From : Mrs. Anne Middleton
29 Riverside Road
Shoreham-by-Sea
W. Sussex
BN43 5RB

Date: 30.4.12

Ref: AWDM/0378/12
Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for houseboat mooring

Dear Ms. Barker,

Further to your letter (21.3.12) and subsequent phone conversations, I am writing in response to the above application in relation to riverbank to the rear of 27,29 and 31 Riverside Road.

I agree that Mr. Fowler has possibly been living on the jetty for 10 years, although the boat Renata has only been in her present position (bows-on to the derelict barge) for about 9 months.

If the Council is obliged to grant a certificate in this case, it is vital to adjoining residents, and conservers and users of the river, that the Council uses all available powers to make the Certificate as specific as possible with regard to the following:

a. The length,width and height (keel foot to top of superstructure) of any future replacement should not exceed the dimensions of 'Renata'.

b. An accurately defined houseboat mooring position, with the specification that it be moored ALONGSIDE the jetty, as Hannah Nui always has been and as Renata was until 9 months ago,when she was turned bows-on.
This defining position needs to be marked on a plan which includes the derelict barge which is now a large immoveable extension to the west side of the jetty. The barge/extension is ommitted from both plans submitted by the applicant.

It is my understanding (CIRCULAR 10/97, Annexe 8, esp. 8.16, 8.22, 8.35, 8.36) that the Council has the power to draft a Certificate in this way, but that if the Certificate is worded loosely then the Council has no powers it can exercise later to control the size or orientation of a replacement houseboat (in the manner of Fische and Shieldsman).

Additional points:
1. Map inaccuracy - In the Exhibit 2 Site Plan map the unauthorised jetty extension is not shown, so it is impossible to tell whether the proposed houseboat is alongside the jetty proper or the extension.The applicant should have to submit an accurate scale plan.
2. Sewage pollution - With the increasing congestion along the riverbank comes an unacceptable level of visible sewage pollution, as the current is constrained and unable to wash it on out of the estuary.On a high tide this is deposited at my garden gate, and must surely be a health hazard to river-users. This Certificate will legitimate another addition to the dozens of houseboats which pump raw human excrement into this reach of the Adur, which is an apalling third-world situation.
3. The Council is aware that a second person is possibly living on the jetty in 'Hannah Nui'. He has not been living on the jetty (if in fact he is) for more than a few years, and was not preceded by anyone else apart from Mr. Fowler. I hope the Council will take steps to ensure that this situation does not develop into grounds for a second Certificate of Lawfulness.

Yours,

Anne Middleton (resident, 29 Riverside Road)