



FOOD CENTRE LATEST

MK Council has given the green light to plans to demolish the Food Centre and replace it with a mixed-use development.

The project will deliver over 900 apartments, including 10% affordable homes, in two phases. The first phase, fronting Secklow Gate, will also open up a new, pedestrian route between Xscape and the shopping centre with space for landscaping, local shops and amenities.

Although it is a pity to lose an original landmark building, the Food Centre has been moribund for some years, and more residents will bring the area to life. The Town Council is pleased that the landowner listened to local stakeholders and respected the Neighbourhood Plan. As a result, this large, complex development sits well within the classic infrastructure, thereby retaining access for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, and includes features such as colonnades, active frontages, public art and various ground floor uses to create a more interesting neighbourhood.

As for how it looks; the residential buildings vary from 7 to 13 stories in height, which is in scale with CMK's broad boulevards and gates, and the new architecture reinforces the original Modernist character of Central Milton Keynes.



PSPO action against cruisers

Residents who have been blighted by the antisocial behaviour of car cruisers are relieved after Milton Keynes Council confirmed the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the town.

"Our CMK grid roads are not racing tracks and motorists have been intimidated and put in danger by finding themselves sharing roads with cars that are engaged in a race," said CMKTC Councillor Gill Kirkup.

"Milton Keynes has now joined many other local authorities to stop this dangerous and antisocial activity."

At a meeting in January it was decided that a borough-wide PSPO will be brought in to curb the events which have seen cruisers or 'drifters' racing around the South Second Street car park close to homes at the Hub. The 'meets' are unregulated and bring huge numbers of cars to the area; often in excess of 1000 vehicles, which causes excessive noise and stress for those living close by.

A date has yet to be confirmed for the introduction of the PSPO, but it won't be before May.

When implemented, Police will be able to issue on the spot fines of £100.

Apart from the antisocial behaviour there was also great concern for safety; in Central Milton Keynes a five-year-old was hit by a driver participating in a cruise.

Gill was joined by borough councillor Paul Williams and resident Daniel Baguley to speak in favour of imposing the PSPO at the meeting.

Daniel said: "The PSPO is a welcome development. This means less horn beeping, loud exhausts, revving and speeding on the boulevards. It does feel as if local authorities are back on top of a situation they had seemingly lost control of. These developments will benefit the lives of residents, provided they are continually upheld."

▲ **Above:** Tyre marks left in the underpass on the redway/footpath by the Network Rail building

CoronaVirus: Time to Care

A lot of people live alone in city centres and CMK is no exception. So if you know of any elderly or vulnerable neighbours who might need help please think about how you might be able to offer them some support. Your Town Council is urgently exploring ways in which we could help such residents with essential deliveries, for example, during this difficult time. Please look out for a letter in the near future, or an announcement on our website www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

i

2020/2021 Precept

This year's parish precept, a small part of your overall council tax bill, will increase by 2.5%. Councillors approved the increase to ensure the Town Council will have the flexibility to develop new projects in the coming year. This equates to an increase of 19p per month for a Band 'D' property, keeping the CMK precept among the lowest of the urban and town parishes within the borough of Milton Keynes.

Flat conversions at Station Square

The conversion of the upper floors of Station House from offices to flats will go ahead, despite opposition. Central Milton Keynes Town Council (CMKTC) opposed the scheme, and said: 'If legislation permitted, the Town Council would be submitting the strongest possible objection, due to the impact on the lives of residents and the inappropriate location for such an application.'

Milton Keynes Council (MKC) refused the application, listing transport and noise as areas of concern, but MKC lost the subsequent planning appeal.

CMKTC planning committee will continue to keep a weather eye on the development.

Hotel construction begins

Construction work on the new Moxy Hotel next to the Hub is in its early stages. While no opening date has been given, the 224 room hotel is expected to be completed in the first half of 2021.



Forum issues

There has been some positive news in the fight to tackle drug abuse in the area.

At the residents' Police Forum in January, Police explained how they carried out an operation on North 9th and 10th Street and Silbury Boulevard to deter drug dealers.

They said flats in the area are not as 'busy' with drugs as they were six months ago, as problem locations have been identified and tackled using 'closure orders.' They also asked residents to continue to share details of problem areas.

The problem of homelessness, beggars and tents was also raised at the forum.

Two PCs have now been given responsibility for homelessness across the city and will be working with Compass and other charities.

The issue of mattresses on Silbury Boulevard



was mentioned by one resident who asked why they can't be removed. PC Hipkin said they are only able to remove them if they have been unoccupied for seven days, and similar rules apply to tents.

