

Neighbourhood Plan Gives Residents a Voice

Proposals to develop an independent, luxury hotel on the edge of CMK overlooking Campbell Park could see the tallest building yet arrive on the city skyline. However the coach park, where Hotel La Tour wants to build the hotel, is defined as "classic CMK infrastructure" in the CMK Neighbourhood Plan. This means that only an "exceptional development" can be considered, which will enhance the national significance of the city and also contribute to the social and cultural objectives of the Plan.

After CMK Town Council met with the hotel company's directors, they agreed to hold a series of workshops with the local community in order to make their proposal exceptional. "The workshops were extremely informative for the project team," says Hotel La Tour managing director Mark Stuart, "and we've got a much better design as a result." An alternative design has been developed which is around 13 storeys high (five lower than the original), and with a completely different façade which incorporates a high-technology 'Midsummer' sun. Significantly, it includes a new feature for Milton Keynes - a public space near the roof which will open up exceptional views across the city and for miles beyond, plus digital displays which will tell the story of Milton Keynes.

As per the Neighbourhood Plan requirement, local people were invited to vote on which version of the scheme they preferred. 79% of respondents voted in favour of the revised scheme. Following the outcome of the vote, it is likely that Hotel La Tour will file a planning application which will then go through the usual public consultation process and be decided by MK Council. More information can be found at hotel-latourmiltonkeynes.co.uk/feedback.



Meet Your New Councillor

CMK Town Council is pleased to welcome Central Milton Keynes' newest parish councillor, Dr Oya Discombe. Oya has lived in Milton Keynes for almost 20 years, and within CMK for over 5 years, giving her a strong interest in local issues.

A research consultant with a background in marketing management, marketing research and e-business, Oya joined the Town Council in September 2017.

She says, "I would like to contribute to the Town Council's efforts to help residents with local issues and maintain and sustainably develop CMK, to ensure that the area continues to be a wonderful, lively and energetic place to live and to do business in."



RECOGNITION FOR CMK HERITAGE

Modern heritage can often be difficult to recognise before it is lost. However, Milton Keynes Council is working up ways to offer more protection for MK's unique modern architecture and public realm. The draft "Milton Keynes New Town Heritage Register" recently went out to public consultation and CMK Town Council has spent time with the Council's Conservation and Archaeology department discussing further ideas to ensure that guidelines in selecting suitable items for inclusion will apply to CMK.

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Are You Registered?

Residents who have recently moved house will need to reapply to be included on the electoral register. Milton Keynes Council is encouraging people to register, which you can do by either going to gov.uk/register-to-vote or calling 01908 254706.

Amazing CMK "Deep Clean" Begins

The first work paid for by the new "Amazing CMK" business levy has begun, with a deep-clean jet wash being undertaken on the underpasses under the junction between Midsummer Boulevard and Saxon Gate. The work has been made possible by CMK becoming a "Business Improvement District", in which businesses vote to levy themselves to pay for additional public realm improvements.

Primark heads to the Centre:MK

Primark plan to open a flagship store in the former BHS unit in the centre:mk. The building's owners recently submitted a planning application to add a third floor to the building in a manner consistent with the original design of the grade II listed Shopping Building. If approved, the new Primark store will be one of the company's largest UK stores with the entire range on sale when it opens next year.

"Get Changed" Reopens

The newly refurbished "Get Changed" cycle station on Witan Gate reopened with an event on Friday 29 September. This is part of Milton Keynes Council's "get cycling" initiative to encourage more people to cycle to and from work.



Milton Keynes in Perspective



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A large number of drawings by renowned artist Helmut Jacoby, which the Milton Keynes Development Corporation commissioned to raise international interest in the new city, are on display in the centre:mk. This is the first time that many of these artworks have been seen together. The exhibition, along the Midsummer Arcade side of the former BHS store, is only temporary so do be sure to look out for them on your next shopping trip. Although some of these places, such as the huge public pool in CMK, remain a dream, many others are now part of daily life. Together the illustrations give a lively sense of the original vision behind modern Milton Keynes.

Public Safety risk in CMK

There has been an alarming increase in the amount of discarded needles and other hazardous waste on pavements, in bushes and litterbins around CMK. Rob Harriman, our Street Warden, reported a recent case where Serco cleared over 200 needles as well as quantities of human waste out of a small landscaped area near a busy underpass.

To complicate matters there is the problem of illegal 'professional' begging and intimidating behaviour. Rob says "Even the Serco street cleaners, who are really dedicated to

their work, can't clear graffiti off some of the underpasses any more without support due to mounting aggression." Residents have also contacted the Town Council and CMK Ward Councillors to complain about feeling unsafe due to drug dealing in the streets and anti-social behaviour.

In order to address this growing problem, and the wider issue of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, the Town Council has formed a working party to discuss practical solutions as a matter of urgency. Meanwhile, we are advising residents to



take extra care to avoid any hazardous waste or unusual litter. Recently, for example, a Serco public services contractor sustained a needle injury whilst clearing waste in Station Square.

MK Council currently has a public consultation regarding their Rough Sleeping Reduction Strategy, which can be viewed via www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/419. If you, as a CMK resident, have been directly affected by the problem of public safety and anti-social behaviour we urge you to give direct feedback to Milton Keynes Council via this consultation.

Feast of Fire Spectacular

The final event celebrating Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary brought crowds of revellers to CMK for an evening of fire displays, performances and music. Despite the cold, wet and windy conditions, thousands of visitors enjoyed the "Feast of Fire", which also celebrated the Hindu Diwali festival.

A torchlit "people's procession" of over 200 residents worked its way along Midsummer Boulevard past fire sculptures and installations before arriving at the main events area next to the Point. Spectacular pyrotechnics closed off the

evening, and with it a year of events that has demonstrated MK's breadth of culture and the pride that local people take in its unique identity.



