

Press Release

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Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust submits the final stage of the Lottery Bid.

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust now has to play a waiting game. Their 'final stage' Big Lottery Bid application for £25 million has now been submitted. The money is to build the 'Milton Keynes's Waterway Park'. This will flow from a junction with the Grand Union Canal at Campbell Park for 6.5 km terminating at Eagle Farm North. The canal will pass through Willen Lake, Newlands, Fox Milne, Atterbury and Broughton. The purpose of the 'Waterway Park' is to provide a green corridor through the Eastern Expansion Area, with provision for boaters, cyclists, walkers and an opportunity to sustain the natural environment for residents.

Signing the 400-page document, Ian Clifton, the Chairperson for Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, put the finishing touch to what has been a monumental achievement by local volunteers spreading over a decade. The application included 30 pages of technical drawings, studies and landscape designs.

The Big Lottery Bid committee will review this vast document and decide in the coming months if Milton Keynes will be one of the lucky few out of the 23 short-listed to gain funding. The Trust is hopeful that it will secure the money now that it has received full cross party support from the council and has been included in both the Milton Keynes Plans and East of England Plans.

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Background details

Notes to the editor:

Link to planning application containing technical drawings and proposed route.

<http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/Binary.ashx?Document=20473>

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway is a proposed linear Water 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



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.
Cams, Northants & Peterborough





the economy, providing people with attractive places to live and work, and improving the quality of the local environment.

The project has made significant progress over the last five years. Partners have invested some £200K in development studies, and nearly four times that amount has been contributed in pro-bono professional work and volunteer time. Last year the Trust became a charity and limited company.

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. Plans exist to build first in Milton Keynes, then in Bedford and finally through Marston Vale.

The Waterway is now securely in the Milton Keynes Local Plan, is included in the draft East of England plan, is in the draft L D F's of Mid Beds and Bedford, and is actively supported by the county in terms of contributing, along with the forest, to economic development and the 'green corridor' in the Vale. The Milton Keynes Waterway Park has been short listed under the Big Lottery Living Landmarks fund and the Trust has been awarded a £250K development grant to undertake further studies that will support a full bid for £25m in 2007.