

Attention Hilary Hanslip.

Re: Melton Neighbourhood plan.

Comments regarding:- Policy Mel 14: Retention of Riverside Qualities  
Policy Mel 15: Residential Boats

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Melton Neighbourhood plan is in general a good document. However I am deeply concerned regarding policies Mel14 Retention of Riverside Qualities & 15 Residential Boats, and the supporting statements, (pages 27-39 of the document).

As a frequent walker along the riverside footway I have always enjoyed the scenes and sights of the River Deben with the house boats and the odd boat wrecks which add to the character, colour and the naturalness of the river. People have been living on the River Deben for scores if not hundreds of years.

The people that live on house boats do so for a number of reasons not least that they cannot afford to buy a house.

Statements 7.29 / 7.30 /7.31 and 7.32 give the impression that these house boat owners/dwellers are dead beats and general layabouts, which is absolutely not true. In my walking of the river path I have had the pleasure of talking to a number of the residents and have found them very pleasant and intelligent people. Many are without doubt characters and this is quite refreshing when comparing them to what is fast becoming a 'cloned' society.

The statements are discriminating and spiteful. It is not the role of self made vigilantes of the Melton Neighbourhood plan to dictate when an owner should paint their boat/house or what repairs they should be making.

When the sea wall was constructed following the 1953 floods (of which I was a victim) provisions were installed for providing services for house boats on the river and I have attached photos of said facilities.

Also attached is a photo of a wrecked boat that is the subject of study and delight to many artists and photographers. Wrecks like this add to the timeless quality of the river and not the "serious visual intrusion" as stated in policy MEL15.

With the closure of boat yards for housing development there is now a shortage of boat and haul out facilities. For the boating recreation which is growing year on year there is a need to provide the necessary facilities. Policy MEL14 seeks to target the boating recreation industry in a harsh and draconian manner. With the building of some 10,000 homes in the next 10 years it will bring great pressure on the infrastructure and neighbourhood plans are seeking to control some of the pressures on the community which in general I support.

It is essential that this document is not narrow minded and reflects the interests of all groups of people that go to make up the area and riverside. I therefore request the following:-

**Policy MEL14 needs to be reworded / rephrased to be clear to identify between luxury riverside house development and sailing facilities. I therefore ask that Policy MEL14 be reworded otherwise be deleted.**

**Policy MEL15 is ambigous and badly stated I ask that this policy be deleted**

Yours faithfully  
Ron Cushing











