

New Money for "Amazing CMK"

Businesses in CMK have voted for a new levy that will provide £6 million towards improvements to CMK's public realm over the next five years. The "Amazing CMK" Business Improvement District (BID) status aims to deliver a number of benefits, including:

- Improving the state of city centre underpasses and porte cocheres, along with deep cleansing of the streets and landscape improvements
- Delivering a park and ride scheme and city centre shuttle bus for CMK employees
- Enabling apprenticeships and work experience programmes relevant to the CMK workforce
- Enhancing the image of Milton Keynes through the creation of annual events
- Investing in the day and night time economy



"The Town Council welcomes this great news for CMK," said CMK Town Council chair Rebecca Kurth. "As a Business Improvement District the city centre should become cleaner and safer for everyone - workers, visitors and residents alike."

The project was led by Milton Keynes City Centre Management (MKCCM), who represent many of the businesses that operate in CMK. The work going forward will be overseen by a special BID panel, with the Town Council being directly involved. Central Milton Keynes will become one of the five largest BID areas outside of Central London.

Dog Walkers: Mind the Sheep!

Dog walkers in Campbell Park are being asked to control their dogs after a spate of attacks following the return of the sheep to the park on their annual grazing cycle.

The sheep are one of CMK's most popular features, showing how Milton Keynes has the unique ability to provide a countryside environment in the very heart of the city.

The sheep always remain within the area bordered by the fences and cattle grids in the park. Visitors unfamiliar with the area may not expect to find sheep in the park, but it is an offence to allow dogs to torment sheep and it's important that any dog walkers using the park keep their dogs on a lead at all times when within the grazing area.



ANOTHER HOTEL FOR THE HUB?

Moxy, a Marriott hotel brand aimed at the younger generation, could soon be coming to CMK. Part of the large undeveloped space between The Hub and the Bannatyne's Health Spa could soon accommodate the 8-storey hotel. This would complete the original plan for The Hub and replace the temporary car park that has stood on the site for almost ten years.



2017-18 Precept

During 2016 the Town Council consulted widely amongst residents on whether they supported raising the parish precept to help fund an additional community facility and the result was overwhelmingly in favour. The 69% increase equates to £2.50 per month for a Band 'D' property which means that the charge is still the lowest amongst the urban parish and town councils within Milton Keynes.

Trees Pruned for Car Park

Readers may have noticed that the trees around the John Lewis car park at the east end of the shopping centre have been cut back, exposing this once very leafy area. This site has permission for the construction of a large multi-storey car park. Although it was opposed by many residents and the Town Council, it was given the green light by Milton Keynes Council in 2015.

New Office Completed

The new Victoria House office block has been completed, and is now being fitted out ready for occupants Grant Thornton to move in. The building, which began construction in April 2016, has five storeys and overlooks Avebury Boulevard on one side and Grafton Park on the other, making a dignified addition to the south west area of CMK.



Parking Permit Charge 'Halved'

For the first time ever MK Council has decided to charge residents for parking permits. The initial proposal, as part of its austerity budget, was to charge £50 per permit but after complaints from CMK Town Council and residents MK Council reduced it to £25.

"Residents should not have to pay for solving a problem which MK Council itself has caused," said Dr Rebecca Kurth, chair of CMK Town Council. The borough council makes an annual parking surplus in excess of £10m which is the highest of any local authority outside London. However as commuters try to avoid ever-increasing parking charges in CMK nearby residential streets have become clogged. Just last December, for example, MKC agreed

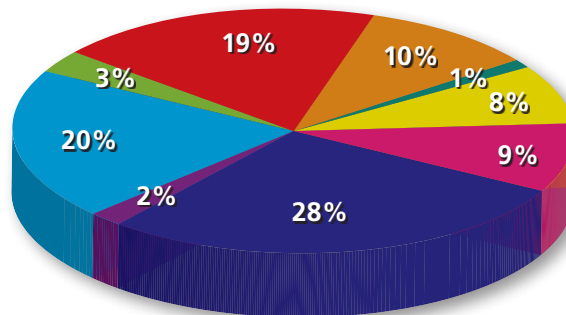


to introduce permits for Campbell Park residents living near Xscape in an attempt to solve this growing problem.

The new charge took effect on April 1st, but it will only be triggered when residents need to renew their current permits. Permit holders can also buy a 24-hour 'pay as you go' permit for visitors for £1.

How Your Precept Was Spent

Every year the Town Council agrees a budget to deliver services and projects on behalf of residents. The chart below shows how last year's budget was split between different areas of the Town Council's responsibility.



- Statutory costs
- General Admin
- Councillor Expenses
- Communications
- Planning
- Partner Organisations
- Community Support
- Inquiry
- Community Building Project

Campbell Park Developments

The flanks along the north and south sides of Campbell Park were always meant for development, and are gradually being completed. Taylor Wimpey has nearly finished its Campbell Square residential development near Xscape and a planning application has recently been filed for Crest Nicholson's 'Canalside' development located at the far end of Avebury Boulevard.