More HiMOs for Campbell Park?



A recent planning application to turn a 4-bedroomed townhouse into a 5-bedroomed House in Multiple Occupancy (HiMO) in Columbia Place, Campbell Park, was refused after the Town Council persisted in its objections due to the lack of parking provision. A number of nearby residents also filed objections, mainly about the impact on parking but also about additional rubbish generation which could increase their service charges. Surprisingly, MK Council's planning officer recommended approval but, at the Town Council's request, members of the Development Control Committee made

a site visit, understood the situation and unanimously refused planning permission.

Unfortunately, the application has now returned, proposing a 4-bedroom HiMO and suggesting that the letting agent will only let to people without cars! If any resident wishes to comment on the application you can find it online by searching for application number 17/02669/FUL on MK Council's planning portal. Alternatively you can email the new case officer, who is dealing with the latest application, via Danika.Hird@milton-keynes.gov.uk, ideally in early November but any time before the end of the month.

Gallery Expansion Commences

This autumn, major construction commenced on MK Gallery's ambitious expansion.

The design for the expanded Gallery includes references to the original development of Milton Keynes in the 1960s and 70s telling the story of the city's visionary heyday, in collaboration with artists Gareth Jones and Nils Norman.

MK Gallery Director Anthony Spira said: "It is a source of immense pride to be bringing what will be a world-class venue to Milton Keynes. The new building will be fully accessible so that we can provide the very best arts experiences for wide audiences. The arts are an incredible resource for creating cohesion between diverse individuals, nurturing wellbeing and ultimately creating stronger communities."



Town Council Flowers

The Town Council contributed four late-flowering clematis to a recent flower festival at the City Church. CMK Town Councillor Hilarie Bowman helped organise the Town Council's contribution to the display. In celebration of Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary, the display sought to "showcase what's great about our city: from amazing arrangements that climb the pillars to lovely posies just right for a sweetheart."

One residents' group has already planted one of the climbers facing a public footpath. If you have an idea where the other clematis could be planted to brighten up CMK's residential areas, please get in touch.

Cranes on the skyline



Construction work has started on several new projects in CMK over the last few weeks. These include a new 7-storey apartment block at 809/811 Silbury Boulevard, formerly the home of the Job Centre and Standard Chartered Bank, and the large new multi-storey car park next to John Lewis.

Milton Keynes Council has also approved plans for the new mixed-use development and boating marina on the eastern edge of Campbell Park grid square. The development includes local shops, leisure areas and a mix of residential accommodation in 380 apartments and townhouses.

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Saturday 11 November Armistice Day at MK Rose

Short annual remembrance ceremony at the MK Rose for Armistice Day. Starts at 10.45am.

Monday 13 November Women who made MK

An exhibition about ten key women who helped create the city we know today. 13 November to 11 December in the Central Library Exhibition Space.

Thursday 16 November Family History Consultations

Free 30-minute consultations to help you with research into your family history. Sessions need to be booked in advance by phoning 01908 254051. Held at Central Library between 4.15pm and 7.30pm.

Thursday 23 November A Different Kind of Urban

A newly commissioned piece of choral music celebrating Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary. Takes place at The Hub theatre at the Open University, Walton Hall, at 1pm.

Thursday 23 November Brasilia: Life After Design

Learn about another planned city, the Brazilian capital designed for 500,000 people but now home to 2.5 million. Talk starts at 7pm at MK Gallery. Free admission.

Wednesday 6 December YMCA Musical Celebrations

An evening of musical & festive celebration performed by Milton Keynes Rock Choir. Starts at 7pm at Christ the Cornerstone. Tickets are £4.80 until 20 November, then £6 afterwards.

Sunday 17 December Carols at the Rose

Annual Open Air Christmas Carols event at the MK Rose in Campbell Park. Free to attend and open to all, beginning at 3pm.

Armistice Day at the MK Rose

On November 11th people will gather at war memorials all over the world to remember the millions who lost their lives in the First World War, as well as all the wars that followed.

Remembrance Day grew out of commemorating Armistice Day in 1918, when the guns finally fell silent at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, after four brutal years of war. Since then, many more wars have torn families and countries apart, so Remembrance Day has become an important time to remember everyone who has died or suffered in conflict.

This year, the Town Council will be laying a wreath of poppies at the ceremony in CMK, which will also be attended by local dignitaries paying their respects. The short ceremony begins at 10.45 on Saturday 11th November at the MK Rose in Campbell Park; everyone is welcome to attend.



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The Women Who Made MK



Discover 'The Women who made Milton Keynes' in a new exhibition at the Central Library Exhibition Space.

Created by

the local branch of the Fawcett Society, the exhibition celebrates ten of the key women who helped create MK's unique identity and many of its landmarks. Gill Kirkup, one of the organisers, says "We hope that many women and girls will visit the exhibition and be motivated by the achievements of these early MK pioneers, their energy, and dedication."

Many of these ladies were instrumental in founding significant local organisations such as the Milton Keynes Theatre, Willen Hospice and the National Museum of Computing.

The exhibition will run between 13 November and 11 December.

A Different Kind of Urban

As Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary year draws to a close, the members and friends of the Open University Choir have commissioned



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a new piece to commemorate the occasion. The piece, which includes lyrics about the city, its history, design and culture, is described as having "potential to engage, stimulate or challenge anyone who knows Milton Keynes."

The new piece will be performed for the first time at The Hub theatre at the Open University on 23 November, starting at 1pm. There will also be a pre-concert discussion with the composer and lyricist starting at 11.30am.

Both the concert and the discussion are free and open to all however tickets must be reserved in advance due to limited space. To reserve tickets for either event, go to www.open.ac.uk/wikis/ouchoir.

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.