



A sunny piazza, leafy concourse, auditorium and rooftop bar are some of the publicly-available features of Santander's new £150m 'digital hub' which is planned for a site near Station Square. The campus-style building, designed by architects LOM, would accommodate 6,000 staff, most of

Santander's £150m Landmark

whom would be moving from Santander's existing bases in CMK and London. If approved, the 7-storey building will be a new landmark for people arriving at Station Square and will enliven the footpath along Midsummer Boulevard.

Most of the site is owned by Santander and used as a private car park. One row of publicly-accessible parking, along Grafton Gate, would also be built over but otherwise the vast majority of the surrounding infrastructure, including underpasses and rows of street trees, will be retained or renewed.

Along with other stakeholders the Town Council has worked with the applicant to ensure that the concept suits CMK. As a result, Santander has made various improvements, including retaining the routes of the original footpaths and cycle-paths along Silbury Boulevard, rather than obstructing them with service yards.

Transport and access are always key issues for major developments like this. Although the Town Council is very supportive of Santander's investment in CMK it is also looking closely at the impact on access and parking in this busy part of town.



PROTECTING THE GRID IN CAMPBELL PARK

MK Council has finally agreed not to encourage developers to change the original layout of Campbell Park grid square in key planning guidance for 'Northside' - the massive new housing development slated for Silbury Boulevard. This follows sustained pressure from CMK Town Council.

At a mediation meeting Town Councillor Linda Inoki warned decision-makers of the danger of mixing pedestrians with traffic on busy links in the grid road system, saying: "Every time a pedestrian sets foot on one of these new traffic-light crossings lives will be put at risk and traffic will come to a halt. Besides, if the original underpasses are retained, there is simply no need to build 'toucan' crossings."

Dr Rebecca Kurth, chair of CMK Town Council, also explained how important it is to retain as much of the original layout as possible so that taxis, delivery and emergency vehicles will be able to get off the busy through-routes and reach residents in safety. She said: "It's all too clear from experience at the Hub that building over the original side streets and public parking areas leads to vans and taxis stopping on urban clearways. This creates congestion, danger and delays to public and private transport which is totally unacceptable in a carefully planned, fast-growing city like MK."

Although it is a relief that MK Council has finally listened, the Town Council will keep a close watch on the issue of access and movement, as well as landscape and design quality, as proposals for this major new development come forward.



Santander Provides £30m Boost to MK:U Plans

Santander is backing MK:U, the UK's first university focused on digital skills, by providing £30m of funding to help establish the university and further strengthen Milton Keynes' position as Europe's leading Smart City.

The funding is a major boost for MK:U which is being developed by Cranfield University in the large vacant block across from Sainsburys in CMK.

Alongside £10m in capital financing, Santander, which employs more than 5,000 people in MK, will contribute £20m in running costs for the first three years of MK:U's life.

Santander UK CEO Nathan Bostock said: "Santander is deeply proud of our connection to Milton Keynes, with our commitment shown by our recent investment

of £150 million in a world-class new headquarters here. MK:U will cement Milton Keynes' growing reputation as a key national and international hub for technology and innovation. It will also provide development opportunities for our staff in areas such as data science, artificial intelligence and cyber security. We want to be at the forefront of change for our customers."

Professor Sir Peter Gregson, Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University said: "This is brilliant news. Santander's support is a major sign of confidence in MK:U by a huge international and local employer."

MK:U is expected to serve at least 5,000 students and be open by 2023.



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Think Creative this Autumn

Milton Keynes was not only the largest New Town when it was conceived in the 1960s, but also the most innovative, and it is increasingly recognised as Britain's most successful example of New Town planning.

Now, a new Festival of Creative Urban Living will build on MK's reputation, starting with a major event which will become a biennial art, design and architecture festival.

The first, hosted in various temporary structures along Midsummer Boulevard, will deliver a free programme of events, exhibitions, performances and creative workshops.

The Festival will run from 26 September to 13 October.

Meet Your New Councillor

Amir Chahardehi joined us in April as a Town Councillor for CMK East. Amir moved to Milton Keynes from London in 2009 to take up an academic post at Cranfield University. In 2012, a new role beckoned in engineering consultancy in London, but Amir chose to continue to live in the town that he is so fond of.

He currently works as a senior engineer with a consultancy firm dealing in energy and structures, and splits his time between London and Milton Keynes.

He is also a visiting lecturer at Cranfield University.



Tackling Car Cruisers



New measures are being drawn up to tackle the anti-social behaviour of car cruisers, or 'drifters', who race around the South Second Street car park near the Hub.

Daniel Baguley, whose home faces the car park, is among those calling for action. He said: "It's not merely the antisocial behaviour that takes place in the car park which has a negative effect, but also the consequent effect of cars driving up and down Avebury Boulevard with their loud exhaust pipes, revving their engines at the traffic lights and sounding their horns in unison. Sunday night is the most popular time for them to gather, making it impossible to relax in preparation for a week of work ahead."

