



The International Festival is back

The popular International Festival, which was cancelled last year, returns to MK this summer. It has been extended to take place over 21 days from 10th to 30th July to ensure there is more time and space to enjoy it safely.

Six new imagination-catching artworks, all free, have been announced – five of which are right here in CMK.

One of the most remarkable installations is an illuminated tunnel, lined with thousands of tiny cones that appear to move and breathe. The multi-sensory experience by Anna Berry, suitably called the Breathing Room, will have its world premiere at Queen’s Court in the centre:mk.

CMK’s unique urban design offers some perfect locations. Monica Ferguson, Festival Director and Chief Executive of The Stables, explained: “We are making the most of Milton Keynes’ unique open cityscape, and extensive parklands and green spaces to stage some live events which are designed to bring a sense of hope and joy.”

There will be surprises in Campbell Park, Middleton Hall, and at The MK Rose. To find out more about the main festival and the fringe visit ifmiltonkeynes.org



MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS

Two new councillors, Philip Murphy and David Stabler, have joined CMK Town Council following the May local elections.

Philip Murphy (East CMK Ward) is a project manager and Chair of the Fred Roche Foundation, campaigning for high-quality design and town planning.

David Stabler (West CMK Ward) also has experience as a project manager, and co-founded the Public Arts Trust, a charity that champions existing public art in MK.

Both new councillors have played a key part in shaping MK over the years and possess a keen interest in protecting the unique nature of CMK while also supporting positive change.

We thank departing councillors Oya Discombe and Ramo Erdogan for their commitment and service.



▲ Councillor David Stabler



▲ Councillor Philip Murphy

Food Centre immortalised

Demolition of the Food Centre will be complete this summer, making way for over 900 new apartments, amenities and local shops at ‘E3 West’.

And as we say goodbye to one of MK’s landmark buildings, developers MEPC have announced plans to capture its heritage forever.

Artist Kate Jackson is immortalising the Food Centre by painting the building in her distinctive bright and bold style.

There will be two large-scale retro paintings displayed in the centre:mk from July onwards. Kate explains: “The use of clean lines and bright colours in the work will evoke the graphics of the 80s and freeze the building in its prime, as a destination loved by many.”



MEPC will be donating a set of prints of the finished paintings to MK Museum, so that the Food Centre will continue to be part of local history.

MK Museum will also receive the Food Centre’s original sign, elements of the travertine, and a bench.



Grant pot replenished

The Town Council offers parish grants to projects that benefit local residents.

These grants can be used to support local events and groups, for landscaping and enhancing play areas, and improving community cohesion, to name a few.

One of the most recent recipients is the YMCA, a social housing charity, which received £2,500 to furnish another much-needed bedroom in their new building in CMK.

Certain criteria must be met but applications for future grants are now available, with grassroots organisations being encouraged to apply. If you are interested, visit cmktowncouncil.gov.uk.

Fred Roche Foundation at 25

The Fred Roche Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The charity commemorates the life and work of Fred Roche, the general manager of the Development Corporation that created MK.



Residents are encouraged to visit the Fred Roche Gardens in CMK, which will be home to a free outdoor cinema in July.

Big bin changes ahead

MK Council has confirmed that wheelie bins will be rolled out to most households in April 2023 in favour of plastic sacks.



Next issue, we will explore how this could impact our residents.



Tree-mendous plans for Station Square

In July, 'The Modernist Glade' will transform MK's gateway into a space full of trees, market stalls, event spaces, and a new architectural pavilion with its roots in Japanese culture.

Commissioned by MK Council and MK Development Partnership, the two-year scheme will see over 50 native trees between 4m and 6m in height, arranged in planters in a grid outside the train station.

Both lawns on either side of the square will be planted with wildflowers to attract insects and wildlife.

One lawn will also have a seating area built from recycled tree logs, alongside a cinema screen and film programme for residents to enjoy.

The second lawn will have an experimental beehive among the blossoming wildflowers, which will host a set of "high-end and low-key technology".

Station Square will also house an e-scooter 'hub', which will be useful in busier periods when

there are street markets and pop-up food stalls in the square.

