

Hillingdon Narrow Boat Association Comments – Jan 2026

Hillingdon Narrowboats Association (HNA) Registered Charity 1029007 Response to Planning Consultation for Hillingdon Water Sports and Activity Centre 2382/APP/2023/2906 Introductory Comments

1. We at HNA are pleased to support this application at the proposed site. It represents a very positive response to the closure of HOAC in light of the HS2 project. The Broadwater Lake development is the opportunity to turn a negative into a real positive and a great legacy for Hillingdon.
2. The potential benefits to our community and the surrounding area are great. This is especially applicable, but not limited to, those who are expected to take advantage of utilising the facilities long into the future.
3. The harm to native fauna and flora will be minimal even in the short to medium term. The realistic proposals to work to reduce harm caused by non-native species will be beneficial. Our Involvement in the Community
4. We urge those interested in our comments here to visit our website at <https://hna.org.uk/> , not least to review our decades long history in the area. This originated from the provision of affordable boating for the community directly as part of Hillingdon Borough Council and its responsibilities to the residents in the Borough. We have been very proud to continue to provide those services as best we can over the years. We consider our work to be complementary to that proposed in this planning application.
5. Our interest has included an extensive site visit on 20 February 2025, conducted for us by Richard Weston. Two of our Trustees and a Senior Member attended that day, and a full report was delivered to all the Trustees at our following meeting without any dissent to it.
6. The responses of others put to the planning authority, including by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Colne Valley Regional Park, in particular from 2023, have been carefully considered. We very much support the work of such organisations and we are happy to work with and alongside them. Their responses have been professionally produced and they are clearly well resourced for those purposes. However, on this occasion they are missing the target for the greater good by a long distance. In short, they want to avoid using the site at Broadwater Lake, but propose no alternative.
7. Further, even ignoring the benefit to the disabled, youth of the area and their families and supporters, along with the improved reputation of the Borough for enabling such resources in the latter half of this decade, there are substantial benefits for the preservation and enhancement of our wildlife. What would be the future of the site if it is not developed as proposed, even in the unlikely event that it is left alone?
8. It is well known that the benefits to the health and well-being of people generally and particularly young people, are enhanced by activities in and around canals, lakes and rivers, and this is entirely bound up with nature.
9. Our involvement in the locality and surroundings is not solely about providing boat trips, but promoting and protecting the very nature and the essence of the Colne Valley as much as we can.

Conclusion

10. We very much look forward to being able to direct our future efforts towards working in conjunction with those who are planning to provide and promote the Broadwater Lake plans, among others.
11. We would be happy to provide further clarification or comments in the future.

John Usher Chair