

British Rowing Comments - 18 December 2023

Dear Mr Briginshaw,

PLANNING APPLICATION 2382/APP/2023/2906 BROADWATER LAKE

I am writing to express the support of British Rowing, the national governing body for the sport of rowing, for the above planning application, as the proposed rowing activity is deliverable and aligns with the NGB Strategic plan. Rowing is a sport which is open to both men and women and participants of all ages, genders and social sectors. It provides opportunities to compete at local level through to Olympic level, or more commonly, for recreational and social inclusion. British Rowing has identified that there is an appetite for the sport in the region and has supported the work of Jon Neale in looking to establish a rowing club from 1983 up to 2012 when he successfully started the Hillingdon Rowing Club at the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre (HOAC) in Harefield. In addition, British Rowing has worked with HOAC itself in 2011 to set up learn to row courses and has supplied training boats and equipment. These learn to row courses have proved to be very popular. A successful working model then developed where the HOAC learn to row courses fed into the Rowing Club, enabling the sport to sustain and flourish. This opportunity has been lost since HOAC and the Rowing Club had to cease operating in October 2020 when the site was taken over to construct the HS2 railway. Therefore, British Rowing is supportive of the current move to relocate HOAC and with it the Hillingdon Rowing Club to Broadwater Lake. Should this planning application be successful British Rowing is confident that the sport of rowing will be popular with high levels of participation. British Rowing will offer whatever support it can to both HOAC and the Hillingdon Rowing Club to once again grow, sustain and flourish.

Yours sincerely

Alan Meegan

British Rowing Facilities Manager

British Rowing Comments - 08 January 2026

I represent British Rowing, which was instrumental in setting up 'Learn to Row' and a sculling club with HOAC whilst located at their previous site. These initiatives introduced the sport to many residents of Hillingdon, from youngsters up to retirees, both genders and all social backgrounds. British Rowing was also supportive of Hillingdon Rowing Club which enabled residents of the region to pursue the sport to both athletic and recreational levels. I am very disappointed to see that rowing is not including in this planning application and that rowing will not be available in Hillingdon. I am very supportive of the planning application as far as it goes and believe it is very important that HOAC should once again actively promote the social cohesion, health and wellbeing of Hillingdon residents. This should be given equal weight to the protection of conservation interests.

Alan Meegan