

Public Inquiry for Intu Application?



Despite objections from the Town Council, the Parks Trust and Historic England, the planning committee at MK Council has given Intu planning permission for their controversial expansion over Midsummer Boulevard.

Unless the decision is overturned, nearly half the public open space in the concourse, which was set aside for community use and a future public transport link, will be lost. With development sites lying empty around The Point, next to Intu's shopping centre, the Town Council argues there is no excuse to build new shops over public open space that is clearly protected from infill

development in the new CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan.

"A vital democratic principle is at stake," says Dr. Rebecca Kurth, Chair of the Town Council. "Central government promises communities that neighbourhood plans will give local people and businesses real power over what kind of development goes where. But, less than 100 days since landslide referendums approved the new CMK Neighbourhood Plan, MK Council has set it aside."

If this decision is left to stand, MK Council can use the same arguments again to permit infill development on classic CMK infrastructure including grid roads, Market



COME ALONG TO THE PARISH MEETING

Meet your Town Councillors, hear about local issues and find out the latest plans at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 October. Residents will also have the opportunity to feed back on what they like and don't like about living in CMK, and what improvements they would like to see.

The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 6pm, in the Centrecom community centre on North Row, between North 9th and 10th Streets.

A meeting of the CMK Residents' Forum will be taking place after the parish meeting. This is a chance for representatives of the various areas in CMK and Campbell Park to get together and discuss the issues that affect them. This will start at 7pm.

Square and Station Square, as well as on green open spaces.

CMK Town Council has called for a public inquiry. They have referred the matter to the Secretary of State, requesting that MK Council's decision is 'called in' for scrutiny.

Central Library Recognised

CMK's iconic Central Library has been awarded Grade II listed building status. Described by Historic England as having 'a commanding façade', the library was built and opened by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation in 1981. Among its features are the gigantic painting by Boyd & Evans in the main entrance hall, the rooftop glass dome and the popular 'Whisper' sculpture outside the building.

The library today is only part of what was originally planned. The original design envisaged the building being extended at the rear for a museum or archive, with the present building being the first phase of this larger project. This helps to explain the unfinished appearance of the rear of the building.

The listing of the Library follows listings of the Central Bus Station last year, and of the Central Shopping Building in 2010.



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Gazebo Available for Residents' Groups

A lovely new red gazebo is now available for the use of local residents' associations for events in CMK. To enquire about using the gazebo, please contact the Town Council by calling on 01908 766176 or emailing clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk.

CMK to Get New Train Services

A new service of six trains a day each way between London and Blackpool will begin serving Milton Keynes Central station from 2017 under plans announced by Alliance Rail, part of the Arriva group. The new route is also planned to stop at Tamworth, Crewe and Preston, giving Milton Keynes new direct links with these major towns and cities.

MK Futures 2050

Peter Marland, leader of the main Milton Keynes Council, recently announced the formation of an independent commission to plan how the city will grow and develop between now and 2050. The commission, called MK Futures 2050, will explore issues such as the city's economy and identity, and how these may change in the future.

Cyclo Cross Report Published

Following the massive disruption Campbell Park residents experienced during last year's Cyclo Cross event, CMK Town Council requested a report from Milton Keynes Council on the matter. The audit report has now been published, revealing severe mismanagement of the project, which ultimately cost the Council £350,000, almost ten times more than the event's original budget.

Roadworks Damage Midsummer Boulevard

Recent roadworks to resurface the east end of Midsummer Boulevard, near the Theatre, have caused controversy after it was discovered that the granite slabs that run along the edges of the road had been removed, damaged and not replaced. The works have been carried out on the section between Secklow Gate and Marlborough Gate, and also included removing the speed ramps, which were causing problems for the large number of buses using the road.

CMK Town Council has requested an investigation into why the slabs, which form part of the original design of the boulevard system, have been removed and discarded in this manner. The Town Council feels it is important that works to the roads in CMK retain the original materials and design features of the boulevards and gates, which form a key part of the character of Central Milton Keynes.



New Community Facilities Planned

In the Residents' Questionnaire last year, many people expressed an interest in having new community sports, arts and cultural facilities in CMK. Milton Keynes Council now have advanced plans for a new sports facility on the vacant site next to the Network Rail building on Elder Gate.

The facility will include a new football pitch and multi-use games area, together with changing facilities.

The Town Council are now exploring new community facilities for events and performing arts.

A number of sites around the parish are now being looked at, including sites in Campbell Park and near the Central Library. These two locations were identified in the Town Council questionnaire as the most visited locations in the parish, making them the ideal locations for a new centre of community activity.



CMK Town Council is now on Facebook

You can now connect with the Town Council on Facebook. For more news updates and information, please go to www.facebook.com/cmktowncouncil.

For those who prefer to tweet, you can follow us on www.twitter.com/cmktowncouncil.

The Town Council is keen to keep in touch with as many residents as possible, so please spread the word.



