

The International Festival Returns



Dominoes Marseille © Adrien Bargin

The spectacular International Festival returns to CMK this year, running from 15-24 July. The festival features events and performances throughout the city, as well as a video project to recreate scenes from Superman IV, which was filmed in CMK in 1986.

One of the most interesting events is 'Dominoes', an extraordinary two-kilometre line of super-sized domino blocks which will start at The Point before weaving through the shopping building, restaurants, and even some residents' homes on the south side of Avebury Boulevard.

"I'm really looking forward to Dominoes coming through my garden," says CMK Resident Kelvin Pang. "It's certainly an incentive to get it tidied up by then! I'll be inviting some friends round for a barbeque to join in the fun."

Over 200 people will be involved in creating the domino line, and the Festival is inviting individuals and groups of friends or work colleagues to take part. Participants will receive a Dominoes T-shirt and backpack, a packed lunch, drinks and other useful items for the day. There will also be a party at the end of the day to say thank you and celebrate. If you are interested in taking part in Dominoes, visit the International Festival website at ifmiltonkeynes.org.

On the fringe of the Festival will also be the Walking with Giants parade on Sunday

26 June. Starting at The Hub at 2pm, the procession of gigantic puppet creatures will work its way around CMK, accompanied by live music, performers, and representatives from local schools and charities.



JOIN THE PARISH MEETING

Meet members of the Town Council and hear about local issues and the latest plans at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday evening 2 June.

The meeting will include updates on the Town Council's project to build a new community facility for CMK, plans to create neighbourhood watch areas around the parish, and the public inquiry over the proposals to build on public space at the Intu shopping centre.

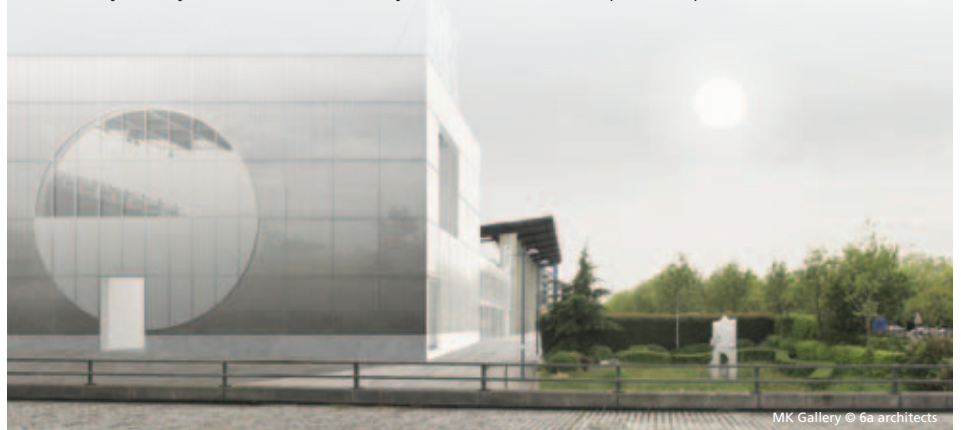
The meeting starts at 6pm in the Saxon Room at Margaret Powell House, located at 413 Midsummer Boulevard.

Gallery Gets Go-Ahead

Plans to expand Milton Keynes Gallery were unanimously approved at a meeting of Milton Keynes Council's planning committee in April. The new three-story extension will house new gallery and events spaces, education facilities and a café overlooking Midsummer Boulevard. Chief among the new additions is a 300-capacity auditorium, capable of hosting dramatic performances, music and sound installations.

"We are thrilled to receive planning consent," said Gallery director Anthony Spira. "We now look forward to seeing this world-class gallery come to fruition, and welcoming larger audiences from 2017."

The expanded Gallery will form a key component of the celebrations of Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary next year, as well as the city's bid to be the European Capital of Culture in 2023.



MK Gallery © 6a architects



New Signs Point the Way

Local residents may have noticed new signs that have appeared recently on some of the footways around CMK. These are the first phase of a ‘wayfinding’ initiative by Milton Keynes Council, aimed at helping visitors and locals get around the city centre more easily and safely.

