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## **PRESS RELEASE**

The directors of Abingdon Hydro have decided that we should not continue with this project.

Abingdon Hydro is a “BenCom”: a society created not for our own benefit, but for our local community. This was a true community project, offering something for everyone – not just sustainable electricity, but a place to view the river and see water power up close, a fish pass designed as a natural flowing stream, an area that was formerly overgrown with brambles replanted for people and wildlife, better provision of white water for the canoe clubs, an educational resource, a tourist attraction, and a community fund to support other environmental projects.

But the finances and the clock were against us. We had deadlines to meet, and the sheer complexity of the regulations was slowing progress. Then over the last few months the incentives that were designed to encourage groups like ours have been cut drastically. As invitations to tender had already been issued, we waited for the returns before making a final decision. But construction is a seller's market at present, so the cost, and the risk of delay, turned out to be too high to justify.

We are very grateful to our 420 members, without whom this project would never have happened. They were willing to invest for a possible long term reward that would never be more than modest. We would also like to thank those public officers who showed patience and a willingness to help as far as they could, despite the burden of ever expanding rules and regulations.

Over the years of attendance at public events we have met thousands of people, and know that the great majority wanted this project to become a reality. One day, when conditions are right, perhaps it could.

Richard Riggs,  
Abingdon Hydro Secretary