

## New Northside Development for Campbell Park

Proposals for new high-rise residential buildings along the undeveloped land to the north of Campbell Park have been revealed by Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP). The organisation, which is fully owned by Milton Keynes Council, has issued an invitation for developers to put forward plans for the site.

The brief, which is at a very early stage, is for a mixed-use development including new housing and possibly a hotel.

"We hope this will be an exciting new development for Campbell Park with a range of homes and other uses," said MKDP chief executive Charles MacDonald.

"It is a large 29-acre site and we are keen to see construction of a range of facilities that will add vitality and vibrancy to the area."



An illustration of how Northside and other future developments in Milton Keynes could appear.



### RESIDENTS FACE RECYCLING DIFFICULTIES

Residents living in North 9th/10th Streets have been struggling to recycle their food waste after their green bins and blue boxes were taken away. A representative from the area approached the Town Council with concerns about this and one of our councillors is now investigating the problem.

Residents have also been resorting to placing all of their rubbish in pink recycling sacks because Milton Keynes Council no longer supply free black bags. While the Town Council is taking up this matter with them, it is unable to provide black bags and residents are advised to take the matter up directly with MKC.

## Site Allocations Plan

Milton Keynes Council has released a new draft of its controversial Site Allocations Plan. This aims to plug a gap in the 5-year housing supply by identifying numerous sites across MK where new residential development could be built.

The previous version of the plan included two sites within CMK; Station Square and an area of public parking and footpaths on the edge of Campbell Park, next to the John Lewis car park.

The Town Council objected to both of these, particularly to the idea of building in Station Square, which is a fundamental part of CMK's design heritage and the only large public space for events and leisure.

The Town Council is pleased to see that Station Square has been taken off the list, however we are still objecting to the inclusion of the John Lewis site, as this would reduce public parking and access and cause more traffic congestion on Marlborough Gate.



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## Housing Development Refused

An eight storey residential development at 809/811 Silbury Boulevard, between North Twelfth and North Thirteenth Streets, was refused planning permission by Milton Keynes Council's planning committee. Neighbouring residents had objected to the scheme's height and mass. It is possible for the developer to appeal this decision; but for now it's a question of 'watch this space'.

## Open Space Assessment

Milton Keynes Council is currently carrying out an assessment of all the open space in the borough. The aim is to identify high and low quality public space in each parish and feed the results into Plan MK, the new core strategy. The audit identifies a number of spaces in CMK including Grafton Park and Fred Roche Gardens, and the Town Council is currently writing its response.

## Facility Work Continues

The Town Council has been busy working on the planned community facility in Campbell Park. A large number of meetings have been taking place over the last few months to refine the design of the building and its surroundings. It is hoped that the final design will be ready to bring to residents in the near future.

## Are You Registered?

Residents who have recently moved house will need to reapply to be included on the electoral register. Milton Keynes Council is encouraging residents to register, which you can do by either going to [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote) or calling 01908 254706.

## MK50 Celebrations



The city's 50th anniversary will fall on January 23rd next year. To celebrate the landmark, Milton Keynes Council is inviting community groups and residents to propose and organise events across the city, in addition to the main events already planned. CMK Town Council is currently considering some proposals for additional events in CMK, in collaboration with local groups.

The main programme of events planned for MK50 includes 'The Spectacular', a larger version

of 2015's extremely popular 'Clash of Drums', for October 2017, and the MK50 Exhibition, which will open in Middleton Hall in January. This will describe the story of Milton Keynes from its origins as undeveloped farmland around older towns and villages through to the thriving city we know today.

Anyone who wants to find out more or get involved with the MK50 celebrations should visit the dedicated website at [www.mk50.co.uk](http://www.mk50.co.uk).

## Public Inquiry Update

The major public inquiry over Intu's plans to build on public open space at Midsummer Place occurred over four days in early September. However the inquiry ran out of time to hear all of the evidence.

As well as listening to barristers and expert witnesses, the inspector heard from 15 residents from across MK, who spoke about the need to

protect public access, transport routes and MK's unique heritage from unnecessary damage. Many stressed the importance of upholding local democracy by refusing Intu's controversial application which, they said, goes against the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan.

MK Council and Intu are putting the case for approval while CMK Town Council is

seeking refusal. The inquiry will resume for a further three days, being scheduled to recommence on 30 November again at Christ the Cornerstone Church and members of the public are welcome to attend.

The ultimate outcome of the planning inquiry will not be known until well into 2017.



## Theatre District Sold

CMK's Theatre District has been sold to a new owner, Otium Real Estate. The district, which has become increasingly run down in recent years, will now be refurbished with an expected completion date of March 2017. The new owners are also keen to attract new tenants to populate the refurbished scheme.

"We are committed to bringing the Theatre District fully back to life to offer an exciting leisure location for the city centre," says Otium CEO Ashley Blake. "It's a great location in the heart of the town and just needs serious investment and active management which we are already cracking on with. We are keen that the district is in great shape in time for MK's 50th birthday next year."