New Building Started

More construction cranes are coming to the CMK skyline after work started on the new Victoria House office development at the end of March. The five-storey building will be located on Avebury Boulevard next to Grafton Park, between Lower Second and Third Streets.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers from all backgrounds and walks of life are being sought by the Milton Keynes Citizens’ Advice Bureau. The service offers help to thousands of people across the city and relies on a diverse team of committed volunteers. If you’re able to help, please visit miltonkeynescab.org.uk.

Building Plans Changed

Plans for a new eight storey residential building on Silbury Boulevard have been revised following pressure from residents living on North 12th Street. The new plans reduce the height of some parts of the building, as well as changing the building materials to help it blend in better with its surroundings.

CMK Aims for Purple Flag

A new project led by Milton Keynes City Centre Management (MKCCM) aims to win ‘Purple Flag’ status for CMK. This designation, currently held by 61 towns and cities around the country, recognises a strong night time economy with a good range of destinations and a safe environment.

Members of the Town Council will be taking part in a 12 hour assessment exercise in the near future which will look at how CMK operates between 5pm and 5am the following morning, against the criteria used to consider the Purple Flag Award.

“The Town Council is proud to be involved in this project,” says Town Councillor André Brady. “This is a good opportunity to demonstrate how safe and vibrant CMK at night can be.”

It is hoped that an application for Purple Flag status will be submitted in October this year.

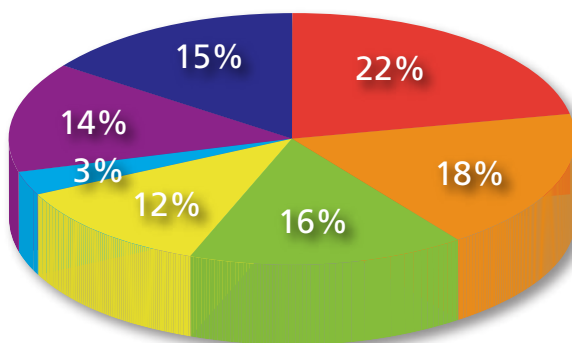


How Your Precept was Spent

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.

Breakdown of Expenditure in Year 2015/16



- Statutory Duties
- Operational overheads
- Community engagement
- Communications
- Community building project
- CMK neighbourhood plan
- Planning applications

Innovative ‘Homeworld’ Development Planned

A new project near Campbell Park known as ‘Homeworld 50’ is being considered as a way of showcasing the latest ‘smart home’ technologies. The scheme is proposed for undeveloped land south of Avebury Boulevard, and aims to pioneer the way future homes will be built across the city.



Thirty years ago the city was host to ‘Energy World’ in Shenley Lodge, which helped to develop national standards for more efficient energy usage in homes. ‘Future World’ in Kents Hill followed in the 1990s. Now Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) is looking at plans to continue the tradition of Milton Keynes pioneering development and technology.

The name ‘Homeworld 50’ highlights the significance of the city’s 50th anniversary in 2017.

Residents Welcome Plans for Community Centre

Plans for a new community centre next to the events plateau in Campbell Park have been welcomed by CMK residents. The Parks Trust's plans to build a cafe also received enthusiastic support.

Between February and March the Town Council ran a consultation on plans for the new community building, which included options for one or two halls. The consultation results showed high levels of interest in having spaces for social clubs and performance events, as well as for fitness and sport activities. The Town Council has therefore decided to proceed with the two-hall option to cater for the widest possible range of community uses.

The consultation also covered the Parks Trust's proposed café, adventure play area and nursery. Whilst there was wide support for the cafe and adventure play area, some had concerns about

how the play area would impact the landscape. There were also a number of objections to the inclusion of a private nursery in a public park, and in light of this plans for the nursery are now being considered for a location outside the park.

The next step is the selection of architects to design the scheme. The Town Council has sent out invitations to a selection of architects with relevant experience and strong track records of delivering similar projects. Work is also progressing on funding the facility, which will include applying for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

Once an architectural practice has been chosen, a second round of public consultations will take place, ensuring that the views of residents continue to inform and shape the scheme.



