



Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

On-Line Forum

This forum is provided as a service to IWAI members and the public as a place for discussion of matters relating to inland waterways, and in particular (though not exclusively) the inland waterways of Ireland.

The IWAI forum is a place where everything and anything of waterways interest is up for discussion. Please contribute your knowledge and / or post your observations or queries; there are lots of people out there who have probably dealt with your issue before.

The forum is no different to other forms of communication, save that your words are likely to be read by a lot more people and that the recipient can't see your facial expression or hear your tone of voice. Those readers include subscribers to the forum (many of whom you won't know), anyone to whom a subscriber may choose to forward some item of information and any visitor to our forum or archive. Before posting, please consider whether it would be more appropriate to send a private message or email to someone personally rather than the forum as a whole!

The forum is regularly viewed by a range of agencies (state, local, cross-border etc.) and companies, many of whom IWAI has established working relationships with in pursuit of IWAI goals and the improvement of our waterways. Inappropriate or uncivil posting on the forum can reflect poorly on IWAI, damage our reputation with these organisations and get in the way of achieving IWAI's goals and objectives.

The laws of libel and defamation apply to the forum just as much as to other forms of communication, so it is important to avoid all defamatory remarks.

IWAI asks all contributors to please maintain a good and friendly atmosphere and to conduct all dialogues in a courteous manner - there are many users of our waterways with many differing perspectives on life and waterways issues. Passionate discussion on pressing waterways issues is healthy and important, but please stick to correct factual information, and discuss with respect and civil tone. 'Tit for tat' style spats do nothing for good debate.

The Association has received increasing levels of complaints about the tone and nature of some contributions by a small number of forum members: there is no need for uncivil, unfriendly, unnecessarily aggressive, sarcastic, condescending or nastiness just because this is an internet forum.

As a result of the above, IWAI has been forced, because of the risks to the good name of the Association and the increasingly litigious nature of society, to adopt a somewhat higher profile moderation policy than was the case in previous years. We

earnestly ask for the good will and cooperation of all our contributors to support us in this and help improve this forum.

To protect the interests of the IWAI, which includes protecting the good name of the Association and protecting the Association from legal action, the forum operates under a set of Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions, established by the IWAI Executive, are open to review from time to time as circumstances require.

The basic rule is "Be Nice".

Terms & Conditions for use of IWAI Forum

1. By subscribing to this forum, or continuing an existing subscription, you agree to these Terms and Conditions. If you do not agree to these Terms and Conditions, you should not subscribe to the forum or continue an existing subscription.
2. You will not use the forum to propagate any material that might be considered vulgar, illegal, fraudulent, defamatory, threatening or abusive. Racism or sexually explicit content of any kind is not permitted. Internet bullying will not be tolerated. Contributions that contain material that risk bringing the good name of the IWAI into disrepute, or create any risk of legal action against the Association, are not permitted.
3. You will conduct forum posting exchanges in a civil and courteous manner. The IWAI will not tolerate uncivil tone, bad manners, flaming, profanity or personal attacks.
4. Postings should be on-topic.
5. Care should be exercised when posting photos so as not to breach the privacy of individuals. Particular care and sensitivity should be taken in relation to photographs of minors, which may not be posted without the consent of their legal guardians or parents.
6. You will not use the forum for any commercial purposes, with the exception of an occasional short announcement of the availability of a significant new product or service or as a direct response to a query from another subscriber.
7. You will not use the forum to post "Spam" or "Junk Mail" to other subscribers.
8. You will not post (or allow your computer to send) viruses or other harmful messages to the forum.
9. You may not sell or otherwise commercially exploit any of the information propagated by the forum (save where that information is clearly identified as being already in the public domain).
10. You will identify yourself as the source of any submissions you make and not attempt to hide your identity or to impersonate another. You may of course use a "handle" as part of your signature but you must identify yourself by name.
11. IWAI is not responsible for the accuracy of information submitted to this forum. Information submitted to this forum is the opinion of the subscribers themselves and should not be assumed to represent the official position of the Association. Technical information should not be assumed to be accurate.

12. While the Association or its officers may from time to time make postings on this forum with information of interest to members and / or the general public, the forum is NOT an official communication vehicle for the Association. Members will be contacted either directly by the Association or by the branch to which they are affiliated. Similarly, postings made on the forum by individuals will not be considered as formal communications with the Association. Members wishing to communicate with the Association should do so either via their branch or directly with the appropriate member of the Executive. Full contact details for branches and Executive members are published every quarter in Inland Waterways News.
13. This forum is provided as a service and a resource to its subscribers by IWAI. The Association makes no guarantees as to the availability, reliability or continued operation of the service.
14. This forum is moderated by a team of moderators who are appointed by the Executive from time to time. They are all volunteers working in their spare time for the good of IWAI and the inland waterways. The moderators generally work as a team and as far as practicable, decisions are taken collectively. The identity of the moderators will not be revealed to the public to allow them carry out their duties without fear of personal attack.
15. Interpretation of these rules is at the discretion of the moderators and the moderators' decision is final. You may ask the moderators for clarification of their actions via the PM function on the forum, but public debate or criticism of moderator decisions in forum postings will not be tolerated.
16. The moderators may from time to time alter, hide or remove postings or threads that they deem to be inappropriate because they are potentially defamatory, rude, uncivil, untrue or unkind, or that a discussion is descending or has the potential to descend into incivility. As far as possible they will endeavour to explain their actions either in a public posting on the forum itself or to the poster in a PM, but there is no obligation on them to do so and any attempt to re-open the discussion will result in suspension of forum membership.
17. Non-censoring of a particular post does not infer any agreement or endorsement of the opinions expressed in the post.
18. Breach of any of the above rules will result in you being removed from the forum. The period of removal will be determined by the moderators and may range from a few days to permanent removal depending on the nature of the infraction. Repeated breach of the rules will result in longer or, more likely, permanent removal.
19. IWAI members may engage with the Association (either directly with the Executive or Council or via their branch) on matters of moderation policy. The Executive will not engage with subscribers on the specifics of a particular moderation decision. The moderator's decision remains final.