

CMK's Secret Garden



One of CMK's hidden gems is Grafton Park, a long, narrow space of greenery that sits behind the Pinnacle between Lower Second and Fourth Streets. Featuring a winding stream, a series of small ponds and classic MK benches set among flowering plants and bushes, the park is popular with workers in the surrounding office buildings.

A new ten storey hotel is now being proposed for a vacant site next to Grafton Park. The small development plot sits between the Jaipur Indian restaurant and Victoria House, a handsome, recently completed office building. Together these developments form the southern edge of the park, with the Pinnacle and a currently undeveloped car park forming the northern side. The Town Council is looking for improvements to the hotel design to make it more suitable for this prime site.



SAXON COURT VICTORY

Following representations made by numerous CMK residents, the Town Council and several other bodies, Milton Keynes Council decided to abandon proposals to build over key pedestrian, car and cycle routes around Saxon Court at their planning committee meeting this Spring. The final version of the development brief, which will guide potential buyers, no longer contains these controversial options. The Town Council had argued that it would destroy the classic CMK infrastructure, thereby creating safety and congestion problems for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, as at The Hub. Milton Keynes Council still plans to sell the property, which is worth about £10m on the open market. Ultimately, the new owners may or may not decide to redevelop the current Saxon Court building and/or the undeveloped area of grass to the south.

Take Advantage of Sport Central

CMK gained its own multi-use sports facility late last year, which includes a full size training pitch set up for football and rugby matches, tennis and basketball courts. Now that the facility is up and running, the operators are keen to encourage local people, especially youngsters, to use the centre. Plans are being considered for a special hire rate for young people to use the centre over the summer. Visit www.hertsmerereisure.co.uk/sport-central for more information.

Hiring the basketball/netball courts costs £25 an hour, while hiring the tennis courts costs £14 per hour. The cost can be much less per person depending on the number of people playing. A seven-a-side football pitch can be hired for £50 an hour or the full eleven-a-side pitch for football or rugby for £130 an hour. The centre also has small and large club meeting rooms available for hire for £10 and £25 an hour each.



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Sign up to the eNews

Would you like to get updates on news and events in CMK sent straight to your inbox? The Town Council publishes a quarterly eNews bulletin between the usual print editions. To sign up for this essential email bulletin please send an email to comms@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk and we'll do the rest!

Yellow Lines for Adelphi

Proposals have been announced for new yellow lines to reduce obstructive parking on the edges of the road at Adelphi Street. Although the Town Council supported residents who wanted a parking permit scheme to control rogue parking in the area, it did not include the part closest to Silbury Boulevard when it was introduced in 2015. This section still suffers from a lot of on-street commuter parking. It is hoped the new lines will fix the issue completely.

CMK's New Insect Hotel

A new addition has joined Fred Roche Gardens, the large but often overlooked park that sits behind the Church of Christ the Cornerstone between Silbury and Midsummer Boulevards. An 'insect hotel' has been added, designed to attract and feed a wide range of insect species that are crucial for supporting the diverse range of flowers and plants that populate the park.

Campbell Wharf Takes Shape

The new marina at the easternmost end of Avebury Boulevard is beginning to take shape, with work now underway on the new canal bridge and mooring areas. It is expected that the first homes will be ready for occupancy towards the end of 2019.



The International Festival Returns

CMK takes centre stage as the International Festival returns to Milton Keynes from 20 – 29 July. A huge variety of events will take place around CMK and Campbell Park including comedy, music, acrobatics and dance.

Film-lovers can enjoy a floating cinema and free, open-air screenings at 12th Street. Vagabond has thrown down a '48 Hour Film Challenge' inviting filmmakers of all levels to make a short film in Milton Keynes starting 20 July (see <https://vagabond.org.uk/48-Hour-Film-Challenge>).

As for this year's MK Festival Fringe, it offers a largely free programme of performance, visual art, film, music and dance by artists currently based in or originally from Milton Keynes.

The Town Council is supporting one of the Fringe events through our grants programme for community projects in CMK. "Paradise Lost" is an installation by artist Anna Berry in collaboration with theatre director Rosemary Hill. Inspired by the stories of people who live on the city's streets, the installation will feature recordings and shredded plans of Milton Keynes. Berry is winning international recognition for her atmospheric work and says this new piece explores "how we



all try to be the architects of our own lives". So if you want to experience this installation visit the wide underpass under Marlborough Gate near the MK Gallery and Theatre on 14 July, 11am – 6 pm, after which it will be at the MK Museum 15-19 July. Other Fringe events include 'Peddlers Pack' (pictured above) at the Gallery and Library, a mystery drawing walk and animation workshop.

For Fringe events visit <http://mkfestivalfringe.com/events/>

To book IF tickets or reserve free seats visit www.ifmiltonkeynes.org



Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger will perform in Middleton Hall at 2.30pm on the 27th, 28th and 29th of July.



A combination of dance and circus using gigantic stone blocks will take place in Middleton Hall on the 25th and 26th of July at various times.

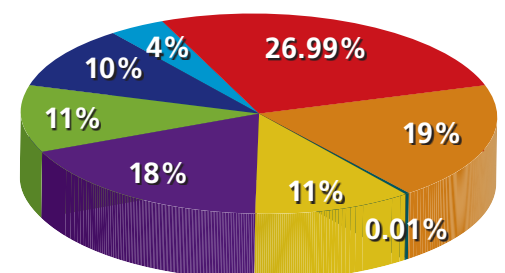


Enchanting tails for all ages with the puppet show **Theatre of Widdershins**, taking place in Campbell Park on the 21st and 22nd of July at 11am, 12.50pm and 2.40pm on both days.

