

Waterway cited in planning objection

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A LANDMARK decision for a waterway which would link Milton Keynes and Bedford was made last week.

For the first time since the inception of the planned £260million, 26-kilometre-long Bedford to MK Waterway, which would link the Grand Union Canal with the River Great Ouse, it has been given as a reason to object to a planning application.

It is claimed by MK Council, one of the 11 'consortium local agencies' working towards building the waterway, that a planning applica-

tion for a waste incinerator at the Rookery Pit, near Stuartby, Bedfordshire, does not take into account a section of the waterway due to be built there.

The council had been asked to make a representation to the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which will make the final decision on the incinerator later this year.

This has been hailed as a key decision by Neil Hayes, one of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust (BMKWT) directors, who said it is the first time one of the consortium agencies has 'been proactive in protecting the waterway'.

He added: "The BMKWT thanks MK Council for taking into account the failure of the developers of the Rookery planning application to consider the proposed route and provision of the waterway.

"The BMKWT has itself made similar submissions to the commission and we hope and trust that the planning inspector will take our submission and that of the council into account when he decides later this year.

"If approval is given, we have requested that the part of the predicted waterway route which falls within the application area is considered by the developer as a community contribution."