

ELLR DAVID LAMING

APPX 11

Significantly, 3 years ago, almost to the day, I agreed to encourage the regeneration of our River Avon through the Bath & North East Somerset Council area.

The then Cabinet Member responsible, Terry Gazzard kindly pointed out that in his opinion it would take at least 10 years to simply get a meeting.

Well here we are 3 years down the river and we have completed a visionary river report, created a trust, appointed a locally respected businessman to Chair the River Trust, located the Boathouse alongside Pulteney Weir to be considered as the Trust Head Quarters allowing us to launch a river focused visitor and tourist exhibition and have for the first time a focal point where all users, interested groups, clubs and organisations can meet, discuss and co-ordinate.

The River Corridor has been allocated one hundred thousand pounds from this year's budget.

The River Trust is assisting with flood alleviation proposals on Green Park and North Quays, researching Archimedes Screw electrical generation on Pulteney Weir and is putting together innovative river based proposals for the 2 Keynsham Peninsulas either side of the River Chew, which should culminate in hundreds of water and land based homes - hundreds of manufacturing jobs - production of alternative energy sources, flood compensation and drought water storage.

It should also be noted that our council is the first council in the land, in the land to undertake a detailed Task and Finish Review on the difficult situations faced by Boat Dwellers and River Travellers.

All this has only been achieved by the goodwill, drive and pragmatic realism by the current Leader of the Council and members of his Cabinet both past and present.

I offer a special thank you to Councillors Crossley, Ball, Bellotti and Stevens, and a very special vote of thanks must go to Councillor Eleanor Jackson for the sterling way she has lead the team researching the Boat Dwellers and River Travellers.

Thank you very much one and all.