



# Elmbridge Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

Civic Centre, High Street  
Esher, Surrey KT10 9SD  
Switchboard: 01372 474474  
DX: 36302 Esher  
Website: [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk)

Emma Hill  
Acting Director (Thames Area)  
Environment Agency  
**Via email**

contact: Adam Chalmers  
direct line: 01372 474380  
e-mail: [achalmers@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:achalmers@elmbridge.gov.uk)  
my ref:  
your ref:

17 August 2023

Dear Emma

I am writing to you further to the meeting between the EA and Elmbridge Council on the 14 June 2023 (please see attached for reference). At that meeting, the EA gave a “total commitment to continue to work in partnership with EBC and others to seek a resolution to the ongoing issue of unauthorised moorings.” However, since that meeting, there has been little progress on many of these actions that the EA undertook to progress, which is extremely disappointing at this early stage and further erodes public confidence in the EA taking proactive steps to tackle this issue, which has been affecting our residents for a sustained period of time.

1. The EA undertook to formally respond to EBC with their legal view on EBC taking over the enforcement of the riverbank from the EA within 2 weeks. Whilst we have had an informal reply (that this would not be possible) we still await a formal legal response that we could share publicly to answer this question.
2. The EA committed to commence regular Enforcement patrols on Tues and Thurs every week, commencing on 17 July 2023. This has yet to take place.
3. The EA committed to a regular public newsletter detailing local action and statistics. This has yet to take place, nor any indication of timescales and frequency.
4. EBC agreed to arrange a meeting between the EA and MRAG, however, despite two chasing emails, we have still not received any dates that the EA would be available to meet.

As you can see from the above outstanding actions, there is a growing sense of frustration that the EA are not giving the necessary priority to this issue and following through on its promises. Locally, there is a lack of confidence in the EA, and this lack of any demonstrable action is doing nothing to counter this view. I would welcome your comments on the above, along with some assurances that this remains a priority for the EA. It would also be helpful to have timescales for each of the outstanding points above.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Bruce McDonald  
Leader – Elmbridge Borough Council