Construction has also started on a new Premier Inn hotel on the south side of the district opposite Xscape. This is being built on the undeveloped site between the Theatre car park and Iceland, where the CMK ferris wheel was located for a short time in 2007.



© Martin Pettitt

## Sport Central Construction Starts

Construction work has begun on a new community sports facility next to the Network Rail headquarters on Elder Gate.

The new facility, named 'Sport Central', will offer a full-size pitch for football and rugby, two multi-use games spaces suitable for sports ranging from tennis to basketball, and a community pavilion with changing rooms for players and officials. There will also be a meeting space, storage space and small bar area.



© Milton Keynes Council

It is being built on an area of land which has remained undeveloped since CMK was first built, the site being used as a construction compound for Network Rail for many years. Recently it has become an eyesore and it is hoped the new sports facility will make this area of CMK much safer and more welcoming when it is completed.

The complex is to open during the middle part of 2017. The new facility is supported by Network Rail, and will serve to replace the community sports functions lost when the former National Hockey Stadium was demolished.

## CMK Could Become 'Business Improvement District'

Businesses in CMK will be able to vote on a new project that could see the city centre benefit from over £1 million a year of additional funding for improvements over the next five years. If CMK succeeds in becoming a 'Business Improvement District', many businesses in the city centre will pay a levy that would go towards revitalising the public realm for workers and residents alike.

The project is being led by AmazingCMK, a company set up by Milton Keynes City Centre Management. "We are delighted to bring forward a Business Improvement District proposal to Central Milton Keynes," says City Centre Manager Melanie Beck. "The five

BID themes developed through consultation with businesses revolve around making Central Milton Keynes a safer, cleaner, vibrant and well-maintained place to work, visit and live."



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### Saturday 22 October The Concrete Pint

The annual Milton Keynes CAMRA real ale festival will be held at the old Central Bus Station on Elder Gate from Wednesday 19 through Saturday 22 October. Food and entertainment will be available.

### Tuesday 25 October Film Masterclass

Avant-garde filmmaker Marianna Simnett will be leading a masterclass aimed at over 16s. Tickets cost £5 and must be booked via [mkgallery.org](http://mkgallery.org). The session runs from 1pm to 5pm.

### Friday 28 October Family Workshops

Inspire children to get involved in art. MK Gallery 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Tickets are £2 per person, booking required.

### Sunday 6 November Campbell Park Fireworks

The city's premiere fireworks display will take place at Campbell Park along with the usual fun fair. The show is expected to begin around 7.30pm.

### Friday 11 November Armistice Day

A chance to pay respect to all those who have lost their lives in wars throughout history. Taking place at the MK Rose at 10.45am.

### Thursday 8 December Love Where You Live

A chance to help keep CMK clean and tidy! Meet at the Xscape McDonalds at 12pm for a walk lasting roughly two hours. Refreshments available. Hi-vis jackets and litter picks provided.

### Saturday 17 December Winter Fire Festival

The annual Paraffinalia fire festival returns to Campbell Park, featuring the popular walking characters and dazzling pyrotechnics. Begins at 7pm.

### Sunday 18 December Carols at the Rose

Come along to the carolling at the MK Rose. Visitors are advised to bring a lantern, wrap up warm and arrive at 3pm for a 3.30pm start.

## Winter Fire Festival

A huge array of events and activities will dazzle audiences when the annual Paraffinalia fire festival returns to Campbell Park this winter.

The show starts with a prologue involving small-scale puppetry and performances to warm up the spectators. The main event is a stunning outdoor theatre show with large-scale puppets, live music, pyrotechnics and fire sculptures. Storytelling ties all these elements together, with narrative and performance by professional dancers, puppeteers and other outdoor artists.

Paraffinalia has grown in popularity and scale with each passing year and this year's event looks set to amaze once again. The activities begin at 7pm on 17 December at the events plateau off Avebury Boulevard.



© Festive Road

## Love Where You Live



The year's last opportunity to meet up with local people and take part in keeping the city centre tidy is on Thursday 8 December. This follows on from the most successful 24 hour clean up event to date during the summer. The CMK Street Warden, who is jointly employed by the Town Council and Milton Keynes City Centre Management (MKCCM), helps to organise these events and will be taking part on the day.

The gang will be meeting at 12pm at the Xscape branch of McDonalds, before heading out litter-picking around the area. Bin bags, hi-vis jackets and litter picks are all provided, along with free refreshments.

If you'd like to take part, you can let MKCCM know by emailing them at [info@mkccm.org](mailto:info@mkccm.org).

## Collaborate: Family Workshops

There is a good opportunity to get young children interested in art at MK Gallery's two family workshops on Friday 28 October.

The workshops are built around a theme of 'Future Nature' and participants will be able to produce artworks and models of how a future city could be designed to allow people and nature to exist together. Archive images from the history of Milton Keynes will help stir the imagination.

The sessions are aimed at children over the age of 7. Although all ages are welcome, younger children will need additional adult support. The workshops will run from 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Tickets are £2 per person, and booking in advance is recommended as tickets are limited. To book, please visit [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org).



© MK Gallery

[www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk)



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