Parking Permit Scheme Success



In a fine example of local people coming together in common cause, residents on the south side of Campbell Park went door-knocking to survey their neighbours about introducing a residential parking permit scheme in their area.

The Town Council launched the consultation survey after residents continued to complain about workers and visitors parking on residential streets. Not only did residents have difficulty parking, but access was also blocked for emergency vehicles, creating a serious safety problem.

An impressive 122 residents in the area responded to the consultation, compared with just 30 in a previous survey run by Milton Keynes Council two years ago. Furthermore, an astonishing 86% of surveyed residents voted in favour of the new scheme, which will apply to Albion Place, Amelia's Lane, Columbia Place, Dalgin Place and Henrietta Way.

Following this decisive result, Milton Keynes Council has now committed to implementing the scheme in the next 3-4 months.

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Saturday 21 May CMK Family Fun Day

A day of family fun centred around sustainable transport, featuring a cycle-powered cinema, taking place at MK Gallery between 10am & 4pm.

Sunday 5 June County Cricket

Buckinghamshire take on Berkshire at the Campbell Park Cricket Ground. Spectators are welcome and no booking is needed. The game begins at 1pm.

Sunday 12 June Albert French Day

An event at the MK Rose in Campbell Park commemorating the contribution of local people to the First World War, starting at 10.30am.

Sunday 12 June Race for Life

A choice of 5km or 10km runs in aid of Cancer Research UK. The race starts in Campbell Park and is open to all ages and abilities. To enter, go to raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org

Sunday 26 June Walking With Giants

A parade of giant animatronic beasts accompanied by music and performances, which will work its way around CMK starting from The Hub at 2pm.

Saturday 9 to Sunday 10 July – Art in the Park

A two-day festival of art and culture in Campbell Park, featuring live music, dance and a cultural food exhibition. A free event running from 1pm - 7pm on Saturday and 1pm - 6pm on Sunday.

Friday 15 to Sunday 24 July International Festival

The two-yearly extravaganza of performances, exhibits and events returns to the city, featuring a range of activities throughout CMK, Campbell Park and Willen Lake.

Sunday 24 July The World Picnic

Bring a picnic and celebrate music, dance and international culture at this collective event in Campbell Park.

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

Art in the Park



Experience a different culture at Art in the Park, the MK Islamic Arts and Culture Festival in Campbell Park. Centred around Eid, the event aims to demonstrate how art and culture can transcend the boundaries of religion and race.

The festival will include music and dance performances, a digital 'art wall', art workshops for the disabled, a fun fair and a parade, all topped off by a cultural food and art exhibition. People of all religions and cultures are invited to come and sample the rich variety on offer.

The event is free to attend and will run from 1-7pm on Saturday 9 July, and from 1-6pm on Sunday 10 July.

Race for Life



Women of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in the annual Race for Life, in aid of Cancer Research UK. Participants are welcome to run, walk or even dance their way round the course.

Starting in Campbell Park, the race offers a choice of 5km or 10km runs. The 5km course is well suited to beginners and walkers, while the 10km option offers a challenge for more experienced runners. The two 5km runs start at 11am and midday, while the 10km run starts at 10am.

Entering the race costs £14.99 for women over 16 and £10 for women under 16 and boys under 12. Children under 6 enter free. To enter, go to raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org.

Family Fun Day

Art workshops and a bicycle-powered cinema are just two of the many exciting activities for the

whole family at the Fun Day at MK Gallery. The cycle cinema will screen a selection of children's cartoons, along with 'Velorama', a British Film Institute documentary film showing archive footage of a century of cycling.

The day is built around the theme of sustainable



transport, allowing children and adults alike to learn about more environmentally friendly and

sustainable ways of getting around. With teams of cyclists and officers from Milton Keynes Council on hand, the event promises to be both fun and informative.

The activities start at 10am on 21 May and run until 4pm. A children's workshop will also run between 11am and 1pm.

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.