The drifters meet most weekends in the car park, which is owned by the MK Development Partnership (MKDP). The car park, popular with commuters during the week, is largely empty at weekends. This has become an increasing problem for residents in the Hub and the Town Council has been supporting efforts to tackle the problem.

Now MKDP has promised action. A spokesperson said: "Following discussions with Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Council we have agreed to pay for the installation of gates so the site can be temporarily closed overnight or at weekends if an event is anticipated." The police have agreed to be responsible for locking the security gates on Friday evenings, and unlocking them again on Monday mornings.

Daniel has welcomed the response, saying "The car cruises need to stop as they are antisocial, dangerous and, at times, criminal. I fully support PC Andrew Hipkin's work on this matter and hope, after a long wait, MKC will satisfactorily address this problem this year."

MK Council is now considering issuing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the whole of Milton Keynes, which would allow on-the-spot fines to be issued. A consultation regarding the PSPO will remain open until August 28th.

Residents are encouraged to submit their views on www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/524

New Waterside Pub joins Marina



As the first canal boats sailed into the new Campbell Wharf Marina contracts were signed for a new waterside pub and restaurant. The pub will be operated by family-run brewers

McMullen & Sons and will take its design inspiration from the surroundings.

"McMullens' ability to create tailored spaces that reflect the area around them means they are the perfect partners to deliver a family-friendly pub for the local community and visitors," said Peter Cusdin, Development Director of Crest Nicholson.

Construction is expected to

begin this Autumn, with the pub set to open in summer 2020.

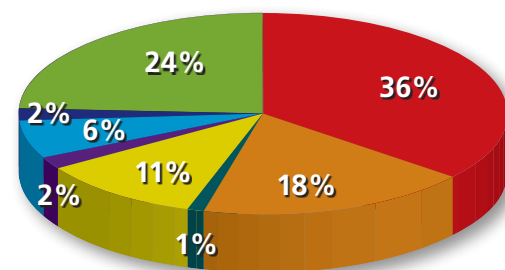
When development is complete, the area will include 383 homes, a cafe and restaurant.

Crest Nicholson also transferred ownership of the 111-berth marina to The Parks Trust this May. The purpose-built marina is set to become a destination for boaters and canal users in Milton Keynes, with direct access to the Grand Union Canal.

How Your Precept was Spent

This year the Town Council agreed to increase its precept by 4.8%. This increase, equating to 28p per month for a Band 'D' property, will enable the Town Council to continue to develop ideas for improving landscaping within the parish.

The current precept level remains considerably lower than other urban parishes and your volunteer Town Councillors will continue to strive to deliver value for money.



- Statutory Costs
- General Admin
- Other
- Communications
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Support
- Planning Consultations
- Community Centre Project

Your Elected Representatives

There are three levels of local government and this is a basic guide to who does what – and who is currently occupying the posts and working for you.

The first level of local government is the CMK Town Council, where local Town Councillors are elected to represent residents living in the CMK and Campbell Park grid squares. The next level is provided by your Ward Councillors. They are elected to the borough Council and not only cover the two central grid squares but look after residents in much larger wards.

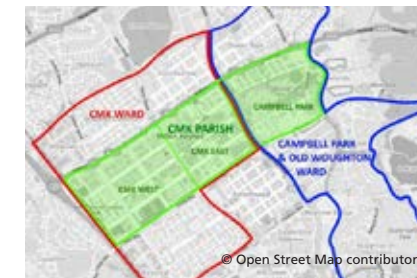
The CMK Ward (outlined in red) covers the city centre, Bradwell Common, Conniburrow and Oldbrook, while the Campbell Park and Old Woughton Ward (in blue), runs from Willen through Downs Barn and as far as Simpson.

Level 3: Parliament

MP for Milton Keynes North

Your local MP **Mark Lancaster** is your representative in the House of Commons. His constituency covers the entire north-eastern half of the Borough of Milton Keynes.

Contact: officeofmarklancaster@parliament.uk



Level 2: Milton Keynes Council

Milton Keynes Council (MKC) is the council for the whole borough of Milton Keynes, representing about 300,000 residents. It provides most of the services for residents, such as street lighting, road repairs, refuse collection, social services and council housing.

All MKC Ward Councillor's email addresses are: firstname.surname@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Central Milton Keynes Ward



Moriah Priestley



Pauline Wallis



Paul Williams



Ric Brackenbury



Terry Baines



Paul Trendall

Campbell Park & Old Woughton Ward

Level 1: Central Milton Keynes Town Council

CMK Town Council (CMKTC) is the parish council for the city centre area, representing over 3,000 residents. It focuses on influencing the borough council (MKC) and other bodies to deliver better services and to make better decisions for local residents. This includes planning applications, public transport and parking matters, and maintenance of the public realm.

