

CMK Plan Wins Two National Awards

The pioneering CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan has scored not one, but two wins at this year's National Planning Awards. The plan, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of Milton Keynes residents and business at referendums in May, won awards for both Neighbourhood Planning and for Community Engagement. MK Mayor Cllr Keith McLean joined members of the Plan's steering group for the awards ceremony.

The recognition in the Community Engagement category reflects the unique way in which the CMK Plan was developed. In its early stages, the plan was put on a Wiki website, allowing members of the public to make their own edits to the draft plan, directly shaping how the plan was created.



"Milton Keynes is famous for innovation," said Town planner David Lock, CBE, one of the business representatives on the steering group for the Plan. "We are proud that this pioneering type of neighbourhood

plan has won recognition from industry experts. Well-prepared Neighbourhood Plans are a clear expression of local preference that can bring real benefits to communities everywhere."

Cycle Hire Coming to MK

London-style "Boris Bikes" will soon be a common sight around Milton Keynes following the announcement of a new cycle hire scheme for the city. Sixty new 'bike docks' are set to be installed across the city from Spring 2016, opening up a wide range of cycling routes. It is hoped the scheme will encourage commuters to leave their car at home.

The Milton Keynes hire cycles will benefit from the city's extensive redway network, allowing for easy and fast journeys between CMK and other parts of the city. The scheme will allow users to hire cycles through a phone app or via a membership card. It will be the second largest scheme of its type in the country, behind only the one in London.



THERE'S NEWS AND THERE'S E-NEWS!

A new monthly CMK news digest could be on its way to your email inbox! This will supplement your printed newsletters, currently delivered quarterly through your letterboxes. Please send an e-mail to comms@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk if you would be interested in signing up to the CMK Life e-newsletter, launching early in March, bringing you more up to date news and developments from your Town Council.



i

New Dog Bins for Campbell Park

Two new dog bins have been installed in Campbell Park. CMK Town Council is providing these in response to feedback from residents living in Campbell Park, who said that dog bins were a priority in the CMK Residents' Questionnaire.

Pride of MK for CMK Warden

The CMK Street Warden, Rob Harriman, won the Pride in MK Award in the 'Service with a Smile' category. Rob is jointly employed by CMK Town Council and Milton Keynes City Centre Management. The award recognises how the Warden helps to integrate the residents and businesses in CMK to fix issues for everyone in the community.

Lloyds Court Plans Approved

Plans to refurbish Lloyds Court with new local shops and businesses were approved at a meeting of MK Council's planning committee early in January. The scheme will retain the current appearance of the building, the first to be built in CMK, but will alter the interior to provide five new large retail units and over fifteen smaller units for local shops and businesses.

Proposed Apartments Refused

MK Council's planning committee turned down proposals for a new apartment block on North Second Street, behind the Premier Inn Hotel, not far from Buckingham Square residential blocks. The scheme had proposed a five-storey residential building on the existing private car park.

Minister calls for Public Inquiry

Following a request from CMK Town Council, the Secretary of State has called for a public inquiry into controversial plans by Intu to build over public space. The proposals, which Milton Keynes Council had approved in September, involve infilling space under the glass arch of Midsummer Place, as well as narrowing the reserved transport corridor and public walkway through the area. Both are protected by the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan.

"Pushing this Plan aside has demoralised other communities that have put their faith in Neighbourhood Planning." says



Dr. Rebecca Kurth, CMK Town Council Chair. "We are very relieved that we will now have the opportunity to make our case before an independent inspector."

There will be an opportunity for residents to present their views during the inquiry. The independent planning

inspector will review all the evidence presented before making a recommendation to the Minister, Greg Clark, who will make the final decision on whether to grant or refuse planning permission.

The public inquiry will take place later this year, most likely in September.

Rooms for Hire in CMK

The Town Council often hears complaints from residents about the lack of rooms for hire around CMK for community groups. In response to this common problem, we have added a new page to the Town Council website, detailing different options available in CMK. These are listed under the new 'local information' heading on the website, and include some little-known spaces, such as rooms in the Library and YMCA.

The spaces available vary from small 1:1 meeting rooms to large conference rooms. Many of these offer a discount for community and charity uses.

You will also find an application form on the page to hold outdoor events on public land, such as in a park or on a local road (to hold neighbourhood 'block parties', for example).

The new local information page also includes details about clubs and other local groups, the history of CMK, and news on upcoming road closures. Please note, the CMK Town Council website has now moved to a new domain, www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk. If you visit the website regularly, we recommend that you update your bookmarks to reflect the new web address.



© MK Bridge Club

Classic CMK Sculpture Listed

One of CMK's most recognisable artworks, the 'Octo' figure of eight infinity sculpture, has been listed by Historic England. The sculpture, which famously appeared in Cliff Richard's 'Wired for Sound' music video, was created by artist Wendy Taylor. It sits in its own reflecting pool, set between the glass walls of Norfolk and Ashton House, each reflecting the sky and trees around them to create an impression of infinity.

