



Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

Development of a Residential Mooring Policy

RESIDENTIAL LIVEBOARDS AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN THE INLAND WATERWAYS

INTRODUCTION

IWAI has established a subcommittee from a broad selection of branch representatives, residential liveaboards and interested parties to develop a policy and working document detailing how residential liveaboards and residential liveboard communities might best blend sympathetically with our inland waterways, and indeed how the waterways should be developed to better cope with the demands of the recent influx of residential liveaboards.

Having taken on board the findings of the IWAI Liveaboard Survey, the subcommittee proposes that the IWAI adopt the following policy.

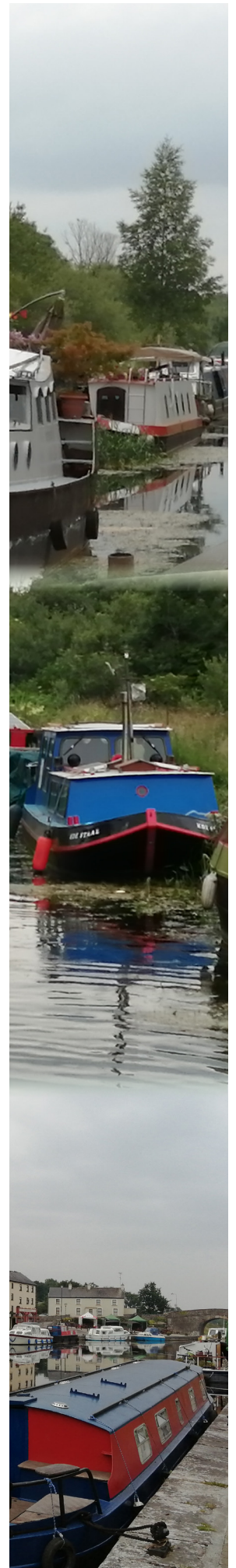
POLICY

‘The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland supports the development of properly managed liveaboard communities in appropriate locations. IWAI believes such development is important for the long term conservation, management and development of our waterways. Properly managed liveaboard developments encourage the use of the navigations, bring life to the waterways and help sustain the areas in which they are located.’

POLICY CONTEXT

The IWAI has proven itself over nearly seventy years to be aware of the requirements of our waterways and its users. IWAI is widely acknowledged as the Voice of the Waterways.

By creating this policy and working document, the subcommittee has identified sustainable solutions that will allow the waterways to be developed in a way that supports the ever expanding nationwide liveaboard community. The subcommittee has also carefully considered the environmental impact that the current expansion may have upon the waterways and how best it can be managed.



The working document takes account of the current status of residential liveaboards, including but not limited to, the number of vessels and their locations; availability or lack of services, access and transport; safety, environmental impact and self-sufficiency.

The working document maps carefully considered locations as suitable for liveaboard berths. These locations and their number of residents take into account the proximity of liveaboard communities to established land based communities in the villages and towns where they are situated. As much for the liveaboard as for the local householder, privacy, congestion, access, transport services are all key factors for sustainable development. The subcommittee is of the view that the implementation of this policy and the active engagement with the solutions proposed in the working document will positively influence the future development of sustainable liveaboard communities on Ireland's inland waterways.

The IWAI will welcome the opportunity to work with government, the local authorities, and navigation authority towards the development of a national waterways liveaboard policy, working towards the building of sustainable waterway communities on our inland waterways network.

IWAI Liveaboard Subcommittee

