



For attention of Kathryn Moran, Senior Planning Officer.

Dear Kathryn,

Please add the following to your records. This is a copy of an e-mail that I sent to the applicant's representatives on 11th August.

Regards,

Ian Shacklock

Dear Duncan and colleagues,

Following our conversation at the public exhibition on Saturday 11th July I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Regent's Canal to comment on the refurbishment proposals.

Our main area of interest is the future of the Dead Dogs Basin. This is a unique, covered basin in the heart of central London that has great potential for supporting transfer of waste and other materials between the market and the inland waterways network. It has the major advantage of being located above the uppermost lock of the Regent's Canal and it serves a 26-mile, lock-free stretch of waterway. This stretch includes interchanges with the road network at Greenford (A40) and Bulls Bridge (M4, junction 3) and it also serves the Powerday recycling facility at Old Oak Sidings.

We appreciate that this basin has been neglected for a number of years but this does not mean that it cannot be revived in the future. There is growing pressure from government departments, backed up by public opinion, to make better use of rail and waterways for transfer of bulky materials and to take the strain off the roads. This is a particularly sensitive issue in Camden and a revival of a purpose-built facility such as Dead Dogs Basin will win a lot of public support.

Many of us feel that if this basin can be put back into practical use then it will attract tourist attention and will boost public relations for any developers involved. By contrast, if this basin's capacity were to be reduced through the introduction of an overhanging restaurant extension, then this would represent yet another wasted opportunity on our waterway network.

Please pass these comments on to your clients and please note that I have merely supplied a couple of examples of how the basin could be put to use. There are various other options, such as using the basin as an all-weather facility for painting and maintaining narrowboats, and these uses might very well supplement the major function of this basin as a valuable interchange.

Best wishes,  
Ian Shacklock.  
Chair, Friends of Regent's Canal

