



NEW CAR PARK FOR CMK

A new multi-storey car park could go a long way towards alleviating the parking problems around Milton Keynes Central station. Milton Keynes Council is progressing the plans for the south side of the station near the ice rink, mirroring the existing multi-storey on the north side. The site is currently used for surface parking and has been earmarked for a multi-storey for many years.

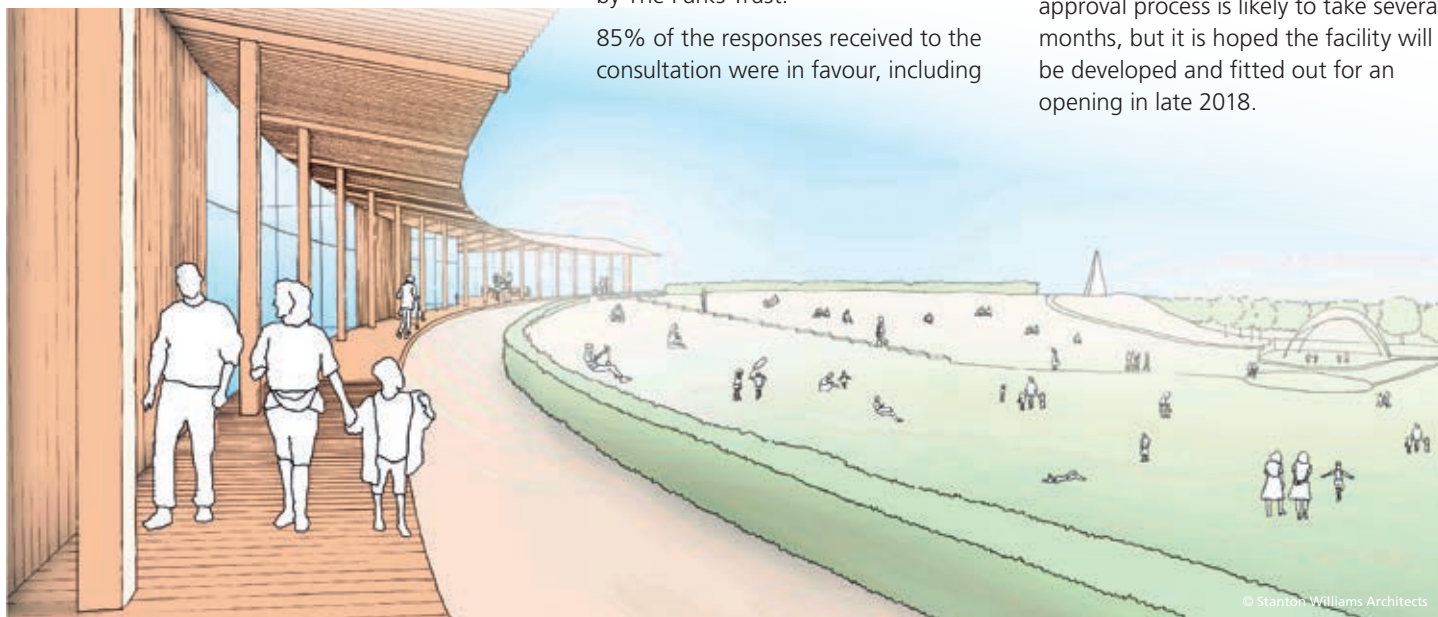
Thumbs up for New Community Building

CMK Residents supported the latest plans for the proposed new community pavilion in Campbell Park in a consultation run by the Town Council during November and December. Leaflets were distributed to all areas of CMK parish, detailing plans for the new centre, which will include meeting rooms, a performance space and a new public cafe being developed by The Parks Trust.

several from residents involved in local organisations who felt they could make use of the new facilities.

“With the public consultation now complete,” said Town Council chair Dr. Rebecca Kurth, “we are now preparing a full planning application for this exciting project, which should be submitted to Milton Keynes Council in the next few weeks.” The planning approval process is likely to take several months, but it is hoped the facility will be developed and fitted out for an opening in late 2018.

