

CMK Heritage Threatened by new Plan

A new plan for Milton Keynes could clear the way for developments that build over CMK's distinctive infrastructure and open spaces, if concerns raised by CMK Town Council are not heeded.

The draft version of the new document, known as "Plan:MK", could have priority over the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan when it is adopted next year. However the new plan lacks any policies to protect CMK's unique spatial design and infrastructure, which was a crucial part of the Neighbourhood Plan that was designed by local people and approved by 89% of voters in an MK-wide referendum two years ago.

The Town Council has produced a detailed response to the new plan, highlighting a



range of issues including missing evidence, contradictions with the Neighbourhood Plan and other inconsistencies. It is hoped that the plan can still be changed to bring it more in line with the Neighbourhood Plan, which is central government's way of giving local people more power to shape the future of their locality.



Festival is a "Giant" Success

An incredible 4,500 people turned out in windy weather to attend the Festival of Giants event in Campbell Park in June. Among the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Milton Keynes, along with pupils from various local schools and people from across the city and beyond.

The event, which was partly sponsored by CMK Town Council's community grants programme, featured a range of giant puppets including a red dragon, the stunning new "bird of peace" and a cycle-powered elephant, the latter offering rides around the events plateau.

The animatronic giants were complemented by a selection of music and dance performances, food outlets and installations by local artists, and went to show just how much talent and variety is on offer in Milton Keynes.

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Theatre District Becomes "12th Street"

The Theatre District is now nearing the end of an extensive refurbishment, following a new owner taking over the struggling area last year. Changes include new grass areas in the public spaces, which will feature events, a large outdoor digital screen and outdoor seating. To mark its transformation, what was the Theatre District will be rebranded as "12th Street" this Summer.

Councillor Candidates Reviewed

Applications received for the Town Council's Councillor vacancy are now being considered, with the successful candidate expected to be announced in August. Several expressions of interest were received, with two candidates following up with full applications. Any future vacancies will be announced in this newsletter and on the Town Council website.

Design the Future

Milton Keynes Development Partnership is organising a competition called Future:CMK, asking local students between the ages of 11 and 18 for their ideas on the buildings and facilities they would like to see in the city centre in the future. For more information visit mkdp.org.uk/futurecmk.

New Hotel Proposed

A proposal has come forward to build a new 18-storey hotel on the site of the coach park, next to the John Lewis car park at the eastern end of CMK. The planned design sits on land protected from development under the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan unless that development is exceptional, so the Town Council will be working hard to ensure any plans for the site meet that requirement.

Community Building Plans Approved

The Town Council's plans to construct a new community pavilion and events space in Campbell Park were approved at a meeting of Milton Keynes Council's Planning Committee on Thursday 6 July.

The proposed development, being jointly advanced by CMK Town Council and The Parks Trust, will also feature a café and public toilets for users of the park. With planning application granted, work will now progress on tweaks to

the design and drawing up contracts to make the building a reality.

One local resident commented on the planning application by saying, "I think the proposed design of the cafe/community centre/offices is exceptional and will fit perfectly into the landscape... It is to be hoped that this iconic new building will at last make our wonderful park less of a hidden secret."



Hundreds Enjoy Garden Party

Approximately 250 people turned out for the Fred Roche Foundation Garden Party on one of the longest and sunniest days of the year.

The "Let's Party MK50" event saw dance and music performances bring the under-appreciated park to life. Situated behind the Christ the Cornerstone Church, the public park was formerly known as City Gardens and is the largest area of open green space in CMK after Campbell Park.

A plaque was also unveiled at the event, officially naming the Fred Roche Gardens after one of the most important visionaries behind the original design and development of Milton Keynes. The unveiling was attended by the new Milton Keynes Mayor, Cllr. David Hopkins, and the recently re-elected Milton Keynes South MP Iain Stewart.

Share Your Local Memories

Do you have a memory of Milton Keynes that you'd like to share?

Local community organisation Living Archive is looking for people who have lived or worked in the city to contribute their thoughts and memories about MK. It is expected that around 50 of these digital memoirs will be selected for filming and inclusion in a major multi-media exhibition to take place next year.

People of all ages and backgrounds are invited to contribute to the project. More details can be found on www.livingarchive.org.uk. The deadline for submission is midnight on 31 August.



Discover the Value of Trees

Treezilla is making a monster map of Britain's trees, and CMK Town Councillors have been helping out in the city. CMK Town Councillor Hilarie Bowman and local resident Gill Kirkup have recently measured 78 trees in their street, discovering a walnut and a fruiting cherry tree that they had never noticed before. The trees around Eton Mews have also recently been surveyed by Councillor Ken Baker.