All CMKTC Councillor's email addresses are: firstname.surname@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Central Milton Keynes West



André Brady



Oya Discombe



Andrew Thomas



Linda Inoki



Rebecca Kurth

Central Milton Keynes East



Amir Chahardehi



Ramo Erdogan



Vacancy

Campbell Park

CMK Town Council Officers



Paul Cranfield
Parish Clerk



Thomas Walker
Planning & Consultations Officer

Farewell Hilarie

After five years working as a town councillor, we are saying farewell to Hilarie Bowman who is swapping Milton Keynes for a new life in Tewkesbury.

Hilarie originally lived in Milton Keynes between 1976 and 1983, and returned in 1998. "I wanted to play a part in MK's development," said Hilarie, who spent her career working in education.

During her time with Central Milton Keynes Town Council (CMKTC), Hilarie has been responsible for initiating the residents' forum which meets four times annually and invites residents to connect with their councillors who can assist them to resolve any issues.

The forum is also the perfect place to learn about current plans and projects that CMKTC are involved in; the new university or residential developments, for example.

"There is always an opportunity for residents to express their views and be part of group discussions and brainstorming," Hilarie said. "Over the past two years, the residents' forum has been preceded by a police forum which is open to all, explores local concerns, and builds trust between the community and the police. I am proud every time residents show up and participate."

There are other highlights too: "When the CMK business neighbourhood plan was passed by both people and businesses by more than 80% of voters, I felt proud walking through CMK with Town Councillor Ken Baker as he explained the thinking behind the city centre infrastructure."

Hilarie has also given her time to many local groups. She has been actively involved in the Adelphi Street Neighbourhood Watch as a coordinator, the U3A (the University of the Third Age) and Transition:MK.

Now she is swapping her new home in Campbell Park for something quite different – a property more than 400 years old!

On behalf of our readers, CMK Life thanks Hilarie for her tireless work, and wishes her well for the future.



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**Saturday 13 July
MK Melting Pot
Community Cohesion
Day, Bridging the Gap**

Community groups and charities will be promoting who they are, the work they do, and showcasing their cultural identity to the wider public. Activities and entertainment, food, music and performance will feature. The event will be staged at Milton Keynes Open Market.

**Thursday 18 July
Family History Consultation**

Expert John Hanson is offering free 20 minute consultations to help you with research into your family history. Sessions will be hosted at the Central Library between 4.15pm and 7.30pm. Advance booking is essential. Call 01908 254051.

**Saturday 10 August
MK Pride LGBTQI+
Summer Celebration
and Parade**

A family and community orientated event raising the profile of the LGBTQI+ community in Milton Keynes. The parade will begin at 12:30pm and journey through the centre of town, ending at Fred Roche Gardens where the event takes place. Midday-11pm (last entry 10.45pm). Entry is free.

**Wednesday 14 August
Conniburrow Children's
Centre Summer Fete**

A traditional vintage style fete to celebrate the community and achievements in gardening, crafts and photography. All families with children aged 0-5 years who live in the area will be invited to attend the event at Conniburrow Children's Centre and Germander Park School.

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

The Exciting New Way to Exercise



intu MK Green Gym is a free and fun way to improve your health, learn new skills and meet friendly people. The Green Gym meets every Tuesday, 10:45am to 2pm, to complete outdoor activities in CMK.

From planting wildflowers to building bird boxes, there's something different every week.

No experience is needed, all tools are provided and it's free. There are hot drinks and usually homemade snacks during the break too.

Recent successes include making a raised bed, planting honeysuckle and path transformation. Volunteers can improve their physical health and well-being, and stress and anxiety can be reduced, whilst boosting self-esteem and confidence.

The group launched in November 2017 and is currently run by the charity, The Community Volunteers (TCV). The group is on track to become independent in December 2019 and hope to continue to run for many more years.

For further information contact Jenny on 07740 899633 or find them on Facebook/ Twitter/Instagram: intu MK Green Gym

Major Retrospective of Paula Rego Work at MK Gallery

Paula Rego: Obedience and Defiance is the first major retrospective of her work in England for more than 20 years.

Often taken from literature, myths, fairy tales, cartoons, theatre, current events, religious subjects and her own life, Rego's characters confront both urgent social issues and memories of her Portuguese childhood.

This will be the first ever exhibition in Britain to present the paintings Rego made in the 1960s during the regime of the dictator Salazar.

The Portuguese creative has travelled between London and Portugal throughout her life, and her career spans half a century. Obedience and Defiance brings together paintings, pastels, drawings and prints related to political injustices and cultural clichés in broad subjects from dictatorship to backstreet abortion.

Curator Catherine Lampert said: "Paula Rego's

remarkable, nuanced work addresses the moral challenges to humanity, particularly in the face of violence, poverty, political tyranny, gender discrimination and grief. The selected pictures reflect her perspective as an empathetic, courageous woman and a defender of justice."

The show continues until September 22, 2019. For more information visit www.mkgallery.org



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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.