

## Press Release

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### Launch of Waterway Park DVD on Youtube

National TV Actor Kevin Whately who plays the role of Detective Sergeant Lewis in the popular “Morse” series has contributed to a new DVD to promote the Milton Keynes Waterway Park. The four minute long film is narrated by Kevin who is a local resident of Milton Keynes. It has been made by Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust volunteers with the support of local companies and partners.

The DVD was launched to promote the MK Waterway Park. It takes a look into the future, showing the completed Waterway Park celebrating its first birthday in 2012. This can be viewed on

<http://www.youtube.co.uk/mkwp>

Throughout the DVD the need for a sustainable community to be part of the newly expanded Milton Keynes is emphasised with the waterway at the heart of the new developments in the Milton Keynes Eastern Expansion Area. The Waterway Park will provide local people with a green space, with water at the centre of it, which also links Campbell Park, Willen Lake, the new Hindu centre, Broughton, Kingston and the new developments on the border of Milton Keynes and the new Marina together.

It is estimated that the Waterway Park would assist in the creation of 225 new permanent jobs locally, attract over 700,000 new visitors each year and generate £2.7 million annually for the local economy.

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust have sought at every stage of this project to reflect the needs and wishes of the Milton Keynes residents that it will affect. The Eastern Expansion Area plan means that it is imperative that this waterway is begun soon, before the landscape is changed permanently and local features and environments are lost under concrete. The Waterway Park's



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Bedford & Milton Keynes  
Waterway Trust

www.  
B-MKWaterway.co.uk

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Bedford Borough Council  
Bedford Group of Drainage Boards  
Bedford River Users Group  
Bedfordshire County Council  
British Marine Federation  
British Waterways  
Country Land & Business  
Association & NFU  
Countryside Agency  
Cranfield University  
East of England Tourist Board  
East of England  
Development Agency  
English Nature  
English Partnerships  
Environment Agency  
Forest of Marston Vale  
Great Ouse Boating Association  
Grand Union (South) Angling Club  
Inland Waterways Association  
Mid Bedfordshire District Council  
Milton Keynes Council  
Milton Keynes Parks Trust  
Renaissance Bedford  
South East England  
Development Agency  
Sport England  
Sustrans  
The Ramblers Association  
The Waterways Trust  
The Wildlife Trust for Beds.  
Cambs, Northants & Peterborough





inclusion ensures that the expansion of Milton Keynes on the east side preserves and enhances a community for the future.

B&MK Waterway Trust Project Director Jane Wolfson said, “The longer this quest to build the waterway goes on the more apparent it becomes that the main benefits are not to boaters, but to walkers, cyclists, local residents. Landbased activities mainly – with the Waterway Park as a magnet – drawing all of us together.”

The Milton Keynes Waterway Park will be the first of three waterway parks which will form a new 20 mile waterway connecting the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the River Great Ouse at Bedford, thereby enabling navigation from the Grand Union Canal to the waterways of East Anglia.

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**Background details**

The DVD can be viewed via the following link:-

<http://www.youtube.co.uk/mkwp>

The Big Lottery Bid is for the construction of the Milton Keynes section of the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway running from the Grand Union Canal via Willen Lake, through Broughton Brook Linear Park into the Eastern Expansion Area up to the Bedfordshire Border. As the Milton Keynes arm of the Grand Union Canal it is a stand-alone project known as the Milton Keynes Waterway Park. The Big Lottery Bid is for £25 Million.



Under the Living Landmarks funding stream, **23 projects** have made it on to the shortlist to compete for a small number of grants of between £10 million and £25 million each.

The **Big Lottery Fund** is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of the Community Fund). The Big Lottery Fund, launched on 1 June 2004, is distributing half of all National Lottery good cause funding across the UK.

The Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks Programme will award £140 million across the UK to initiatives that have been designed to inspire communities, revitalize and regenerate the places where they live, through social and community projects and major infrastructure investments.

Big Lottery Fund Press Office: 020 7211 1888 Out of hours: 07867 500 572

Public Enquiries Line: 08454 102030 Textphone: 08456 021 659

**Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available at: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**