

COMMUNITY EVENTS IN CMK

Future City Exhibition & Debates MK Gallery

6th December – 5th January (Exhibition)
Thursdays, 12th & 19th December (Debates)

English Heritage describes MK as the greatest British new town ever built. Business leaders point to MK as the powerhouse of regional growth, and Thomas Heatherwick, the acclaimed sculptor of the London Olympics flame, says the boulevards of CMK are a complete work of art. But what is it like living here? And will our hometown ever fulfil its destiny as “a city for all horizons of history”?

With its 50th anniversary looming, and lots of new development heading for CMK, now is a good time to remember its origins and look ahead.

Please come along to MK Gallery's new exhibition and programme of events. Meet some of the original architects, see some fun memorabilia from the early days, and join in the panel discussions about our future. It's bound to be a lively debate!

Talks & debates on Thursdays, 12th and 19th December (debates start at 6.30). Info from www.mkgallery.org

Public Hearing on CMK's Future Path Thursday, 12th December (10am – 5pm)

A public hearing will be held as part of the official examination of the CMK Alliance Plan. This important document sets out the roadmap for developing CMK over the next 15 years. The independent examiner, Mr Jeremy Edge, will question representatives of the Alliance Steering Group as well as invited objectors to determine whether the Plan meets the standards set by the Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. If the examiner decides that the plan does not conform with statutory requirements he may request changes. Once he is satisfied, it is MK Council's duty to organise referendums so that residents and businesses can vote on the Plan.

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in the Grafton Room, Midsummer House, 413 Midsummer Blvd, CMK. The public is welcome to attend and listen.



Photo courtesy Jim McGowan

PROBLEMS IN THE PARK

Residents of Adelphi Street have been frustrated by commuters parking in Campbell Park, especially since the end of free parking in CMK. Recently, the problem has reached the point where residents cannot even get to their own homes! Of particular concern is the main entry into the residential cul-de-sac where motorists have been effectively blocking the street by 'double parking'. This could lose precious time if the emergency services need to attend the area.

After residents asked CMK Town Council for help, Councillor Charles Ashbury volunteered to patrol the area early in the morning and encourage problem parkers to comply with the law. We have also set up temporary cones to discourage parking at the junction quadrants, which is dangerous as it reduces visibility for people using the footpath. After just a few days residents began to see improvements, and a reduction in near-misses where the footpath crosses the street.

"We will continue to press MK Council, as well as local employers, to find a long term solution to help residents," says Councillor Ashbury. "The next step is a petition to show public support for a proper solution, as well as yellow cones to highlight no-parking areas including the verges. We are also pressing for better maintenance of overgrown vegetation, street lighting and clearer junction markings, to reduce speeding and keep the area safe and attractive for all."

Adelphi Street residents - look out for the petition coming soon!



CALLING ALL JUNIOR FILM-MAKERS!

CMK Town Council is co-funding 10 young people from the parish to produce a film about Central Milton Keynes. The film might be a documentary about CMK or its history and people or simply about daily life in this modern city. It could be a fictional narrative, a musical piece or even an animated film!

Young people who take part go through the Junior Filmmakers training programme which runs for one hour a week over a period of 24 weeks. The students learn story and script development, scriptwriting, scheduling, casting, storyboarding, camera work, filming and editing.

Training starts on 9th January 2014 and will take place at the Junior Filmmakers studios in Lloyd's Court, CMK, on Thursdays from 5pm to 6pm each week.

If you are interested in taking part in this project, and you are aged between 8 – 17 and live in CMK or Campbell Park, please email juniorfilmmakers@jclmi.org or call 01908 477432.

