

QUESTION submitted by Julia Jacs to the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee
22 November 2018:

I am astounded to read in Item 6 on the agenda, the Forecast Outturn 2018/19 and Forward Budget, at page 14, item 7.2 the following:

Related Income and Expenditure

At the last meeting Members asked for details of the income retained by Surrey County Council that related to the Canal. In order to present the complete picture Hampshire has also been included as is information on the expenditure incurred.

Surrey – Income from rents, houseboats and fibre optic cables totals approximately £205,000. The income is partly offset by the costs (approximately £45,000) of managing the houseboat estate which is borne by SCC.

This appears to state that the cost of 'managing' the houseboats is £45,000.00 per year. I see no evidence of any such spending, and only neglect, on the moorings at Scotland Bridge where I live, and where we have been refused a key safe in which to keep the key to our main electricity supply on account of the cost. This is in return for total mooring fees of around £94,000.00 per year.

Therefore, as a houseboat resident myself, I request that a detailed breakdown of this expenditure is provided to the meeting so that we can see clearly where and how this amount of money has been spent, and for how many years this has been the level of expenditure.

I also request a copy of the accounts for the houseboat moorings, income and expenditure (excluding payment for electricity) for the last 5 years.

RESPONSE:

The Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee oversees the day to day management of the Canal as a navigation and recreational resource. The 22 houseboat moorings and three canal cottages within the Canal estate in Surrey are managed directly by Surrey County Council's Property & Estates, not by the BCA, nor even the SCC Countryside Group. This detailed question therefore refers to matters which are beyond the remit of the JMC. The Strategic Manager and Hon Treasurer in compiling the Finance Report have used information supplied to them by officers of Surrey County Council's Property & Estates department to answer a specific point raised by Members at a previous JMC meeting, and have no further breakdown of the information supplied. A copy of the question will be sent to the Surrey County Council Cabinet Lead for Place who will ensure officers supply a written answer.

Cllr Jonathan Glen, Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

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