85% of the responses received to the consultation were in favour, including



Gallery Expansion Advances

Construction works are set to begin in early 2017 on Milton Keynes Gallery’s expanded building, which will include a bar and cafe, mixed-used auditorium and community facilities. The timescale for the project has been revised as detailed designs have emerged but the scheme is now approaching the point where ground works are ready to begin.

Although parts of the Gallery have to be closed during the expansion works, it will remain active throughout, with its regular ‘Start the Art’ children’s sessions and monthly music nights continuing alongside various other programmes.

“I am delighted that MK Gallery is playing such a significant role in the development of Milton Keynes,” said Gallery director Anthony Spira, “by creating a new cultural venue of this scale and quality.”



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Pods go live!

The driverless pods that have been glimpsed on the boulevards of Central Milton Keynes have now entered their 'live' testing period, with Britain's first driverless car test taking place on 5 January. MK-based Catapult Transport Systems is leading the project, spearheading new technologies that could change transport forever.

Rail Link Moves Forward

Trains may soon be running from Milton Keynes Central to Oxford and Aylesbury after the Chancellor announced £113 million funding for East-West Rail in the Autumn Statement. The new line will link Bletchley to Bicester and Aylesbury, allowing Milton Keynes to gain new services to more distant towns like High Wycombe and Reading.

Inquiry Concludes

The public inquiry into plans by intu to build over the open space at Midsummer Place ended with three days of cross-examination at the end of November. The Inspector's recommendation to approve or refuse the plans will now be sent to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision. As soon as we hear the decision, we will inform residents via the website and newsletter.

CMKTC Licensing Work

One of the Town Council's less known responsibilities involves reviewing all the new licensing applications within the parish. These can range from new pubs and restaurants to casinos and nightclubs. The Town Council carefully considers the impact each application will have on local residents and feeds back comments to Milton Keynes Council, who make the final decision.

New Office Block Proposed



© PHP Architects

Developers have come forward with plans for a new high-grade office building for the vacant site adjacent to Planet Ice at the former Leisure Plaza, near the station. The proposed building rises to eight stories and will front onto the south side of Avebury Boulevard, filling the current gap between Argos and Planet Ice. As well as office space, the proposals include two retail units, one of which could be a cafe or small restaurant.

The proposals are being developed by AW James,

a Milton Keynes-based commercial property developer, which already operates a large portfolio in the city.

"Our intention is to create a landmark office building of the highest quality," says Andrew Wilson, Managing Director of AW James. "It will be able to attract blue-chip employers whilst also making a major contribution to the ongoing development of Central Milton Keynes."

MK50 Celebrations Kick Off

The City's 50th anniversary has kicked off in style with a two-week exhibition in Middleton Hall followed by city-wide events for the anniversary weekend on the 23rd of January. However this is just the start of what is expected to be a year packed with events and celebrations of Milton Keynes' half centenary.

A special heritage festival in the spirit of the annual heritage open weekend will take place across the Summer, followed by another outdoor festival in October. Some of the CMK events will be featured in future issues of CMK Life, and we will try to cover everything happening in the parish on our website. For events elsewhere in the city, visit www.mk50.co.uk



Celebrating Fifty Years
of Milton Keynes



Parking Changes Debated

For the first time ever Milton Keynes Council is proposing to introduce a £50 annual charge for residents' parking permits and charge visitor permits at £1 a day; this will be decided at a meeting in the Civic Offices on 15 February. If adopted, the charges will affect all residents in CMK or Campbell Park who use Council-issued parking permits to park in public bays near their homes. This does not apply to privately owned parking areas.

CMK Town Council distributed a letter to all affected residents in the parish during the consultation period, which ended on January 31, explaining the plans and encouraging any residents with concerns to contact Milton Keynes Council. That feedback will be heard at a meeting of Milton Keynes Council's Cabinet on February 7 followed by the decision on 15th. Both meetings are open to the public, and any residents who are interested in the proposals are encouraged to attend.

Bus Plan Could Help Homeless

An innovative new proposal to convert a redundant double decker bus into accommodation for homeless people could help improve CMK's worsening situation. The idea comes from a group of local people who were inspired by a similar scheme on the Isle of Wight, where a converted bus provided a safe place to sleep, access to clean food and drink, and a postal address for dozens of homeless people.