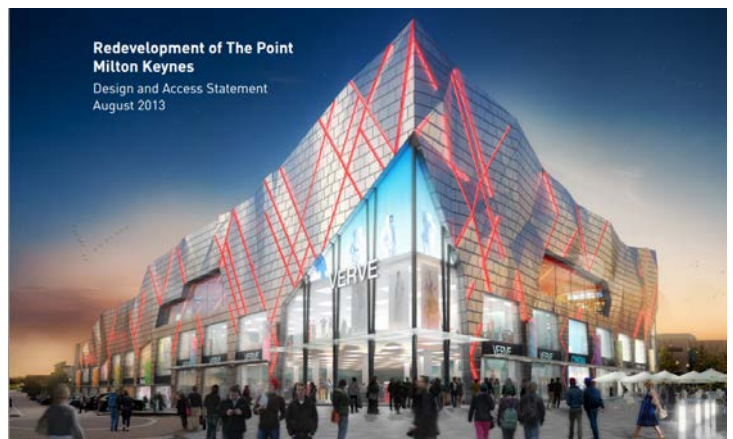
You will need to have a reference provided by your school or one of your Town Councillors.

POINTS OF CONTENTION

The Point was one of the earliest buildings in CMK and quickly became an icon of everything that was bold and fresh about Milton Keynes. When its owners, Hammerson, initially proposed demolishing it last year the Town Council hoped it could be saved and refurbished, however this looks increasingly unlikely.

Hammerson have now submitted an outline planning application which will be decided by MK Council (MKC) as early as December. If approved, it will fix the principle of development and general size of the new building but all the details including design will be left to a future date.

The Town Council is disappointed with the outline plans as we think they are not ambitious enough for such an important location. We have told MK Council that we believe that any plans for redeveloping The Point should be part of an overarching plan for the whole area between Midsummer Place and The Food Centre. We have also asked for better pedestrian connections and more interesting public spaces and cultural/community uses to be worked into the scheme for a new 'Point'.



From Hammerson's planning application

Finally, we do not think the design indicated for the new building fits well with the special character of CMK and its best architecture. Overall, we do not believe the current plans will create a high quality of development in the landmark tradition of the original Point.

LANDSCAPE BUDGET CHOPPED

Due to budget cuts, Milton Keynes Council has decided to outsource the borough's landscape maintenance, which includes grass cutting, weed control and shrub, hedge and tree maintenance. Parish and Town Councils were given some options to get more involved, and the one we felt best for CMK was to let the Borough Council manage the tender process and find the right contractor, then we would manage the contract. Since we are close to the grassroots we felt we had a chance of getting a better result!

However there are challenges. The budget for looking after CMK's landscape has been cut to approximately £56,000 per year, which is only about half of the amount allocated in previous years. We would welcome suggestions from our residents about how we might achieve the best results within the limited budget.



Our Local Hero

Barbara Reeves has been working with the 'Can Do' group for some years, providing support and direction for socially isolated members of the CMK community.

Meeting at Centrecom, Barbara helps members of the group rebuild their confidence through various experiences and developing both practical and social skills.

This year the Pride of MK awards recognised the great work she is doing for residents who need a helping hand. Well done Barbara!

'Can Do' meets every Thursday afternoon from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. To find out more, please contact Ms Reeves on 07920 745979.

TO BIN OR NOT TO BIN

The rubbish lying around the bus stops in Station Square and Campbell Park is an eyesore, and proud residents of MK have started complaining to the Town Council about the lack of rubbish bins in these areas.

Unfortunately Milton Keynes Council is currently not prepared to provide bins in these locations.

However, the Town Council could install bins for the general benefit of residents (and visitors). For this there would be a one-off cost and possibly an ongoing emptying charge, if Milton Keynes Council did not approve the budget to adopt them.

Please let us know whether you would want some of your parish precept (tax) money spent on providing bins if the Borough Council is unable or unwilling to fund them.



Contact the CMK Town Council

Midsummer House, 3rd Floor T: 01908 766176
413 Midsummer Boulevard E: clerk@centralmk-tc.gov.uk
Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BN W: www.centralmk-tc.gov.uk

We look forward to meeting you in our new home in the heart of Central Milton Keynes!

Rebecca Kurth (Chair) Ken Baker Linda Inoki
Paul Cranfield (Clerk) Andre Brady Andrew Thomas
Charles Ashbury Ramo Erdogan

