

## Gavin Ball

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For the attention of Sadiq Khan and Jules Pipe.

Dear Sadiq and Jules,

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Regent's Canal to comment on the draft London Plan and its diminished emphasis on the importance of the waterways network.

The most significant change in the latest version of the plan is the disappearance of the expression "Blue Ribbon Network" (BRN). This was a very effective expression that has promoted and raised awareness of the waterways and it has formed the basis of numerous discussions on planning applications over the past decade. Its loss suggests that waterways are no longer a priority and if this was unintentional then the BRN should be re-instated in the final plan.

My other main concern is that the new policies place too much emphasis on the River Thames while the canals get little or no attention. For example, in Policy SI15 paragraph C ("Development proposals to facilitate an increase in the amount of freight transported by river should be supported") the word "river" should be replaced by "river and canal".

Whilst the river can accommodate much larger volumes of freight transport than the canals, the canals can still make a valuable contribution to the modal shift from road to water and they can help to deliver non perishable goods right into the heart of London.

Regards,

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