

News Release

Embargo: Immediate

Council re-affirms support for Waterway

Milton Keynes Council has unanimously re-confirmed its continuing commitment and support for the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway.

All three political parties were involved in wording the final motion which stressed the importance of the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway project to the continuing development of the City and the surrounding region.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Brian White, seconded by Cllr Janet Irons (Labour) with an amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Williams (Lib Dem) seconded by Cllr Andrew Geary (Conservative) and passed unanimously by Milton Keynes Council on 13 November 2007.

Jane Wolfson, Chair of the B&MK Waterway Trust says: "We are delighted that the council is continuing to support the waterway. The scheme has moved forward so much during the past eighteen months with the £250,000 lottery grant which has enabled us to undertake the detailed planning required prior to construction of the Milton Keynes Waterway part of the project."

Speaking in support of the motion Cllr. Brian White on behalf of the Labour Councillors said: "*This project is too important for Milton Keynes for this setback to allow it to fail. It is vital for the area that the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway continues to be supported.*"

Lib. Dem. Cabinet Member Cllr. Chris Williams commended the 'infectious enthusiasm' of all the advocates of the project.



Bedford & Milton Keynes
Waterway Trust

www.
B-MKWaterway.co.uk

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



Conservative Leader Cllr. Andrew Geary was “very happy to support the motion and to second the amendment, which strengthened the original motion and puts pressure on the Council to do something – its not just words. *The project is very worthwhile and will provide a great benefit to Milton Keynes.*”

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ENDS

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Notes to editor:

The motion as amended reads

- “1. That this Council recognises the importance of the Bedford Milton Keynes waterway project to the continuing development of the City and the surrounding region.
2. That the Council congratulates all those who have worked so hard to get the project to where it is now and resolves that the Chief Executive should continue to work with our partners, stakeholders and other interested parties to turn this aspiration into a reality.
3. That the Council commiserates with the Project Team in not getting onto the final shortlist for the Big Lottery Fund, and agrees to continue to support the project despite this setback.”