

From Mr Alan Norris

Has the BCA considered getting the Canal Centre campsite listed in guidebooks and on national websites, etc. to attract additional use of the site? For example the Camping and Caravanning Club, the largest club of its type in the UK, publishes a bi-annual Sites Book for their members listing not only their own campsites, but over 2,500 other campsites around the country. The list of campsites is also available to members on the Camping and Caravanning Club website There are no other sites listed in their Sites Book within the west Surrey / NE Hampshire area. The next edition is expected to be published in early 2015.

Response:

The canal centre campsite is already listed on a number of national web sites to name just a few of these; UKCampsite.co.uk; pitchup.com; campsite chatter; uk-sites.com; findacampsite.co.uk; outandaboutlive.co.uk; campsitefinderonline.com.

The most effective of these is UKCampsite.co.uk and this website is actively updated by the BCA.

With regards to guides the site has an entry in 'Cool Camping –England' (third edition 2011) which is all about campsites that are 'special places to stay'.

This level of advertising, along with 'word of mouth' recommendations, means that the campsite is already at capacity during weekends and school holidays during the main camping season.

To be able to attract additional use of the site the capacity of the facilities (toilets and showers) need to be increased as it is these that limit numbers that can camp on site - not the size of the camping field.

Keith Chapman

Chairman, Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

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