This scheme will be built around a new boating marina on the Grand Union Canal as it passes between Campbell Park and Newlands, next to Childs Way. This mixed use development includes plans for local shops, leisure areas and a mix of apartments and townhouses which range from three to seven storeys in height.

Pods on the Move

Plans to introduce driverless pods to Central Milton Keynes have moved another step forward, as a temporary 'test' order has now been replaced with a permanent order for the long-term operation of the system.

This will allow the new "UK Autodrive" project to begin, involving up to 40 vehicles in an extended test phase. Along with Coventry and London, MK is pioneering what may become an entirely new kind of public transport system, yet again putting the city on the map for technological innovation and social progress.

The pod testing program has attracted worldwide interest and enjoyed considerable success, with the vehicles demonstrating their ability to detect and avoid pedestrians and various obstacles. It is hoped the scheme will be able to move forward into a public trial phase once the testing is complete.



Become a Councillor!

If you live or work in or around the CMK/ Campbell Park area and would like to make a difference in your parish, we currently have a vacancy and would like to hear from you.

The position of councillor is voluntary, but can be very fulfilling for someone with an interest in their neighbourhood, and a desire to maintain what is great about CMK, helping it to develop still further.

The Town Council meets monthly, but other matters will require the attention of councillors between meetings.

If you are interested in finding out more, why not contact the Clerk on 01908 766176, or take a look at The Good Councillor's Guide, which can be found at <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/publications>.

The Clerk would like to receive expressions of interest by 20 May at the latest.



▲ CMK Town Council's councillors and officers. The vacancy has been caused by the resignation of councillor McGowan, second from left.

Comment on Plan:MK



The future direction of development in MK over the next ten years will be set out in Plan:MK, Milton Keynes Council's new local plan for the borough.

CMK Town Council will be commenting on the draft plan, which can be seen at milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building.

The Town Council invites any residents with views on the plan to contact us with their thoughts to help inform our response by 15 May at the latest.

Plan:MK

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Tuesday 16 May Start the Art

A free weekly session for children to get into art and enjoy the experiences of painting, drawing, mask-making and more. Book via mkgallery.org/events to ensure a place.

Thursday 18 May Entrepreneurial Spark

Learn how to start a business and get advice and input on business ideas. RBS building on Silbury Boulevard, starting at 11am and repeating every month. Free to attend.

Saturday 20 May Live Music

Saturday live music at MK Gallery, featuring multi-instrumentalist Emma Gatrill and support. Tickets cost £6 in advance or £7 on the door. Admission from 7.30pm.

Saturday 20 May The Value of Trees

Learn how to assess the benefits of your local trees in this hands-on session. Tickets cost £5, ages 16 and over. Meet at The Parks Trust Campbell Park pavilion at 2pm.

Thursday 25 May Love Where You Live

A chance to help make CMK clean, tidy and pleasant to live in. Meet at the Xscape McDonald's at 12 midday.

Sunday 11 June Race for Life

Join thousands of women running 5km and 10km races in support of cancer research. Visit raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org for race details and start times.

Saturday 17 June Festival of History

A free event celebrating local history with re-enactments and live performances. 12-5pm Saturday and Sunday. Follow the event on Facebook for more announcements at www.facebook.com/festivalofhistory

MK Calling 2017



MK Gallery's exhibition of artworks from over 70 local artists is a celebration of the diversity and strength of artistic talent in Milton Keynes. The artists come from a wide range of backgrounds using an equally wide variety of styles and art-forms.

With major rebuilding work expected to start soon, this is likely to be the last chance to sample an exhibition in the original Gallery building before it changes beyond all recognition.

The exhibition is open from Friday 21 April through to Saturday 27 May.

Entrepreneurial Spark



Love Where You Live

Few things demonstrate the strong sense of community developing in CMK as the 'Love Where You Live' spring clean events.

This year, a group of Central Milton Keynes staff and residents will gather at the Xscape branch of McDonalds for a spring clean at 12pm on Thursday 25 May. A quick briefing will be given, before the gang of volunteers head out to make their mark in the fight against litter in the area.

If you would like to take part, please contact MKCCM at info@mkccm.org. Details may change closer to the time, so please check the Town Council website events page for updated information.



Do you have an idea for a new business venture?

A new series of monthly events aimed at budding entrepreneurs is taking place in CMK, designed to encourage business owners to take the plunge and to show what Milton Keynes has to offer.

The next 'Entrepreneurial Spark' event will be held on Thursday 18 May at 11am in the RBS building at 302 Silbury Boulevard. The free event lasts an hour and includes guidance on how to stick to goals and hold yourself accountable, led by NatWest's Entrepreneur Development Manager.

Entry into the full Entrepreneurial Spark program reopens in August, but places go fast so interested residents are strongly encouraged to get involved sooner rather than later.

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.