"Concrete Cows apart, Octo is our best known sculpture and has been widely illustrated," says Tim Skelton, Chair of MK Forum (the Civic Society for Milton Keynes). "The siting together with Norfolk and Ashton Houses could not be better and was a touch of inspired genius. It's a truly lovely work and it is fascinating to walk around it and see how the shape changes."

The reflecting pool around the sculpture was threatened as part of a planning application last year to turn much of the garden north of Ashton House into parking. That planning application was withdrawn, but a new application has recently been submitted to create a smaller car park in the same area. Although the plans retain a few of the trees presently on the site, they would result in the loss of a sizeable area of public green space.



South Campbell Park Parking Survey

In response to issues raised by local residents, the Town Council is running a consultation on introducing a parking permit scheme on the south side of Campbell Park. The scheme would discourage shoppers and visitors to the park from parking on residential streets. The consultation will be covering Albion Place, Amelia's Lane, Arcadia Lane, Columbia Place and Dalgin Place.

The proposals follow the successful introduction of a parking permit scheme on Adelphi Street on the north side of the park, which has solved the serious parking problems that were being experienced in that area. If the proposed new scheme on the south side goes ahead, expansion to some of the other streets on this side of Campbell Park may be considered.

How do you Imagine MK in 2050?

MK Futures 2050 is asking residents to submit their ideas for how Milton Keynes should look in 35 years' time. The newly established commission was launched in December at the Catapult in CMK's Pinnacle building. Milton Keynes Council set up the MK Futures 2050 Commission to produce different options for how the city should grow and develop over the coming decades.

The commission consists of a group of nine independent specialists, headed by Cranfield University Vice-Chair Sir Peter Gregson, and includes experts and local representatives from a range of backgrounds, such as Pete Winkelman. Residents should email their ideas to MKFutures@Milton-keynes.gov.uk or tweet to @Futures2050MK.



i

Thursday 18 February Family History Sessions

Two opportunities to have a 30 minute free consultation with a family history expert at the Central Library. Thursday, 18 February, 4.15-7.30pm and 17 March, 4.15-7.30pm. Advanced booking is essential.

Saturday 20 February MK Gallery Live Music

Local bands Gammy Bird, Claire and Ivory Yardsale will be performing in the Gallery's event space at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6. To book please visit www.mkgallery.org.

Sunday 6 March MK Half Marathon

The MK Half Marathon is back for 2016. Starting from the Xscape, the race features the usual 5km, 10km and half marathon lengths, along with a new 20 mile race ideal for anyone preparing for the London Marathon.

Sunday 13 March Parks and Run

Fun runs for all ages and abilities with a choice of routes from 2km to 10km. Guests should meet at the Campbell Park Pavilion at 10am.

Sunday 13 March St Patrick's Day

Join the MK Irish Society at the MK Rose in Campbell Park to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland. Attendance is free, with the event beginning at midday.

Saturday 20 March Ride Out

Horse rides ranging from 4km to 37km in length, beginning at the Campbell Park events plateau. Booking at least two weeks in advance is essential. For times and prices please contact The Parks Trust on 01908 677791.

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

New Community Building

Following detailed research by the Town Council we are delighted to announce that plans for a new community hall are starting to take shape. The selected site is off Avebury Boulevard in Campbell Park and the aim is to provide a flexible, attractive new space for community events. To help deliver this exciting new facility we are teaming up with The Parks Trust. The Parks Trust is also planning new amenities in Campbell Park including a children's nursery, adventure play area and café which will take advantage of the wonderful views. We chose Campbell Park for this new facility because in last year's survey residents told us this was the most visited public amenity in Central Milton Keynes!

Why are we taking this initiative? Although CMK's population is rapidly growing our residents still lack the kind of community facilities that people enjoy in the rest of Milton Keynes. The new community building will provide space for sports and community events such as live music, dance, rehearsals, stand-up comedy and plays.

The feedback from the residents' questionnaire last year has been very useful in reaching this stage but we would now like to hear more. What would you most like to do or see in the new community hall? Please look out for the 'roadshow' in the travelling marquee which will visit your neighbourhood soon. We'll drop a leaflet through your door nearer the date, or you can check our website for updates.



2016 Precept

The community hall is a major project which will take about three years and £1m to complete. Most of the money will come from 'Section 106' funds derived from new development in CMK. However, in the short-term we will take out a loan, and in the long-term we will need to subsidise the hall to ensure that hire rates are affordable. We have therefore decided to raise the precept (the annual parish tax) to help fund the hall. This year, the precept will go up by 9.5%, equating to £3.50 a year, or 7p a week, for a 'Band D' home. As this is about the price of a coffee, and the CMK precept is still only half the MK average, we hope you will find this reasonable.



www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk



CMK West Ward:

Andre Brady: andre.brady@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Jim McGowan: jim.mcgowan@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Andrew Thomas: andrew.thomas@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

CMK East Ward:

Ken Baker: ken.baker@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Hilarie Bowman: hilarie.bowman@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Ramo Erdogan: ramazanerdogan@gmail.com

Campbell Park Ward:

Linda Inoki: linda.inoki@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Rebecca Kurth: rebecca.kurth@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

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.