



The Beeston EXPRESS



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COVERING BEESTON, CHILWELL,
ATTENBOROUGH, TON and BRAMCOTE

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Vandals target Barton Island

THE river base used by 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts has once again been receiving unwelcome attention from people who have no right to be there.

Barton Island, upstream from Beeston Marina and not far from Attenborough nature reserve, is the summer base used by the local and active group of Sea Scouts. The island is held in Trust by the Scout Association and maintained by the scouts, who have spent time and money over many years making sure that the island is 'fit for purpose', i.e. a safe place where young sea scouts can enjoy regular scouting and also take part in all manner of river-based water activities. The scouts enjoy holding open days on the island during the summer months, ferrying visitors across the Trent to have a look at their unique and special base.

Throughout August, though, scout leaders arriving at the island ahead of section meetings discovered that trespassers were causing increasing amounts of damage to the scout group's property.

Group chairman Fred Robinson said: "We have been suffering

for a few weeks with unwelcome visitors to the island.

"At first, the visits were relatively harmless – drinking sessions and minor vandalism. However, these have escalated to almost daily visits from more aggressive individuals who have now seriously damaged the boatshed, which was double locked, by smashing their way into it from underneath."

"We did have plans for a new boatshed on the island but the minimum cost is £4000. Finding the funds for this will now be a challenge, as long as these vandals are left to trespass and commit their vile acts assuming that no one can interrupt or stop them."

Explorer Scout Leader James Alvey continues: "Our landing stages have clear signs saying: 'Private Moorings and Property' in case people don't realise.

"We have had reports from people who have noticed a particularly distinctive craft moored to our landing stage when we've been away from the island.

"This wouldn't normally be a problem, but the repeated

disregard for our asking them not to be there and the fact that they are consuming alcohol and then leaving the site in a mess is increasingly frustrating. We arrived one evening to find that one of our boats had been moved from its usual mooring at the back of the island and was tied loosely against the landing stage, one rope wrapped around a single pole.

"One of our main concerns is that, because we have to spend time clearing the island up to make it safe for the young scouts, their summer programme has been affected.

"Now we find that the amount of blatant vandalism has been increasing steadily, and have written to British Waterways to see what action can be taken."

Sean McGinley, Waterway Manager at British Waterways, said that the issue had been passed to the enforcement officers responsible for the Trent river area in question.

Vandals have targeted the Sea Scout base on Barton Island in the past, but the anti-social activities have not been so noticeable or deplorable in recent years.

New feature inside

Old Beeston

Would you recognise it if you saw it? We invite you to send your photographic memories for identification by your fellow residents.

A developer's view of changes to planning law

THE controversy that has flared up around the government's plans to amend the current planning policy may be something that you already think you've heard enough of, thank you.

Whenever it appears on the national news, it's comes through in politic-speak, sending you out of the room and into the kitchen to make a cup of tea.

However, it's time to pay attention. The whereabouts of future housing development in Broxtowe depends entirely on what happens now.

If introduced, the amended planning policy might bring us housing in Broxtowe where we, the current residents, are happy for it to go because the process of deciding its location has been overseen by the council's planning officers. Alternatively, it might be exactly where the *developers* want it to be, because nobody was paying attention when they should have been.

In a nutshell, this could be the difference between, say, 800 houses west of Toton Lane, Stapleford (a council-preferred option), or 1800 houses between the Bardill's island on the A52 and Bramcote village (a developer might think this a prime site).

The analogy is used merely to illustrate the point.

Broxtowe has to find space for new houses to be built – this is an immutable fact.

The number of houses to be built is likely to be finalised at between five and six thousand, and the borough council recently arranged a series of consultation meetings around the borough to collect resident's views of where future housing development should go. Did you go along?

If the council doesn't have a plan, the revised planning policy will assume that our Development Control Committee (DCC) and the borough's residents don't mind where the new housing goes, and developers will be granted permission to build wherever they want.

One thing that people often fail to grasp is that Broxtowe's DCC cannot refuse a developer permission to build just because it doesn't like the look of the houses – it has to have a solid reason based in planning law for rejecting the application.

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