

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN BEDFORD AND MILTON KEYNES  
WATERWAY TRUST AND BLETCHLEY AND FENNY STRATFORD TOWN  
COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 2021 – 31 MARCH 2024

## Background

The [Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust](#) (BMKWT) has launched an all-electric, fully accessible 12-passenger community trip boat (MKCB) into the Grand Union Canal during 2021, based at Campbell Wharf Marina and will provide cruises for the benefit of Milton Keynes and its communities throughout MK's canalside. This will help raise awareness and funds to support the Trust's Object to promote the development of the BMK Waterway Park.

[Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council](#) (BFSTC) has contributed to the set-up costs for the project and wishes to support development of the cruising and activity programme where it can benefit Bletchley and Fenny Stratford's communities. Both parties here commit to an ongoing collaboration to achieve shared objectives around the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford canalside.

## Proposed Partnership Agreement

### Objects

- 1 To promote and facilitate projects to enable the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford communities and individuals to benefit from and contribute to the MKCB.
- 2 To seek to influence the future development of the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford canalside by connecting it with its local communities, preserving and enhancing its biodiversity and celebrating the industrial heritage of the canal

### Focus

- To develop canalside facilities where they will enable safe and convenient access to the MKCB and to other activity on the canal;
- To develop and support community projects where they can make beneficial use of cruising and other activities on the MKCB;
- To promote the boat and its associated programmes (including volunteering) across Bletchley and Fenny Stratford where that can support local benefit;
- To encourage and promote canal-based celebrations where these can increase participation in activities beside and on the water, including community cruising;
- To support growth of local economic activity associated with the MKCB and with the canal
- To contribute to preservation and enhancement of the canalside environment and heritage

### Approach

- To develop a joint vision for future use of the canal and canalside to promote wellbeing in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford

- To identify deliverable projects, based both on the canal and within communities, for each year of the initial three year partnership;
- To work for at least three years to secure resources for these projects. This will include a direct funding contribution from Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council comprising £5,000 per annum for each of the years 2021-22, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The allocation of spending of the funding provided by the Town Council will be approved by resolution of full Council.
- To ensure projects involving the MKCB generate revenue needed to maintain its viability as a sustainable social enterprise;
- Annually to review progress and suggest future opportunities, reporting back to BFSTC and to the Trust's MKCB Stakeholder Forum.

#### **Rights and Obligations:**

- The BMKWT will identify facilities required to enable and maximise benefits of the boat in BFS
- The BMKWT will commit to a minimum number of cruises serving Bletchley and Fenny Stratford commensurate with the funding provided by BFSTC
- Both parties will allocate time and where possible resource to promoting the local partnership and agreed projects
- Both parties will actively promote and support volunteering from the communities of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford
- The BMKWT will support review and joint progress reporting to BFSTC
- BFSTC will support review and joint progress reporting to the Trusts' s MKCB Stakeholder Forum
- Either party can, after three years, withdraw from the arrangements at three months' notice if a review suggests projects are no longer delivering benefits to BFS and/or to the M

#### **Additional Information**

The success of the partnership will be assessed using the following and other measures

- Number of cruises starting or finishing in Bletchley or Fenny Stratford
- Number of individuals from BFS postcodes benefiting from a cruise
- Number of individuals from BFS postcodes involved in a waterway-related project
- Number of volunteers from BFS postcodes involved in delivering canal-based activity, including Draft for the MKCB
- Number of BFS business and groups involved in funding or taking part in canal-based activity