Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Joint Local Access Forum

1 October 2013

Drew Marchant

Agenda

Introduction / reminder of the project

Where does it go

Talking points

Dimensions

What might it look like

Economic impact

Closing thoughts and discussion

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

... the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway will be a new 26Km link between the River Great Ouse at Kempston in Bedford and the Grand Union Canal at Newlands in Milton Keynes ...

... the Waterway will be located within a green corridor in three sections, the Bedford Waterway Park, Marston Vale Waterway Park and the Milton Keynes Waterway Park ...

Broadbeam 21st Century Waterway

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

National and Regional Significance

Close The Gap

Creates the first broadbeam link between main UK canal network and the Fenland Waterways

Partners sign up to the Consortium in 2010
**B&MK Waterway Consortium 2010**

**Aims & Objectives set out in Terms of Reference**
- no contract or legal agreement between Members
- Consortium actions require Members internal approvals
- agreement to work together
- freedom for individual members to deliver if they wish
- points towards a Single Purpose Vehicle in the future

**Role of Consortium Members**
- consistent, constructive advocacy
- exert influence to promote the project
- ensure supported in policies and plans
- work in partnership and foster partnership working

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**Contribution of Expertise**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Milton Keynes Council</th>
<th>planning, economic development, transport planning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canal &amp; River Trust</td>
<td>advice on procurement, design, consultants and technical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
<td>River Ouse, flood, water recreation, leverage funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marston Vale Trust, Parks Trust</td>
<td>maintenance and funding model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;MK Waterway Trust</td>
<td>maintain vision, community &amp; user group liaison</td>
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</tbody>
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**Waterways Trust Awards 2011**

Winner
- Strategy and Masterplanning
- Runner up Partnership
- Winner Outstanding Achievement

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**Waterways Trust Awards 2012**

- Runner up Strategy and Masterplanning

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**Where does it go?**
Talking points ...

Under the M1

Grand Union-Willen Lake

Under A421 Bedford-J13

Brogborough Hill
More issues being progressed...

River Ouse bridge headroom
Head of Navigation to Kempston Weir
Station Road Marston
Ridgemont Station/ProLogis
A421 M1 J13 – Milton Keynes
Eagle Farm/Magna Park

SUSTRANS NCN 51 Kempston-Marston

...waterway cross-sections...

...open aspect...

...or traditional hard sided...

Navigable width normally 15m minimum, reducing to 9m minimum (two boat widths) for short sections with good visibility and no obstructions

Depth 1.5m minimum for the width of the channel – can be deeper within engineering constraints

Dimensions?

B&MK Waterway Developer Guides

...bends, locks, paths and facilities...

Dimensions?

B&MK Waterway Developer Guides

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Other facilities to consider at appropriate locations:
- Marina
- Fishing platforms
- Car parking
- Maintenance vehicle access
- Foreplay
- Water features
- Green space

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Dimensions?
What might it look like?

Waterway with open water

Waterway with hard edges

so... yes to spectacular buildings ...

Waterway with soft edges

... with water built in ...
... and landmark buildings...

Swan Hotel, Bedford

... around established homes...

The Embankment, Bedford

... as waterside apartments...

Bedford

... around new homes...

Kidderminster

... as a basin or marina...

Yeadon

... but not like this ... please ...

Leamington Spa
you can put the Waterway in like this

... why not like this ...

London 2012 Olympic Park

Economic Impact Assessment, SQW, 2007

• Benefits measured
  – recreation, boating, visitor economy, tourism, eco-system services, transport, regeneration

• Gross Value Added (when Waterway open)
  – Land based activity £14.7-£23.2m pa
  – Water based £3.8m pa
  – Total £18.5-£27.0m pa

• plus 50-90 businesses relocations, 450-900 jobs

• Other benefits not measured
  – property uplift, construction employment, place shaping, green infrastructure

What we think we are looking for

• iconic feature at Willen Lake
• iconic feature at Brogborough Hill
• destination point at Kempston Junction

2-4 marinas for 150-200 permanent moorings each plus 5,000 hire weeks - 150-200 boats

location, customer access, boat travel times

?? business parks, tourist spots, pubs, cafes, ....

• economists view vs accountants view

What is the economic impact?

... audiences ...

... closing thoughts ...

- Capital cost in economic downturn
- Capital funders vs benefit gainers
- Continue to monitor planning issues

- Shift water-focus to park-with-water

- More engagement!