

Analysis on ‘Public Space Protection for Moorings’ Survey

Compiled 1st October 2019

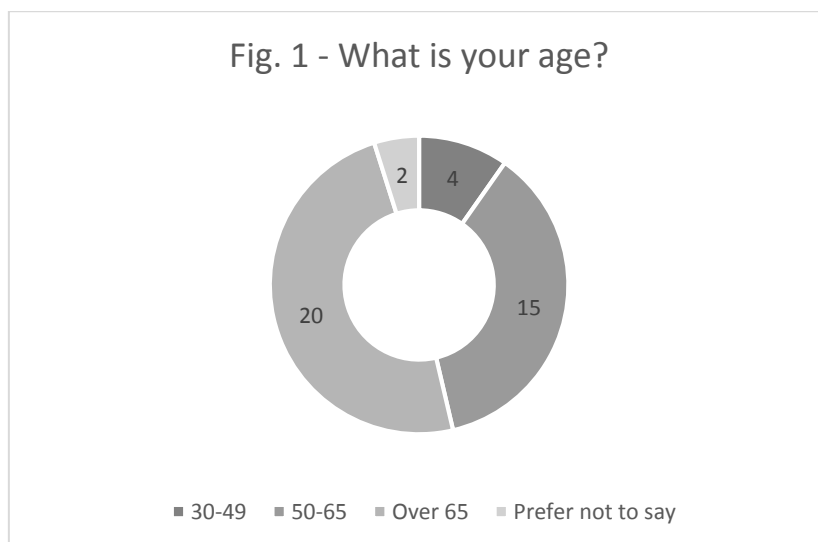
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1 - Demographics of Survey Group

A total of 53 responses were collected during the survey period.

The age of respondents was primarily over 50, with 20 respondents over the age of 65 (Fig. 1).

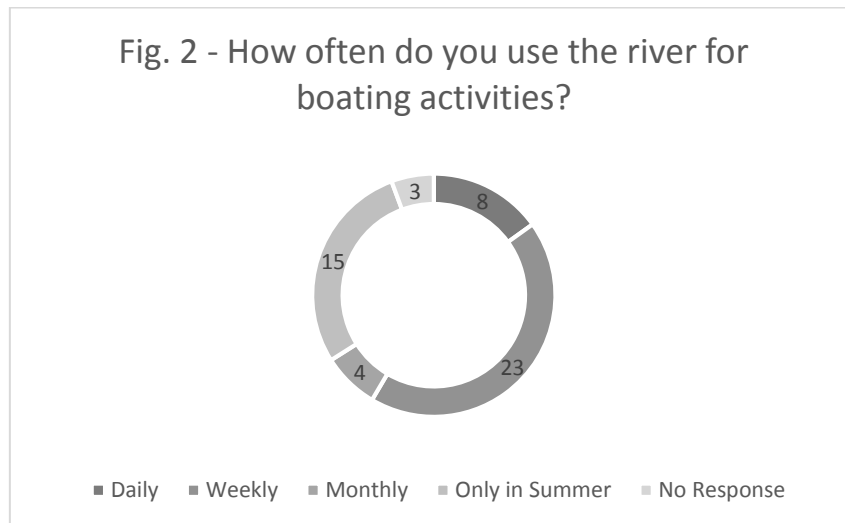


Over half of those surveyed (31 respondents) use the river for boating activities every week or more often. A considerable number (15 respondents) only use the river in the summer (Fig. 2).

Most respondents (32) are resident within Spelthorne. Of the 18 who responded as living elsewhere, 10 live in Elmbridge.

3 respondents work in Spelthorne and 48 do not.

Almost all of the respondents (52) live on land. The one other respondent gave no answer to this question.



9 responses were received on behalf of organisations, namely:

- 1st Cuddington Sea Scouts
- Nauticalia Ltd
- Reclaim Our Riverbank 2
- Staines Town Society
- Thames Motor Yacht Club
- Thames Scout Cruising Club
- The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, Thames Fleet
- Walton Rowing Club
- Staines Boat Club

2 – Response Analysis

Question 1 – Do you have any comments about the Anti-Social Behaviour issues identified in the Council’s July 2019 report?

There were several (8) comments that praised or agreed with the report itself. One respondent described it as ‘well researched and constructive’, another said it was ‘comprehensive’.

At this early stage of the survey, respondents already expressed several issues with both anti-social behaviour and illegal mooring and abandonment of vessels. 12 respondents expressed some problem with anti-social behaviour and 20 respondents raised concerns about illegal mooring and abandonment.

Question 2 – Do you agree that the behaviours identified in the report should be subject to further enforcement?

52 respondents agreed with this question. The one respondent who did not agree suggested that ‘those of us fortunate enough to live on, near, or beside the river should be more tolerant’.

Question 4 – Do you have any further comments on the scope of a proposed PSPO?

Responses here were varied with some common themes.

- 11 respondents stressed that, if brought in, it is vital that the PSPO is enforced consistently.
- 2 respondents remarked that a combined effort with other local authorities is required to prevent unwanted boats being handed to or from other areas.
- 2 respondents suggested that a focus on ensuring that boats are correctly licensed and insured would be helpful, specifically in the case of those being used for overnight accommodation.

Question 5 – If you think that some other method of enforcement is desirable, please say why below.

Some common themes were present.

- 5 respondents called for stricter enforcement of the rules.
- 5 respondents suggested a managed or controlled mooring system, wherein moorings must be paid for on a nightly basis.
 - One respondent referred to the successful adoption of such a scheme in Windsor, Cookham, Marlow, Henley, and Abingdon.
- 3 respondents expressed concern that the Environment Agency were currently failing in their role and should be called upon to enforce current rules more actively.

Question 17 – Have you ever been affected by illegal mooring in the area of the Thames that runs through Spelthorne?

41 respondents said that they have been affected by illegal mooring in the area of the Thames that runs through Spelthorne, representing over three quarters of the total group surveyed.

Question 18 – If you answered ‘yes’ to this question, how frequently have you been affected?

16 respondents are affected daily, 11 weekly, 9 monthly and 5 more frequently.

Question 19 – If you were affected, please explain in the space where this happened and how this affected you?

Various concerns were raised here.

- 13 respondents mentioned anti-social behaviour including, but not limited to, violence, foul language, public urination, drunken behaviour, theft, drug taking, loud music, and littering on towpaths.
- 12 respondents are concerned about the lack of mooring spaces available for legitimate vessels, particularly at some ‘short-stay’ moorings which are occupied for long periods of time.
- 10 respondents are concerned about the unsightly nature of some vessels.
- 6 respondents raised issues with pollution of the River Thames, both from rubbish thrown overboard and sewage allowed to run into the river.
- 2 respondents worry that the number of illegally moored vessels on some stretches of the river leads to unsafe navigation for all river users.

Question 21 - Do you think that this proposal will affect you differently because of your personal characteristics as set out below?

One respondent suggested they were affected differently on account of their sex, as ‘The horrible use of language offends my female ears’. There were concerns raised elsewhere in the survey from other respondents about the particular focus of drunken behaviour and abuse seeming to be towards women, however these respondents did not note those concerns here.

Another respondent noted that, on account of their age, they feel threatened by the presence of illegal moorings on the riverside.