



Castlemill Boatyard—what's going on?

Unless you've been away cruising all summer, you will know that the planning process for Castlemill is well underway. Since the last issue of JCB News, Spring developments have submitted their planning application to build on the site, and hundreds of people, including local residents and boaters have written objections to the application.

JCB are disturbed that Spring persistently imply that 'replacement boatyard facilities' are already in place in Oxford, despite the fact that their own boatyard consultant writes that 'significant investment is needed to provide proper facilities'. (See page 2).

Red Herring Wharf

The application does include a wharf area for working on boats. However, this small area

alone cannot serve boaters' needs and is strongly objected to by Worcester College whose property directly abuts the site.

The provision of boatyard facilities is a key requirement for planning permission to be granted on the Castlemill site—and councillors who will be voting on the planning application in October need reminding of this.

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August—a boat in trouble on the Thames. Mike Adams interprets JCB concerns about navigating rivers to reach boatyards as unwillingness to 'disrupt social life'. But JCB insist that even for an experienced boater the Thames can be a danger. Photo: A. Arbib

Time to renew your membership— three good reasons to support JCBLtd

1. **We need** you to come and vote for new Directors at the JCB AGM on October 15th. (See back page)
2. **We need** your £5 subscription fees. The Directors

work for free but the lawyers don't! We have been careful with your money but we anticipate things may get expensive as we enter the murky realm of planning.

3. **We need** to demonstrate that JCBLtd has the continuing support of our community.
Fill in the form on the back page—thank you!

Call for volunteers!

Please consider standing as a Director of JCBLtd. There is room for 9 people on the Board, and there is plenty of work ahead!

Turn to the back page for more details.

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Dirty Houses

PPS, the PR company for Spring, sent a planning department fictitious letters of support for a recent development, alleges a recent Channel4 documentary, "Dispatches".
In the case of Castlemill, the 400 or so letters received by the planning dept are almost all objections, so we can be sure that PPS are not using this tactic here!!

The Planning Application

A brief look at Spring's application and the responses submitted by JCBLtd

What's the plan for Castlemill?

Spring says: "The full planning application seeks planning consent for a residential development comprising 54 dwellings in total, including 18 affordable units; a public square; and a footbridge to the canal towpath."

What about a boatyard?

JCB says: "No mention is made of boat repair facilities or working berth in the list of what comprises the application...this is consistently omitted throughout the document. Why, when this is key to the failure of the previous Bellway Homes application?"

So is there anything for boaters?

Spring says: "Spring has incorporated a working berth within the proposal to complement the existing replacement facilities..."

Replacement facilities?? Where?

Spring says: "The previous boatyard facilities have been relocated to an accessible and convenient location on the Oxford Canal at King's Bridge, near Yarnton."

JCB says: "The evidence that the proposed replacement site is not suitable is contained in Spring's own documentation".

For example? What did the Boatyard Consultant employed by Spring say about Yarnton?

"The existing facilities ... are basic and significant investment is needed to provide proper facilities". Adams Hendry, *Statement on provision of Boatyard Facilities* para 6.14

And what do Alchemy themselves say?

Alchemy say: "We are by no means a replacement of the facilities lost at Castle Mill Boatyard," and "we can in no way be named as a replacement facility".

So, does Spring plan to invest in Yarnton to ensure boaters' needs are met?

Spring say: " [silence]"

JCBLtd strongly believe that planning on the Castlemill site must not go ahead until boat repair facilities are firmly in place.

Quotes are taken from documents relating to the application. View them at www.oxford.gov.uk or by following the links at www.jcby.co.uk. JCB has paper copies of various documents which you are welcome to borrow. As you know, aside from boating facilities, there are many, many issues to look at regarding this planning application. The Jericho Community Centre is a good info point.

Contact a Councillor

Email councillors who will be voting on the planning application:

Colin Cook—cllrccook@oxfordgov.uk; Sushila Dhall—cllrsdhall@oxfordgov.uk;

Richard Huzzey—cllrrhuzzey@oxfordgov.uk; Bob Price—cllrbprice@oxfordgov.uk

Paul Sargent—cllrpsargent@oxfordgov.uk; Susanna Pressel—cllrspressel@oxfordgov.uk;

Matt Sellwood—cllrmsellwood@oxfordgov.uk; Oscar Van Nooijen—cllrovannooijen@oxfordgov.uk

Or write to them via the Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BX

History update

Many members will be aware that a detailed history of the Jericho boatyard appears in *A Towpath Walk in Oxford* co-written by JCB Director Mark Davies.

