

Press Release

Embargo: Immediate

Water-Way to Cruise – Destination Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway (B&MK)



A canal-side view of the potential benefits the proposed B & MK Waterway would bring to these towns and central Bedfordshire proved to be a revelation for passengers onboard narrowboat *Ocean Princess* this week (Weds 16th September).

So great was the demand from special interest groups that three separate cruises were arranged along the Grand Union Canal - and still people had to be turned away.

James Griffin of Wyvern Shipping had volunteered his boat for the afternoon for the invited guests. Passengers included councillors, planners, architects, business people, boat owners, hoteliers, musicians (Life and Times) and people from special interest and community groups. They enjoyed a two-hour return cruise from Campbell Park in Milton Keynes to Great Linford.

Turning into Pennyland Basin, they saw how a 1980s canal-side community had developed, alongside environmental and recreational benefits. Local residents hope the basin will become a conservation area.

Random comments along the route:

This just demonstrates the possibilities the waterway would create.

You get a very different perspective of Milton Keynes from the water.

Milton Keynes is an excellent example now of a mature environment.

If this is what a canal can do, let's have the waterway through our community.

The proposed 26km B&MK Waterway will create the missing link between the Grand Union Canal at Milton Keynes to the Great Ouse at Bedford via a series of waterparks.

Jane Wolfson, chair of the B&MK Waterway Trust, has said: "The Trust and its partners believe the creation of the link can be delivered sequentially. A critical segment would be to restore and open up the river from the heart of Bedford through to Kempston as a catalyst to regenerating the town centre, and onwards to connect the town with the countryside to the west."

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Notes to editor



Weds 16th Sep at the Grand Union Canal in Campbell Park, Milton Keynes with representatives from some of the many local councils, parishes, government agencies, businesses; architects, boat owners, hoteliers, musicians, and people from special interest and community groups who joined the Trust for a briefing trip.

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