

Press Release

Release date and time: 02 October 2007 00:00

One Step Closer ...

Big Lottery Assessors arrived at the Bedford & Milton Keynes Trust this month to carry out further enquiries into their £25 million BIG Lottery bid. Their aim was to clarify and see for themselves what the Waterway Park will be providing to the area.

The assessment involved site tours to Broughton Brook to show the Big Lottery team how vital the canal would be in providing a 'green space' for Milton Keynes, running through a growing concrete jungle. This was followed by a day of interviews based at Campbell Park cricket ground. All the partners to the project (British Waterways, Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Parks Trust and Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust) were on hand to clarify and be quizzed on all aspects of the build and the financial risk management policy which will help bring the canal to fruition. Experts and supporters of the proposed Waterway Park lent their weight to the proceedings with a Stakeholder's Working Lunch, which enabled the Big Lottery assessors an opportunity to tease out those areas of the plan that were of benefit to the local community. Jane Wolfson, Bid Leader and Director of Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust was very pleased with the response of the Big Lottery review over the two days of presentations and exploratory questioning. Speaking at the pre-lottery visit briefing she commended the 50 volunteers for their 'working to gather evidence which showed why the scheme delivers benefits to local people... and campaigned diligently to raise the 'match funds' making the risk assessment successful.'

The outcome of this latest Lottery Commission visit will decide whether the canal makes it to the shorter short list in October this year.

ENDS.

Notes to editors:
(Continued)



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 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.

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

For further details contact: Name: Natasha Brady

Phone number: 01234 714922 Mobile Number: 0789 9998852

OR Jane Wolfson: 01908 663166 - 07771 607579

Email: natasha_brady@btinternet.com

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

Public Enquiries Line: 08454 102030 Textphone: 08456 021 659