

# urbo **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 27, 2008**

## **CHESTERFIELD PARTNERSHIP WELCOMES *EMDA* SUPPORT**

The partnership behind plans to create Chesterfield Waterside urban village has welcomed news that East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is set to support the project through its Waterways Regeneration Fund.

Two grants totalling £860,000 have been awarded to help create a new canal basin which forms the centrepiece and first phase of the Chesterfield Waterside project which received planning approval in August 2008. The 40 acre scheme runs alongside the River Rother corridor and the A61. Some of the funding will also be used to support the enabling infrastructure works.

Anthony Payne, *emda*'s Land & Development Director explained,

"We are supporting this project because waterways present a unique opportunity to improve the environment and regenerate run down areas – transforming them into successful, flourishing places which attract our communities and unlock the value of the sites."

Located close to the town's railway station, the canal basin will eventually lie at the heart of a £300m regeneration scheme that will feature high quality residential and office accommodation together with retail and leisure facilities.

The project is being co-ordinated by the Chesterfield Waterside Partnership, a collaboration between Chesterfield Borough Council and regeneration developer Urbo Regeneration – a joint venture between Bolsterstone and Arnold Laver Group.

Peter Swallow, Chairman of the Chesterfield Waterside Partnership commented, "The grant award from *emda* is excellent news for the Partnership and for the people of Chesterfield.

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“We expect work on the canal basin and sewer diversion infrastructure to be completed in April 2009, having recently commenced on site. We are aiming to submit outline plans for the scheme as a whole later this year.”

The wider scheme will create a high quality, mixed-use waterside neighbourhood of approximately 1300 homes together with a retail and business quarter, hotels, landmark public square, eco-park and public open spaces. It is scheduled for an outline planning application in late 2008.

Councillor Ray Russell, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council, added: “This magnificent project will help to transform the town and its economy by creating an imaginative, high quality waterside environment where people can live, work and enjoy leisure facilities.”

News of *emda*’s commitment to the project has also been welcomed by existing users of the Chesterfield Canal which was opened in 1777 but fell into disuse when the partial collapse of the Norwood Tunnel in 1907 cut the waterway off from the rest of the canal network.

The Chesterfield Canal Partnership – made up of local authorities, statutory and non-statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and private enterprise – says the development will provide a real boost to their own plans to reconnect the waterway to the national canal system.

Geraint Coles, Development Manager at the Chesterfield Canal Trust said, “The whole Waterside development is an excellent project and we have always said that if our plans to restore the canal are to be successful then we needed a destination point that people want to visit.

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“This scheme also provides a fitting gateway to the Peak District and will help attract canal enthusiasts and other tourists into the heart of Chesterfield.”

## **Ends**

For further information, please contact Justine McGuinn of Just PR & Marketing on 07903 661228 or email [justine@justprm.co.uk](mailto:justine@justprm.co.uk) or visit [www.justprm.co.uk](http://www.justprm.co.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

### ***Urbo Regeneration***

Urbo Regeneration is a property development and investment company based in Chesterfield, Derbyshire delivering best practice urban regeneration projects. The company works in partnership with local councils, public agencies, land-owners and other developers and is targeting projects across the Midlands, North East, Yorkshire and the North West. It works with leading designers and other professionals at the cutting edge of regeneration. Its expertise lies in shaping carefully tailored solutions for delivering complex area renewal to create vibrant new places within towns and cities. The company is delivering excellent urban design and architecture, people oriented place-making, sustainable solutions in a fair, partnership framework. For further information visit <http://www.urboregen.com/index.php>.

### ***Chesterfield Waterside***

Chesterfield Waterside Partnership is an innovative joint venture partnership between Urbo and Chesterfield Borough Council to deliver a new £300m urban village on a 16 hectare (40 acre) former industrial site adjacent to the A61 in the River Rother corridor. The project also involves restoration of the local canal network to create a fully navigable route.

The project is based on a masterplan led by EDAW commended by the Planning Inspectorate for its approach. Development will be delivered by Urbo directly and also in partnership with other sub-developers to ensure a mixed approach to design and delivery.

The project will create a stunning and sustainable waterside environment for apartments, houses, bars, restaurants and offices together with high quality waterside public realm features, contemporary landscape and public art.

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The design team refining the masterplan is being led by EDAW together with Proctor and Matthews as lead architects and the canal basin started on site in summer 2008.

## ***emda's Waterways Regeneration Fund***

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is breathing new life into the region's waterways through a Waterway Regeneration Fund which closed on July 31, 2007.

The funding period will last for three years (from June 2007) and grants were made available up to the value of £500,000 to help encourage waterway regeneration schemes.

For full details, please visit: <http://www.emda.org.uk/news/newsreturn.asp?fileno=3217>

## ***emda***

*emda* is one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, set up in 1999 to bring a regional focus to economic development

Working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations the aim is to deliver the 206 Regional Economic Strategy (RES) 'A Flourishing Region', which sets out regional priorities until 2020.

The RES, co-ordinated by *emda*, highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and builds on the previous two strategies; 'Prosperity Through People' and 'Destination 2010'.

In early 2007 the National Audit Office announced *emda* had received the highest possible grade of 'performing strongly' in an independent assessment of its work – scoring 22 out of 24.

For more details visit [www.emda.org.uk](http://www.emda.org.uk) or contact Victoria Dyson, media ad PR Manager at *emda* on 0115 947 1778 or email [victoriadyson@emd.org.uk](mailto:victoriadyson@emd.org.uk).