Residents are invited to use Treezilla to record the trees near you and find out how they benefit the local environment. Just register at www.treezilla.org, put a tape measure round the trunk of your favourite trees and enter them on to a google map of your neighbourhood. If you are not sure what species your tree is you can take a photo and submit that.

CMK's trees are a crucial part of the design and character of our city centre. They also take in carbon dioxide from the air and give out the oxygen we need to survive. Trees remove various pollutants from the atmosphere such as PM10 particulates, sulphur dioxide, ozone and nitrogen dioxide. Urban trees are particularly important in reducing the levels of air pollution, and this project will help make sure they are protected and properly looked after.

For more information, you can email the organisers at treezilla@open.ac.uk.



New "Sport Central" Facility Opening Soon



CMK's community will soon be benefiting from a new centre for sports practise, games and parties. Plans are afoot to open the new "Sport Central" facility on Elder Gate in September, subject to Milton Keynes Council agreeing an operator to run the new centre.

The centre features three outdoor games areas. The largest of these is a professional-quality rugby and football pitch, with a state-of-the-art astroturf surface and powerful floodlights for after-dark events. Alongside this are two smaller courts; one for basketball and netball, and the other for tennis.

The centre has been built for the local community to use, and will be available for parties, casual practises and local groups to use. However, it is also expected to be used by professional sports teams to train and even hold matches.

CMK Town Council was recently invited to take a tour of the facilities, and more photographs from this are available on the Town Council website.

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Sunday 30 July World Picnic

Celebrate music, dance and cultures of the world. For those not bringing a picnic there will be over 10 food vendors in attendance. This year's event includes a workshop run by Festive Road. 1pm-6pm.

Wednesday 2 August MK Playday

A day of fun and play for children in Campbell Park, running from 11am to 4pm.

Saturday 5 August Cricket in the Park

Stony Stratford take on Higham Ferrers at the Parks Trust Pavilion in Campbell Park. No booking needed; just sit on the hillside and watch the game, which starts at 1pm.

Friday 18 August Proms in the Park

The annual outdoor classical music spectacular in Campbell Park returns to the amphitheatre. Tickets are £19 for adults and £9 for children. Gates open at 6.30pm.

Saturday 19 August MK Film Festival

The annual two-day film festival in Campbell Park returns over the weekend of 19-20 August. No booking required.

Thursday 7 September MK Geek Night

A quarterly event at MK Gallery for the creative community to meet up, network and chat over a few drinks about web design, technology and general geekery. Doors at 7. Visit mkgeeknight.co.uk for details.

Saturday 9 September Heritage Open Days

A wide range of events will be taking place across the city for Heritage Open Weekend between 7-10 September.

MK Film Festival



The annual two-day open-air film festival returns with four films being screened at the Campbell Park Amphitheatre over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of August.

At 6pm on Saturday there will be a screening of the original 1985 Back to the Future, followed by three back-to-back screenings on Sunday. This will start with Toy Story at 1pm, followed by Grease and closing with Top Gun. All the films are rated PG, except Top Gun, which has a 12 certificate.

All ages are welcome at the festival and no advance booking is required.

Large crowds are anticipated, so arriving early is advised!

MK Playday



The annual MK Playday will return this year for another day of activities for children and families, promising to be the biggest and best Playday to date.

Fun things to do at the event include water slides, the Sports Zone (which includes many activities from football and rugby to cheerleading and table tennis), bug hunting, fairground rides, and back again by popular demand, the cycle and cinema zones.

The event will run from 11am until 4pm on Wednesday 2 August in Campbell Park. Entry is free for all. For more information please check the events page of the Town Council website for links to the Play Day Facebook and Twitter pages.

Heritage Open Days

Every year in September, towns and cities across the country open up for the Heritage Open Weekend. Milton Keynes is no exception, and this year there will be a range of free activities happening in CMK and elsewhere around the city.

One example is the chance to explore Central Milton Keynes' landmark artworks and the local legacy of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in

a walking tour. CMK will also play host to the Young Heritage Hunters Trail especially for 4-14 year olds. You can also look in at your local library: Central Milton Keynes library will be hosting a range of its own events.

Mel Jeavons of Heritage UK said: "Heritage Open Days 2017 are at the heart of MK50, and we invite everyone to join in these free and inclusive events

and discover more about the rich and fascinating heritage on their doorsteps." The open weekend runs from the 7th to the 10th of September. More information can be found at mkheritage.org.uk.



www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk



CMK West Ward:

Andre Brady: andre.brady@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: ramazan.erdogan@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Campbell Park Ward:

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

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