Look for details of the next Forum on our website, or provide us with your email address to receive details of the next meeting.

Tap to make a difference



MK Business Improvement District (MK BID) have introduced six Tap To Donate contactless machines around town, which offer a new way to donate cash to the homeless in Milton Keynes.

The contactless devices act as a deterrent to so-called 'professional beggars' and MK BID says there has already been a notable reduction of the unwanted activity.

"We've put them in places where we knew we had a chronic problem, and aside from the donations coming in via the devices, we've seen that the number of people loitering and begging in those areas has decreased dramatically," said Melanie Beck, chief executive of MyMiltonKeynes.

The scheme means that the money goes directly to those who are in need.

MK Bid have funded the panels, meaning every penny donated will go to the MK Homelessness Partnership.

Club sign rejected

An application by Garudaa Gentlemen's Club to have a large advertising sign featuring a semi-naked woman fixed to the CBX building has been rejected following an appeal.

CMK Town Council is pleased by the result. We lodged an objection to the proposal; firstly because of its intrusive scale, but fundamentally because we considered

the exploitative nature of the imagery to be wholly unsuitable for CMK.

We also considered the application to be in contravention of MK Council's Sex Establishment Policy, which notes 'There shall be no sexually explicit external advertising likely to cause offence as to the nature of the activity being held on the premises.'

"Traditionally, CMK has been kept clear of large, intrusive advertisements so we were doubly shocked by plans to fix a massive sign of a half-naked woman fronting Avebury Boulevard near the Hub," says Linda Inoki, vice-chair of the Town Council's planning committee.

"Thank goodness this offensive sign has been firmly refused."

From tax to homes

A new planning application could mean the demolition of a former tax office to be replaced with a new residential development providing 306 new apartments. If approved, Bowback House, located at the junction of Silbury Boulevard and Witan Gate, would make room for a new residential scheme ranging from four to 14 stories in height.

The applicant says the scheme will complement other new tall schemes at Aubrey Place and the YMCA to create a consistent skyline. Rooftop gardens for residents will be visible from the street, and a small amount of commercial activity will figure on the boulevard frontage.

Additionally, 131 car parking spaces and 336 cycle spaces will be provided for residents.

CMKTC supports the application and compliments the applicant on their consultation progress with stakeholders, which has resulted in improved designs and functionality of the development.

Rock 'n' Roll support for gardens

Spring is in the air – the perfect time to get out and make the most of our green spaces.

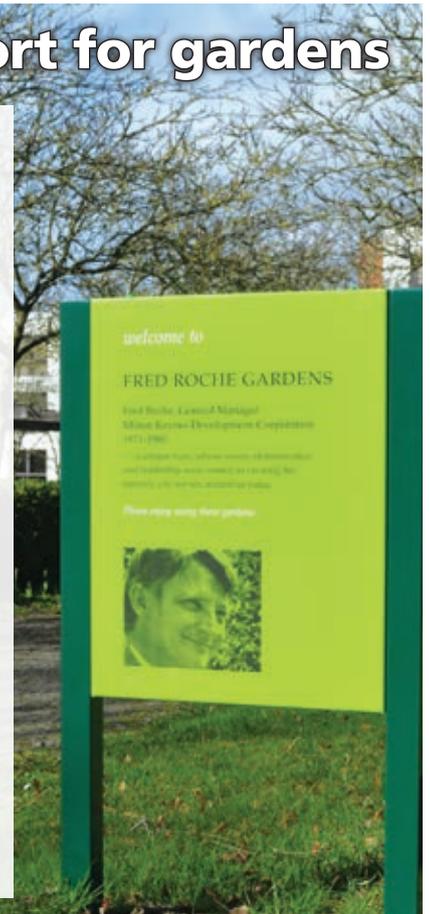
Fred Roche Gardens, the tucked-away tranquil spot named after one of MK's most important founding fathers, will now be easier to find thanks to seven smart new signs at access points.

Stalwart rockers The Zombies played a gig at The Stables and requested the money raised was used in the three acres of green space, located at the rear of Christ the Cornerstone Church.

"The gardens are a haven for birdlife, plants, trees, an insect wall, and a profusion of bulbs," Fred's widow Val said.

"It also contains an original lane and hedgerow present before the city was built.

"The foundation will be forever grateful for the funding support to make the signage a reality, and also to Central Milton Keynes Town Council, Green Gym and My MK who have been important to its improvement."



Could your group benefit from a grant?