How Your Precept was Spent

This year the Town Council agreed to increase its precept by 12%. This increase will give the Town Council more flexibility to consider how it can support residents by improving landscaping in the parish.

The increase equates to 70p per month for a Band 'D' property. This is still considerably lower than all other urban parishes and your volunteer Town Councillors will continue striving to deliver good value for money.



- Statutory Costs
- General Admin
- Councillor's Expenses
- Communications
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Support
- Planning Consultations
- Community Centre Project

Your Elected Representatives

The last local elections saw some new ward councillors taking seats on Milton Keynes Council (MKC). However there are three levels of local government and this is a basic guide to who does what.

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.



KEN BAKER
One of the Fathers of CMK

CMK Town Council is sorry to announce the retirement of our longest serving Councillor and one of the founding fathers of Central Milton Keynes. Architect Ken Baker, who has served on the Town Council since 2008, will be moving to the south coast in September to be with his family. Ken was one of the team who originally designed the layout and form of the city centre with the Milton Keynes Development Corporation in the 1970s. In later years he worked with the renowned planning firm David Lock Associates, and has recently become a vociferous campaigner for the city and its original design principles.

Ahead of his departure, Ken will be leading a guided tour of Central Milton Keynes on 23 August at 10am. This all-day walk will go from the central station right the way to Campbell Park, with explanations of the unique features and characteristics of CMK and its buildings, drawing on Ken's singular knowledge of the city. For more information on this as it is announced, please check the Town Council website, www.cmktowncouncil.gov.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 local services for residents, such as street lighting, road repairs, refuse collection, social services and council housing.

Your MKC Ward Councillors are:

Central Milton Keynes Ward



Moriah Priestley



Pauline Wallis



Paul Williams

Campbell Park & Old Woughton Ward



Ric Brackenbury



Terry Baines



Peter McDonald

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.

Your CMK Town Councillors are:

Central Milton Keynes West



André Brady



Oya Discombe



Andrew Thomas

Campbell Park



Linda Inoki



Rebecca Kurth

Central Milton Keynes East



Ken Baker



Hilarie Bowman



Ramo Erdogan

CMK Town Council Officers



Paul Cranfield
Parish Clerk



Thomas Walker
Deputy Clerk

Would You Like to be a Councillor?



Would you like to get more involved in local issues in the parish? Ken's departure will leave a space for a new town councillor to join the Town Council. If you would be interested in applying, please send an email to comms@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk telling us a little about your background and what you'd like to do for the community.

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Saturday 19 July Family History Consultations

Free 30 minute consultations to help you with research into your Family History. Sessions are held on Thursdays between 4.15-7.30pm in the Central Library. Book in advance by phoning 01908 254051.

Thursday 26 July CMK Police Forum

A chance for residents to meet the Police officers who patrol CMK to get updates on priorities and issues affecting the parish.

Sunday 29 July World Picnic

Celebrate music, dance and cultures of the world at this annual cultural event. Takes place in the events plateau by the amphitheatre from 1pm to 6pm. Free to attend.

Friday 10 August Writers' Workshop

A chance for writers to gain feedback on their own work and, in turn, to offer feedback on the work of the other attendees. Arts Central, Norfolk House, second Friday of each month at 8pm.

Saturday 11 August Live Music at MK Gallery

Featuring electronic artists Petit Oiseau and Otim Alpha perform. Tickets are £6 in advance or £7 on the night. Doors at 7.30pm.

Thursday 13 September MK Geek Night

A quarterly event for the creative community to meet up, network and chat over a few drinks about web design, development, technology and general geekery. See mkgeeknight.co.uk for details.

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



CMK Police Forum

If you have issues with crime or antisocial behavior in your area, there's a new regular meeting that might be appealing. Four times a year the CMK Police Forum gives CMK residents the chance to raise their concerns directly with the police officers responsible for the city centre.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 26th July from 7pm to 8pm in the Saxon Room at Margaret Powell House, Midsummer Boulevard. All CMK and Campbell Park residents are welcome to attend.

The Police Forum is followed directly by the CMK Residents' Forum, which runs from 8pm to 9pm. This meeting is for residents who already, or wish to, serve as representatives from each of the local housing areas. Do come along if you are interested in being a representative for your neighbourhood.

Live Music at MK Gallery

Avant garde electronic artists Petit Oiseau and Otim Alpha perform in the intimate atmosphere of the Gallery's 'Lozenge' space next to Margaret Powell Square.

Petit Oiseau ('little bird in French) bring together rare classical Indian string instruments with experimental synthesiser music to create a truly



distinctive sound. Otim Alpha combines musical influences from his native Africa with

electronic production to produce an equally original soundscape. Together the two acts promise to offer one of the most musically diverse and interesting evenings of sound the city has experienced.

Tickets are £6 in advance or £7 on the night, with doors opening at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th August.

Writers' Workshops at Arts Central

Do you write your own fantasy, horror or science fiction stories? Then why not get feedback on your work and sample the work of other aspiring authors at the monthly writers' workshops at Arts Central.



The group meets at Norfolk House, Silbury Boulevard, at 8 PM on the second Friday of each month. Organiser Scott Dorward says "We're a pretty welcoming bunch. We don't do writing exercises or attempt to teach people how to write. We assume that anyone coming along is already writing. The idea is to get feedback on your work and give feedback to others, although do have the occasional chat about self-publishing, marketing or other aspects of the profession."

The group is free to attend and open to all. For more details go to artsgatewaymk.org.uk.

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.