Recently Mark has uncovered some additional information, revealing a fundamental link between the Jericho yard and an important boatbuilding firm which operated near

Walton Well Road from at least 1827. It strengthens the heritage argument that a yard should be retained in Jericho for reasons of tradition.

An individual called Henry Ward is the key. He set up the boatbuilding business (later subsumed by Lucy's Foundry), and also owned the wharf which we have come to know

recently as Castlemill Boatyard. Ward had a wider importance too, providing a floating chapel for boatmen and their families near Hythe Bridge, and running

another long - established business at the canal terminal nearby.

More to follow as Mark's research continues ...

JCB Director Adrian Arbib has made a short film from a recent visit to Hebden Bridge and Sowerby Bridge. The film which shows examples of useful canalside builds, can be viewed at www.jcby.co.uk or contact JCB to borrow a DVD. *Get in touch if you know of other positive examples of canalside developments.*

Community rallies round evicted boater

Anyone following the plight of 'eccentric' boater Pierre Davies, will be interested to know that he is back on the canal.

On the same day as Pierre's boat was towed away by BW, his friends negotiated in court a deal where he would retain his mooring.

Through the generosity

of the local community a boat has been found and paid for which meets BW's safety standards.

The boat - appropriately named 'Lewis Carrol' - as yet has no gas, electricity or shower and needs a good scrub. Anyone willing to lend a hand in making the boat more habitable for Pierre would be very welcome. If you think

you can help please get in touch with Bruce Heagerty on 07840562782.

Any donations will be gladly received in the 'Friends of Pierre Davies' Lloyds account (309635 3230523) or can be handed to Geri Reilly, Nicola Hilton or Natalie Butt. Long live the King of the Canal! Just take the blue pill...

Spot the difference

June: Spring tell JCB they plan to charge 'peppercorn rent' on the wharf.

July: Spring tell JCB they plan to charge 'market rent' on the wharf.

*We'd like to thank the following for their generous donations to the JCB stall at the Jericho Street Fair: **Adrian Arbib; the Anchor Inn; the Bookbinders; G and D ice cream; Oxford Towpath Press; Phoenix Cinema; Philip Pullman; Summertown Wine Café.** Thanks also to everyone who helped on the stall and to **Mike Bingham** for his treasure map.*

No doubt 2008 will see another successful Street Fair in Jericho. Wouldn't it be great if the Canal Festival could be revived too?



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A year has passed since our incorporation as a company. Thus, a General Meeting is due and this will be held on

MONDAY OCTOBER 15th at 7:00pm at OXFORD TOWN HALL.

You are encouraged to attend, catch up on progress, air your views and cast your vote to elect the Board of Directors for the next twelve months.

Some members of the existing board wish to resign while the rest are willing (thank goodness) to continue serving their community. We earnestly hope that you are happy to re-elect the latter and that others from among the membership will step forward to fill the vacancies. **If you think you have the time, energy and commitment to get on board then you have until the end of September to let us know.**

To keep this formal, if you wish to join the Board then besides the blood and toil, you will need two individuals from among the membership to propose and to second your candidacy. The present Board is nine persons strong and if the number of proposed Board members is larger than this, an election will be held along the lines of the one a year ago. Please send your proposal to stand, including the names of your two sponsors to the Registered Office or email to info@jcby.co.uk.

Apart from the few who joined recently, your annual subscription needs renewing. Hopefully you wish to remain a member and are prepared to renew your £5 sub which you can do by mail using the form below. Whether you are renewing your subs or joining for the first time, *all members* are invited to attend and vote at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you in October.

Rob Valentine, Company Secretary

Current Directors:
Adrian Arbib, Mark Davies, Helen Fraser, Ant Goodall, Bruce Heagerty, John Keyes, Matthew Morton, Esther Pozzani
Company Secretary:
Rob Valentine

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Jericho Community Boatyard Ltd Membership and Membership Renewal Form

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I am able to help with the following:

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Membership costs £5 per JCB year. Cheques should be made out to Jericho Community Boatyard Ltd and sent together with this form to Memberships, JCBLtd Northway Workshops, Dora Carr Close, Oxford OX3 9RG