A reminder that the Town Council holds a small pot of money for grants each year which is for events that will benefit residents of the parish.

Big Shop Friday (BSF) initiative is one recipient of a grant, which is being put towards a collaboration with MK Festival Fringe, on July 18, called 'Psst'.

'Psst' is a print and record fair which will provide opportunities for artists and creatives from Milton Keynes to showcase and sell their work.

BSF moved into the ground floor of the John Lewis multi-storey car park last

Autumn providing a space for the creative community.

The venture is independent, artist-led and not-for-profit. It is free for all to use; for work, research, or simply to while away a few hours.

If you would be interested in applying for a grant from the Town Council visit the website: cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

The grant 'pot' is replenished every April, with the start of the new financial year.

Conditions apply and certain criteria must be proved before the money is awarded.

Planting for a pretty future

The Town Council is working with landscape contractors Serco to clear neglected planters in CMK, so that more than 1,100 plants will then be introduced, making areas along Silbury (at the top of the 8th, 9th and 10th street) and Avebury (8th and 9th street) Boulevards much more cheery and green for residents and visitors.

When the plants have been bedded in, the town council will be asking residents to help maintain the areas and keep the town centre looking lovely.

We would love to hear from anyone interested in helping.

Please email clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk to register your interest.



i

Sunday 26 April International Workers Day

An annual international day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell by their work.

A special event will take place at Milton Keynes Rose at 11am and everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday 5 May VE Day

Milton Keynes Rose is the setting for an event marking the 75th Anniversary of the ending of World War II conflict in Europe.

The all-ages event will begin at 11am.

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June Art in the Park 2020

The arts festival returns to Campbell Park for two days of creativity.

The 10th annual event, which is hosted by MK Islamic Arts, Culture and Heritage, will feature music, dance, art installations and world food and runs from 1pm-6pm daily.

Saturday 27 June India Day 2020

ID:MK returns for a second year and invites everyone to attend and celebrate the uniqueness of Indian culture and heritage at this carnival. Sample music, dance and cuisine, and peruse the bazaar which is new for 2020.

Entry is free, from 11am to 6pm.

In light of the the ongoing effects of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and government advice, the events detailed in this publication may have to be cancelled or postponed.

Please check with the organisers for up to date details.

MK Calling at MK Gallery

The current exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery shines a light on local, national and international artists with a colourful collection of widely ranging artwork from more than 130 contributors.

"This is a wonderfully eclectic exhibition that attracted a huge number of submissions that enthralled and inspired the judging panel," said MK Gallery director, Anthony Spira. "We are thrilled to be able to create an open call exhibition of such ambition and quality here in Milton Keynes."

Milton Keynes artist Anna Bee is exhibiting her large installation, Where Do You Live.

"It's really lovely to be part of MK Calling again. It's nice to have the continuity to be able to develop my strand of work involving postcards of Milton Keynes itself," she said. "It's also just really exciting to be able to show with such a great mix of fantastic local artists as well as more high profile artists."



The show continues until May 17 and entry is free.

As this newsletter went to press, the gallery was closed due to the fast-moving Coronavirus situation.

Please check the website for the latest information: www.mkgallery.org

Wired For Sound music exhibition



Duran Duran at Milton Keynes Shopping Centre 1981 © Andy Earl

An exhibition focusing on our musical heritage is to be hosted at the centre:mk

Milton Keynes: Wired For Sound will be a companion to the forthcoming book released by the same name.

It features chapters on some of MK's best-loved names; including Marshall Amplification founder Jim Marshall, and

jazz stars and founders of The Stables venue Sir John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine.

Wired For Sound also explores a history of venues past and present including an in-depth chapter on The National Bowl, with many rare and unseen images.

"Wired for Sound cuts through the foundations of Milton Keynes, and talks to many of those responsible for building music into its fabric," said author Sammy Jones. "It's a chance to learn about the music-makers and risk takers who helped make Milton Keynes a more colourful place."

In light of the ongoing situation with Coronavirus an opening date for the exhibition has yet to be confirmed.

For the latest information add your name to the mailing list by emailing wiredforsoundmk@gmail.com



www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk



CMK West Ward:

Andre Brady: andre.brady@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Oya Discombe: oya.discombe@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Andrew Thomas: andrew.thomas@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

CMK East Ward:

Amir Chahardehi: amir.chahardehi@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Ramo Erdogan: ramazan.erdogan@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Gill Kirkup: gill.kirkup@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Campbell Park Ward:

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

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.