The problem in CMK has deteriorated substantially over the last few years, with tents and blankets now a common sight. CMK Warden Rob Harriman has been working hard with different groups to try to resolve the issue, and says he will continue to pressure Milton Keynes Council to do more to solve this pressing issue.

The group, along with the CMK Warden, visited the Isle of Wight recently to see the bus in action. Although there are still a lot of hurdles to overcome, the group are confident the scheme's success can be replicated in CMK.



Pointing the Way to Go

Many residents will remember the unexpected arrival of a number of new fingerpost signs along Midsummer Boulevard last autumn. CMK Town Council shared the concerns of many residents that the new signs were overly complicated and confusing.

Milton Keynes Council listened to the Town Council's concerns, and we have recently been working with MKC on improving the wayfinding model for CMK, with simplified fingerposts and totem panels laid out to point pedestrians to the major destinations along Midsummer Boulevard.

If the scheme is implemented successfully and is well received, it might be rolled out on the other two boulevards as well.

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Wednesday 1 February Beat the Street

Run, walk or cycle as far as you can for your local community. Wednesday 1 February to 15 March, everywhere in MK. See more at www.beatthestreet.me/miltonkeynes

Saturday 4 February Live Jazz Music

Jazz performances across a wide range of styles at MK Gallery. Doors at 7pm, tickets cost £7.50 per person in advance or £8.50 on the door.

Tuesday 14 February Arts Central Book Club

A reading club open to all, running from 8pm to 10pm. The advice is to bring nibbles and a copy of the chosen book. See Arts Central MK on Facebook for more information.

Saturday 18 February Nordic Walking in the Park

The first part of a four-week course with sessions each Saturday at 11am until 11 March. The whole course is £28 per person. Contact maxine.russell@miltonkeynes.gov.uk for more information.

Thursday 2 March MK Geek Night

A quarterly event at MK Gallery for IT followers and creative individuals to meet, including headline speeches and side events. Tickets are £10 from mkgeeknight.co.uk

Wednesday 8 March International Women's Day

Join MK Community Foundation for the annual celebration of International Women's Day at the MK Rose in Campbell Park. The celebration starts at 10:30 and is free.

Sunday 12 March Parks and Run

A choice of 2.5km, 4km and 10km runs around Campbell Park. Meet at the Cricket Pavilion at 10am. Attendance is free and the event is open to all ages.

Parks and Run



Explore the many sights and intricacies of Campbell Park and exercise at the same time! On 12 March there will be an organised running event with a choice of 2.5km, 4km or 10km routes. The event is open to all ages and ability levels.

The short 2.5 route stays within Campbell Park and takes in such features as the beacon on the hill, the canalside, and a wide variety of public artworks, while the longer routes cover the same ground before heading out into the beautiful surrounding areas such as Woolstone and Willen Lake.

The runs are free to take part in and no booking is required. Guests should meet at the car park at the Campbell Park cricket pavilion at 10am on Sunday 12 March.

Live Jazz at MK Gallery

Come to MK Gallery for an evening of jazz performances across a wide range of styles. The music will feature elements from throughout the genre's history, from its origins in a fusion of cultures through to the cutting edge of modern avant-garde styles.

The concert marks the start of jazz duo Mark Pringle and Tom Syson's bi-monthly residency at the Gallery, with further concerts from the pianist and trumpeter every two months.

This is part of the Gallery's weekly Saturday Live Music evenings, with styles ranging from popular music to experimental compositions.

Doors open at 7pm on Saturday 4 February. Tickets cost £7.50 per person in advance or £8.50 on the door.



Beat the Street



A fun, free game that is entertaining communities across the country is coming to Milton Keynes. The idea is simple: run, walk or cycle as far as you can around your area, and see how you do against other residents, communities and teams!

You can set up your own teams, compete individually or as part of the wider community. Every journey you make adds to the total for yourself, your team and your community, meaning you can take yourself and the whole city to the top of the leaderboard.

The competition runs from Wednesday 1 February to Wednesday 15 March and anybody living, working or studying in Milton Keynes is welcome to take part. For more information on the game, visit beatthestreet.me/miltonkeynes.

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.