



Policy on Observers to the Conservators of the River Cam 20.10.22

The Conservators would like to improve our outreach and communication to, and from, our 'stakeholder groups'. These are those that have an interest in, or use of, the river, including in great numbers those that pay license fees in one form or another. Currently we welcome 7 Observers from these groups and the public to attend quarterly meetings of Conservators, and 3 of those 7 to attend additional quarterly Regulatory Committee meetings. These Observers are 'appointed' at the January board meeting and receive the Agenda and Board papers prior to meetings.

Usually, appointees have expressed their interest at the January board meetings and have been appointed. This has led sometimes to an unbalanced level of representation. Often, larger groups such as punting and town rowing are well represented, but other groups such as residential boat owners, college rowing, GOBA, etc. do not put forward an observer and so are not. Therefore, we have little opportunity for an exchange of information. This has limited our outreach to these stakeholder groups and prevented us from hearing their voice at important discussions that may affect them, as well as reducing information sharing from us.

This can be particularly useful in helping information about the Conservancy, its processes, workings, and structure, to be more widely shared and understood.

To help achieve this, we would like to invite applications in advance, closing date 20.12.22, with a short bio of related interests, from as many of our stakeholder groups as is possible this year. We aim to achieve more effective two-way communication through these channels with the Observers forming an ambassador role between the Conservancy and their stakeholder groups.

The groups include but are not limited to:

CRA

CUCBC

Sailing Club

Canoeists

Commercial Punts

Residential boaters

Other commercial reps – e.g. river cruisers

GOBA

Fishing Society

Cam Valley Forum

These 7 individuals would commit to attending Quarterly Board Meetings, 3 to Regulatory Committee meetings and to be willing to engage with ad hoc consultation. When issues pertaining to a particular group may appear on the Regulatory Committee Agenda, we would then invite those Observers representing that group.

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