New Marina for Campbell Park Canalside

A 100-berth marina will form part of a recently announced housing development at the south east corner of the Campbell Park grid square. The scheme, to be developed by house builder Crest Nicholson, will provide restaurant facilities, a convenience store, nursery and pub, on a vacant site that has been earmarked for development since the 1990s. This site is located beyond the end of the park itself, on the south flank between Avebury Boulevard and Childs Way (H6).

Importantly, the £88 million scheme retains the pedestrian underpass under Overgate, which was to be removed in earlier

plans for the site. The proposal has attracted some criticism in the local press on architectural grounds. The site is one of several around the flanks of Campbell Park that were identified for development in the original masterplan and more recently in the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Council will work closely with MKDP and Crest Nicholson to ensure the development meets the needs of current and future residents.



Memorial Sculpture Unveiled

A new sculpture was unveiled in Campbell Park recently in honour of the late Edna Read, perhaps our greatest champion of public art in Milton Keynes. The new artwork, named "Animals in War", is a tribute to all the animals that have died in wars, and was donated to the citizens of Milton Keynes by the renowned Scottish sculptor Ronald Rae as a memorial to Edna. She had curated a major exhibition of sculptures in Campbell Park, and elsewhere in CMK, in the 1990s.

In the 1960s, Edna founded a "City Gallery" which operated out of a white van and persuaded the Milton Keynes Development Corporation to put money aside for art. As a result, a significant amount of public art in CMK is thanks to Edna.

"Edna led a full life and was so passionate about the arts, as well as about her home town Milton Keynes," said Ian Michie, Chairman of the Public Arts Trust. "I thought that it was an appropriate memorial

and that we all did Edna proud." The large granite sculpture's unveiling was attended by a crowd of visitors, including the Mayor of Milton Keynes, local MP Iain Stewart and the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. The unveiling was undertaken by Charles Saumarez Smith, the CEO of the Royal Academy of Arts.



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Saturday 3 October Lost in Translation

Milton Keynes Central Library open from 2pm to 4pm.

Sunday 4 October Seed Swap

Join local gardening groups in swapping fruit, vegetable and flower seeds at the MK Rose in Campbell Park, taking place all day.

Saturday 10 October Festival of Languages

Christ the Cornerstone Church starting at 10am.

Saturday 24 October Make a Difference Day

Meet at the Cricket Pavilion, Campbell Park at 10am.

Thursday 29 October Isla St. Clare Concert

A concert will be held at the Christ the Cornerstone Church at 7.30pm, featuring pipers from the MK Pipe Band. Tickets cost £10 per person.

Sunday 1 November Fireworks Display

The spectacular annual Campbell Park fireworks display returns this year at 7.30pm. The event is open to all and no booking is required.

Wednesday 11 November Armistice Day

A short ceremony will be held to commemorate Armistice Day at the MK Rose in Campbell Park, beginning shortly before 11am.

Saturday 19 December Mid-winter Fire Festival

Campbell Park Events Plateau, beginning at 7pm.

For more details of these events and others, please see our website at www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Make a Difference Day



For everyone who's enjoyed Campbell Park over the years, there will be an opportunity to give something back by helping to maintain and improve the park. The event is part of the national 'Make a Difference Day', which encourages people around the country to volunteer to improve their communities and the lives of people around them. The work will focus on reinstating some of the woodchip paths, to create new routes to explore the park. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Cricket Pavilion at the east end of the park, for a 10am start on Saturday 24 October. Gloves and strong boots are essential!

The Festival of Languages



Head over to the Guildhall behind Christ the Cornerstone Church for a celebration of the breadth of languages that are spoken around

the world. Activities will include a "parade of nations", blindfolded cultural food tasting, a languages quiz, international games tent and rugby-themed artworks. It is being held partly to celebrate the coming of the Rugby World Cup to Milton Keynes, which will bring a diverse range of fans from across the world to the city. The festival will take place on Saturday 10 October, starting at 11am. Entry is free for all.

Mid-winter Fire Festival

The popular annual 'Paraffinalia' fire festival returns to Campbell Park to celebrate the darkest night of the year. The event, described as a 'celebration of fire', features lantern parades, live performances, pyrotechnic effects and much more. The festivities take place on Saturday 19 December beginning at 7pm near the amphitheatre, where audiences will be met by gigantic walkabout characters and led to the festivities throughout the park. There will also be live music during the main part of the festival.



Lost in Translation

Art and literature meet with the help of a robot in a unique installation taking place at the Milton Keynes Central Library. "Lost in Translation"



is a custom made robot which responds to your voice as you read from a book, producing drawings unique to each person. The artwork is described as "questioning not only the meaning and interpretation of text but also who controls our understanding and, indeed, what is 'lost in translation'". The installation will be open on Saturday 3 October between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Entry is free for all.

www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk



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CMK LIFE is published by CMK Town Council (CMKTC), which is the parish council elected by residents living in the City Centre and Campbell Park. CMKTC is independent of MK Council and is not affiliated with any political party. Any opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of CMKTC. Contact us on 01908 766176.