

## Zoom event chat transcript (edited)

- From Alice (OCLT) : <https://www.oclt.org.uk/join/>
- From Alice (OCLT) : Sign up to our mailing list:  
<https://oclt.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=705f7de83867afe997c4f8eba&id=03a63db2a8>
- From Fiona Brown : [www.collaborativehousing.co.uk](http://www.collaborativehousing.co.uk)
- From Alex Cat : itd be great to network with the people in london
- From Alice (OCLT) : If people are interesting in linking up / networking I can put people in touch after the event!
- From Amy Tillson (Inland Waterways Association) : yes very keen to network Alex. currently on a marina mooring but it's a very commercial one so keen to explore other options
- From Mark Simmonds : Link to my presentation [https://miro.com/app/board/o9J\\_kgl8kBM=/](https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_kgl8kBM=/)
- From Caroline Thurston : Question for Mark - is CRT still responsible for maintenance and services (e.g. water points, Elsans, grass cutting) on the co-operative moorings or does the co-op arrange that themselves?
- From Lucy Warin : Perhaps relevant for Castle Mill Stream in Oxford?
- From Marta Lomza : Great thanks. Mark -1) were there any boaters on the existing mooring who didn't want to join the co-op? and 2) on a practical level, what is CRT's involvement? Does the co-op manage maintenance and boat movements (ie people selling/moving off etc)?
- From Mark Simmonds : Hi @Marta. Yes some didn't join the co-op, but there are other non co-op moorings available. It's up to the co-op whether they allow the co-op membership to transfer on boat sale. CRT just treat the whole co-op like one boater.
- From Mark Simmonds : The co-op has done collective purchasing of batteries, but boaters have a high degree of autonomy.
- From Mark Simmonds : They have also had new water points put in for remote moorings.
- From Alex McDonagh : Hi. I'm part of a Coop in Birmingham. We're a coop of tenants on an industrial estate/startup hub that our Landlords tried to sell to developers. We started a campaign and our Coop to buy our site. After nearly 18 months we're almost there. We have a very neglected Canal Basin that needs clearing. CRT have mentioned putting in a mooring, but now you guys have explained how you've done this Cooperatively, I think we'd be really interested
- From Richard Howlett : Who did Al says was the landowner which gave them the peppercorn rent? I missed this.
- From Alice (OCLT) : <https://www.surge.coop/> - Is their website
- From John Goodman : Hi, John Goodman here, ex Co-ops UK and founder member of Jemima D Narrowboat Co-op <http://www.jemima-d.org.uk/> (founded 1983!). Interested in this idea – applicable/replicable around the country. Aware of a mooring co-op in Thurmaston on northern edge of Leicester – can get more info, and share, from a friend who's lived there for many years. Apols, I have to leave this meeting now – another Zoom beckons. Great presentations – thanks.
- From Alice (OCLT) : The landowner was Thames Water Richard
- From Fran Ryan : Thinking of one of the themes from Push film last week... is there a way to make sure boaters can have their newly created moorings in perpetuity and that they don't inadvertently gentrify the riverside and it quickly becomes trendy and unaffordable

- From Alice (OCLT) : Through a land trust! ;)
- From Caroline Thurston : I'm interested in hearing from all the speakers about their experiences of whether co-operative communities function as a group. Do you find that there needs to be a 'core team' of people who sustain activity, or are co-ops sustainable with a relatively high 'turn-over' of people?
- From Christabel Buchanan : question for mark or anyone - do you know of any community owned boat moorings which are part of/connected to a housing coop/cohousing project?
- From Caroline Thurston : Sorry, that should have been \*how\* co-operative communities function as a group
- From Fran Ryan : Oxford Cohousing is talking to city council and have said they would be interested in including moorings within any plan should the eventual site they secure from city have riverside as part of it.
- From Mark Simmonds : @Caroline. Yes in my experience there needs to be people to take a facilitation/co-ordination role and member engagement communication and clarity of roles is key.
- From Richard Howlett : Was that 250 homes on boats planned as part of the co-op moorings?! Or did I mis-hear?
- From Maryla Cross : To both co-ops: what, if any, minimum participation do you ask of your members (any clauses, etc)? And other than community gardens, what sort of community engagement do you organise with locals?
- From Fran Ryan : Is anyone looking at the sorts of floating houses they have (apparently) in Netherlands?
- From Veronica Vickery : Do any of you have experience of doing projects like this in rivers with a big tide? And dealing with expense etc of putting in floating pontoons etc?
- From Fiona Brown : interesting how important it is to have the LA on board -did you have a contact who was positive and could get you access?
- From Liz Mcivor : You sometimes find court case evidence in papers filed around pollution levels which is useful in creating bio projects...particularly along old coal runs
- From Fran Ryan : Big potential link between boaters and the emerging group who want the local river cleaned up for wild swimming
- From Mark Simmonds : The Calderdale Co-op don't expect any other commitment other than pay your moorings and come to meetings. However they do provide lots of opportunity to get involved for those that want to.
- From Christabel Buchanan : surge - did you get any funding to do the all the ace work/ professional drawing?
- From Richard Howlett : @mark would mooring fees always be lower for a co-operative mooring? Or was this just a quirk of the Calderdale situation?
- From Marta Lomza : Were you guys doing that as volunteers or did you get paid for some of that work?
- From Richard Howlett : @surge what did the funding you gained cover? Was the training just in how to set up the governance structure or anything else?
- From Christabel Buchanan : Haha yes - being a boater is a part time job!
- From Christabel Buchanan : Surge - do you reckon it's worth setting up as a coop before you

have a definite site?

