

Press Release

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PATRON
Sir Samuel Whitbread KCVO

B&MK Waterway Planning Permission Renewed

Planning permission for the Milton Keynes Waterway Park has been renewed by * Milton Keynes Partnership for a further five years. This is a key part of the proposed new waterway which will link the Grand Union Canal at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes to the River Great Ouse at Kempston, Bedford

Commenting on this, Graham Mabbutt, Chairman of the B&MK Waterway Trust, said: "We are delighted that MK Partnership has renewed the planning permission for a further five years and hope that within that time we shall see the first signs of construction of the Milton Keynes section of the waterway."

James Clifton of the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways) said: "The Canal & River Trust remains committed to this exciting new waterway link between Milton Keynes and Bedford and looks forward to working as part of the B&MK Waterway Consortium to make it become a reality"

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway is a proposed linear Waterway Park, to be developed in conjunction with the Forest of Marston Vale and Milton Keynes Parks Trust. It will provide enormous benefit to the area in terms of stimulating the economy, providing people with attractive places to live and work, and improving the quality of the local environment.

The project has a 20-year timescale. The Waterway will be built as opportunities become available on an agreed and secured route, and funding can be found through public, business, charitable and development sources. The first structure for the waterway, an underpass was constructed last year as part of the new A421 road between J13 of the M1 and Bedford.

The route of the Waterway is safeguarded in the three local authority Core Strategies and a consortium of the three local authorities, (Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire,) and the Marston Vale Trust, MK Parks Trust, Canal & River Trust, The Environment Agency, The Homes & Communities Agency and the B&MK Waterway Trust has been established to facilitate the construction of the waterway. The Consortium is chaired by the Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson.

ENDS

Notes to editors

* Milton Keynes Partnership still controls planning permissions for the Eastern Expansion Area of Milton Keynes

Details of the Decision Notice can be found on:

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/development_control/apps_details.php?Key=1075

(at the bottom of the page)

Photos attached:



1. James Clifton being interviewed over looking the Broughton Brook.



2. The Broughton Brook Cable Stay Bridge under which the waterway will flow.

(Please credit the B&MK Waterway Trust, if you use the attached pictures.)

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