

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2022 11:01
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Canal

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Dear Stroud Gov

Regarding the above.

Please do not allow the development of the canal between Brimscombe and Sapperton, other than making the footpath more accessible for push chairs, wheel chairs and for those with mobility needs.

Biodiversity

The canal along this stretch has rewilded itself over many years. There are overhanging tree canopies, reeds and rushes and other water plants, trees, plants bushes and shrubs rooted in the banks of the canal and in the zone between towpath and the water. All of these provide biodiversity, food and habitat for countless valuable species of invertebrates, birds, bats, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. And all of these would be ripped out to provide minority hobbyists with more water for them to pollute with the diesel, oil, noise and the inevitable litter that accompanies them.

The canal as it is provides essential linkage for habitat for roaming animals and commuting animals in our natural environment and is ever more fragmented by the endless advance of people and their appetite for territory.

Leave some for nature. The boat people have enough water to use. Why do they need more? Grants and funding could be used in much better ways.

Flooding

I live in Chalford valley right next to the canal and over the past 25 years I have witnessed several flood events in the valley.

During the winter the canal, which contains hardly any water in the summer, fills right up with runoff. The disused lock outside my house becomes white-water torrent as the winter run off is conveyed safely down the valley, parallel to the already full river.

The occasions where flooding has occurred, affecting about 10 homes and cutting off footpaths and the High Street has been when the canal has burst its banks, and canal water has then run into the river, causing it to overflow. This can cause many thousands of pounds worth of damage as well as misery and danger to the low-lying properties.

If the canal is restored and refilled there will be no place for the winter runoff to go as its space will be already taken up by the static canal water.

Whoever develops the canal by restoring it will be hence liable for flooding-associated claims.

Develop level pathway by all means but otherwise please leave well alone.

Keep it wild. Keep it safe

Many thanks.