
From: Judy Clements
Sent: 01 March 2017 16:58
To: suffolkcoastallocalplan
Subject: Policy MEL14:Retention of Riverside Qualities

Categories: Red Category

I wish to state my objection to the above policy MEL14 7.27 to 7.32 which I find a spiteful and untrue reflection on the craft and their inhabitants along the Melton stretch of the Deben river. I have lived in Woodbridge for over 20 years and have always been a keen walker along the river path. I have found the houseboats a constant item of interest, watching renovations slowly take place and delightful gardens being created. The few wrecks along the river add a cachet to it all and, being an artist myself, give me great pleasure as a subject to paint. I know many local people, as well as visitors, photograph the wrecks as they add character to the scene.

Those living on the houseboats are an eclectic mix of characters, most highly intelligent and caring of the environment. Some work on the river providing a service to yachts and motor boat owners, others are writers and artists but all care about their boats and the river.

The 'seaworthiness' of the houseboats is being questioned and I must assure you that all craft will be seaworthy because if not they would sink or take on water. Nobody wishes their home and belongings to be underwater so a high standard of maintenance is paramount. Many river dwellers have chosen to live a different life, some coming from bricks and mortar to enjoy the tranquillity of the river scene. Others simply cannot afford the ridiculous price of property today and have no alternative but to live on a boat or in a caravan. How would we feel if our houses were under scrutiny with officials telling us that they did not like the colour of our windows and doors - heaven forbid that we reach such a point.

I suspect that this draconian part of the policy is the whim of a few and it will be a sadder world if they get their way.

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