

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2016/1250/P	Kathryn Whitfield	26 Legion Close Islington London N1 1PJ	28/04/2016 23:13:51	OBJ	<p>I work in Kings Cross and I have previously lived on a narrowboat on a touring licence, having moored in the area on various occasions. I would like to object to this application. Recent development in the kings cross area around granary square has meant that many of the previous existing mooring spaces have already been lost. If you grant a permanent mooring space to a private business - we are not talking about a charity here - not only would you be further reducing capacity for those with touring licences, but also opening the floodgates to any "business" narrowboat – and there are many – to apply for permanent moorings in the same location, thus reducing the touring licence mooring capacity of kings cross/central london. How will these business moorings compete with their land counterparts - and in particular fledging enterprises such as the kerb market stalls. Will future stallholders find they need to seek permanent moorings rather than operate from their vans? Furthermore I don't believe this business is unique or adds anything to the area - there are several bookstall boats that seem content to move on each week or so and there are local bookshops and often discount book sales in kings place. This business previously did move on – as it states in its design statement. Why has it chosen Kings cross as a permanent mooring spot? Obviously kings cross is now one of the most lucrative canal spots in london. But should that result in the council adopting a policy that would result in a form of social cleansing – preventing people on touring licences (many of whom are disadvantaged) from mooring in central london? This book barge is not inclusive - they obviously don't have disabled access – and is not a free service, so why is being considered to get preferential treatment? There is a free and very good library within walking distance of the barge. I would hope that camden council would promote its own facilities first rather than give away a permanent mooring – a sought-after address – to one narrowboat rather than giving the freedom of movement to many narrowboats and preserving the proud tradition of the canal and its freedom of movement. If this application is not about preferential treatment for one narrowboat, I cannot see how camden council will not be inundated with applications from "business" narrowboats seeking permanent moorings in one of the most expensive addresses in London. I urge the council to reject the commercialisation of the canal. There is nothing to prevent the book barge from plying its trade up and down the canal, but a permanent "business" mooring – and the many more to follow – would prevent in future many hundreds of narrowboats from enjoying the freedom of "touring" the canals. There are already many permanent moorings for the book barge to vie for in London.</p>

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