numbers with the associated potential for dangerous pathogens but there will also be other hazardous waste reaching the water</p>
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Stakeholder feedback

13/12/23	RUG8		<p>On behalf (and authorised by my colleagues)of River Users Group 8 I am able to fully endorse Elmbridge BC's wish to bring in the much needed riverside PSPO.</p> <p>As is now plainly visible the unauthorised moorings bring further issues such as antisocial behaviour,litter and similar problems causing detrimentally the " riverside experience" to Elmbridge residents.</p> <p>Unless things are sorted it is likely that Turks &amp; other river operators will not be able to operate ferry services during the Flower Show in July 2024 a significant blow to the local river economy.</p>
	1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scout		<p>We are fully supportive of the broad proposals and welcome the support for the activities we provide to support Scout activities. The current situation is that the landing is used by Scouts and anyone else launching and retrieving boats, normally for short periods of time - 10-15 minutes, or so. This works based on common sense discussions we have with anyone who is moored on the landing. We would be delighted to work with yourselves in the future to improve the area for the benefit of all</p>
27/12/23	MRAG		<p>In March 2013 there were almost no unauthorised overstaying boats moored on the Thames in Elmbridge. In Nov 2022, according to the Environment Agency (EA), there were 115 unauthorised overstaying boats. The number now is likely to be even greater. There is therefore an urgent need for action by the authorities (EA and EBC in particular).</p> <p>I therefore support the introduction of the PSPO to which this Consultation refers in order to assist EBC in removing unauthorised overstaying boats from the Thames in Elmbridge.</p>

28/12/23	Friends of Hurst Park		<p>The images say it all. Hundreds of us would support something, anything, to improve the dire situation on our River Thames between Hurst Park and Sunbury Lock. Not only the impact on land, litter, anti-social behaviour, denial of access to public spaces along the waterway, fear of entering areas that should rightfully be ours but claimed and defended with aggression, etc., etc., but also the unlawful occupation of miles along the water's edge, blocking navigation. A navigable river is nothing without mooring and with all these boats – rotting or resided in - legitimate river users cannot quietly enjoy the Thames to stop over, moor up, spend time in a safe or pleasant environment as they travel by water – a right dating back hundreds of years! One of the main reasons these boat owners stick is because they claim rights to our public land. With that denied them, or made more difficult, they might move on - we would hope. Certainly, it would secure our lawful rights in perpetuity to our public riverside spaces along the Thames Path National Trail. I have grave fears they could be lost.</p> <p>Good luck with getting the PSPOs working very soon</p>
20/12/23	Surrey County Council		<p>Surrey County Council is very supportive of this application as it could potentially solve similar problems experienced on our moorings at Hampton Court Bridge where all other methods have failed to make an impact on boat owners deliberately breaching land owner rules for personal gain.</p>
28/12/23	Hurst Park Residents Association		<p>I am writing on behalf of Hurst Park Residents Association (HPRA).</p> <p>As previously stated, HPRA are in favour of the introduction of the PSPO in Elmbridge. We hope that its introduction will give the brough the authority to deal with overstay boats along the river on Elmbridge owned land and add additional pressure to the Environment Agency to do the same on their land.</p> <p>Kind regards Chair HPRA</p>