



Planning Department,
Camden Council.

Dear Matthias,

I am writing to express my concerns about planning application 2018/1968/P (floating classroom on Regent's Canal).

This is a controversial application because the mooring space in question is on the wrong side of the canal for private use.

To mitigate against any accusations of exclusivity and risks of setting precedents I urge the council to impose special conditions in the event that permission is granted.

First, there should be a time limit for this arrangement. It should be for a trial period, say three to five years, while the impact on other schools and the wider boating community is assessed. When the current head teacher moves on there might be a drop in enthusiasm for this type of project so it must not be indefinite.

There is a risk that other waterside schools and organisations throughout the UK will want to copy this idea. This would put extra strain on the sought after towpaths and will alienate boaters whose licences allow them to moor on the towpath.

There is a risk that this floating resource could undermine the services offered by the nearby Pirate Castle, which offers water-based experiences to youths in Camden. I would like an assurance that the classroom will complement and collaborate with the Pirate Castle rather than compete with it.

I recommend that the classroom should be open to the public on certain occasions, for example Open London weekends. If the school wants to occupy public territory then it must be prepared to open up to the public whenever appropriate.

There should be a restriction on the number of hours per week when the facility will be hired out for private functions. To avoid inequality between this and other schools it would be prudent to welcome peer groups during downtime periods rather than use it purely as a money making machine. Otherwise the school could be accused of abusing its privileged location.

Please note that I am not opposed to any project that helps to engage school children with the canal, but I do want to alert you to the highly sensitive nature of this application. If this is not handled delicately then it will put a lot of people's noses out of joint and this will become a very high profile planning case study.

Regards,