- From Amy Tillson (Inland Waterways Association) : Narrow Boat Farm on the Union Canal IN Scotland are attached to an organic farm
- From Maryla Cross : Sanford?
- From Beatrice Pan : what do you think about Factual Possession on land that has questionable ownership?
- From Mark Simmonds : I think it's worth setting up as a co-op just for mutual support and collective purchasing even if you don't control moorings.
- From Bethany Martin : I'm part of River Roding Trust, we match the CRT license fee but pay it into a pot which is then invested in protecting and restoring the river we live on
- From Caroline Thurston : How does the co-op decide whether or not to allow a mooring to be transferred with the boat?
- From Alice (OCLT) : If you'd like to chat more as a group about this contact me on [alice@oclt.org.uk](mailto:alice@oclt.org.uk) and I'll set up a list!
- From Mark Simmonds : @Caroline - it varies each co-op decides its own way of operating and can change it over time.
- From Fiona Brown : [Fiona@cohub.org.uk](mailto:Fiona@cohub.org.uk)
- From Christabel Buchanan : Yes! I want to know moor! Thanks OCLT Mark and Surge- great event!
- From Veronica Vickery : We're in Bristol/Keynsham on the Avon, anyone else?
- From Fran Ryan : Really exciting ideas floating around (teehee).
- From Rob Lawrence : Useful, I want to buy some land next to the thames near Oxford so maybe can do as a coop??
- From Bethany Martin : Really informative. Thank you!
- From Alex Cat : Inspirational and encouraging. London is so hard as a boater and I feel inspired! Thank you!
- From Marta Lomza : Thanks so much Alice, really interesting for us on Agenda 21 moorings here - some stuff from Mark's talk which we could replicate here I think! (Oxford)
- From Hilary Sudbury : I'm based in Bristol as a co-op adviser [hilary@assist.coop](mailto:hilary@assist.coop)
- From Fran Ryan : Thanks Surge and Mark
- From Amy Tillson (Inland Waterways Association) : fantastic thank you. I am very keen to start something up in West London. slough arm maybe
- From Richard Howlett : Great event! Brill to hear from those that have done it - and have opp to network with others who would like to do it here.
- From Hannah White : lovely to see everyone, hope you found our experience useful, and please get in touch with any other questions - [info@surge.coop](mailto:info@surge.coop)
- From Corinne Pinfold : Encouraging to see that this can get off the ground
- From Caroline Thurston : It's been really encouraging to hear these positive stories - thank you to Alice and all the speakers. It gives me hope that it might be possible in Oxford!
- From Gillian Lonergan : A very interesting discussion, I come at this as someone who loves canals and co-operatives!
- From Fran Ryan : Let's grab the river for local people
- From Rob Lawrence : thankyou speakers for you time and advice!!

- From Hilary Sudbury : Well done, super interesting.
- From Elliot Smith : very interesting, thank you! we are a group of boaters trying to set up coop moorings on Castle Mill Stream in Oxford and would be keen to chat more.
- From Richard Howlett : Big thanks to the speakers!
- From Charlie Fisher : Great event - hope to see some boater co-ops going in Oxfordshire!
- From Al Cree : Thanks for having us, hopefully we had some useful bits of info to share!  
Cheers Al - Surge
- From Ali gb : Would love to learn more, currently on the river lee. Thanks for your time folks! X
- From Antonia King : Thank you everyone, some inspiring ideas there
- From Mark Simmonds : Feel free to email me [mark@culture.coop](mailto:mark@culture.coop)
- From Liz Mcivor : V interesting to hear about the interest in coop solutions from boaters..there are very similar links in intention to the set up of the early coops in terms of liability and legal status.
- From Maryla Cross : Thanks so much! Having lived in a co-op for years, its great to find out some more specifics about boat co-ops and how that works with the CRT
- From Michael Thackray : Thanks everyone, very inspiring "just do it" and hearing about all the unused wharves - and looking into the heritage and ecosystem of these parts of the rivers
- From Liz Mcivor : Having a co-operative approach to resolving issues in improving land, basins ect is a good idea, even if not everyone wants to be in a formal coops - helps with skill sharing.
- From Bethany Martin : Who's the people around the corner Al? Where about?
- From Mark Simmonds : Also worth checking out Radical Routes  
<https://www.radicalroutes.org.uk/> There was a RR group in the 80s looking to buy land for moorings.
- From Leo Young : Very interesting and the possibilities in Oxford are exciting, being a liveboard boater on your own can sometimes be more than a full time job!
- From Amy Tillson (Inland Waterways Association) : River Roding?
- From Veronica Vickery : Thank you, really exciting...
- From Bethany Martin : Thanks!
- From Liz Mcivor : Thanks all!