Hayatsu Architects won a design competition late last year to transform the square in the run-up to the station's 40th anniversary. Curator and producer Aldo Rinaldi and famous Dutch artist Tue Greenfort have since been working on bringing the plans to life.

CMK Town Council has supported the initiative which is not costing a penny from public funds.

"It's a happy coincidence that a Japanese architect designed the winning concept, because MK and Japan have such strong connections. Even the Seiko clock in Station Square was a gift to the people of Milton Keynes!" says Town Councillor Linda Inoki, who sat on the competition selection panel.

She adds: "With the Modernist Glade we hope the square will become a more welcoming space, and that residents, workers and visitors will find time to relax beside the wildflowers and trees."

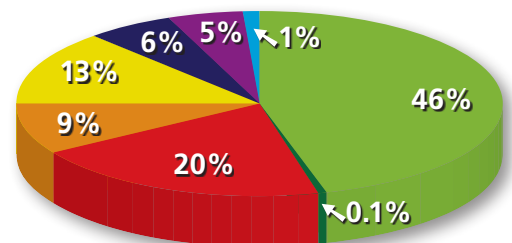
How your taxes were spent

This year, the Town Council agreed not to increase its parish taxes or 'precept' due to the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic.

The pie-chart shows the breakdown of expenditure for the financial year 2020-2021.

Statutory and general administration costs have been kept low, whilst we have increased expenditure on community support.

Your volunteer Town Councillors, who receive no allowances for their work, will continue striving to deliver good value for money.



- Statutory Costs
- General Admin
- Councillor's Expenses
- Communications
- Planning Committee
- Community Support
- Strategic Consultations
- Subscriptions

The rocky ground of using e-scooters

Milton Keynes introduced an e-scooter trial in August 2020 to decrease local transport emissions and encourage greener travel. It has been a controversial topic; although e-scooters have proved popular, residents have also raised concerns - particularly about safety and scooters being "dumped".

Three companies offer e-scooters for hire – Spin, Ginger, and Lime. Each company allows you to rent by the minute for 20-25p. Residents use them for convenience, whizzing through CMK at up to 15mph.

However, there is a big difference between the official trial scooters and privately-

owned scooters, which are often abandoned across pavements, creating a cycling and trip hazard.

Jaisha Bruce, who lives in CMK, believes this is something the companies need to work on after the trial: "This is an education and enforcement issue that the company should be responsible for – perhaps using the history of the last rider to contact them directly. Once people realise they're being called out, behaviours will change."

The operators constantly monitor the scooters and aim to deal quickly with those that are badly parked or left for long

short safety video and set of written rules are enough.

A stakeholder advisory group is also considering feedback from residents, and MK Council will deliver a report to the Government on whether it thinks this new transport method should become permanent.

Town Councillor Philip Murphy is a member of the e-scooter trial steering group, representing the MK Cycling Forum. Cllr Murphy regularly uses the Redway network for cycling. He is now working with the group to understand key issues, including parking.

"Other issues that I'm trying to get resolved are the lack of noise emitted from the machines and maximum speed. I understand that the operators are working with a disability charity to come up with a suitable noise emitter like those being applied to electric cars," says Cllr Murphy. As for speed, he adds: "The machines are currently set at 15mph, but in CMK around the shopping building it's 10mph. I believe that this should be the maximum speed throughout MK."

The Town Council can influence the authorities and keep an eye out for irresponsible users and abused scooters, but we cannot legislate or enforce. Any problems, including damaged or abandoned scooters, should be reported to the respective companies.

We are interested in hearing your experiences, both good and bad, on e-scooters in CMK. Please visit cmktowncouncil.gov.uk and fill out the contact form.

E-SCOOTERS – THE RULES

- Only for adult use (18+)
- Full or provisional driving license required
- Must not be used on pavements or grid roads
- No drink-riding
- No passengers
- Helmets encouraged but not compulsory
- Private scooters illegal on public highways



owned scooters, which are also proving popular. Despite enjoying a sales boom, these are currently illegal except for use on private land with the landowner's permission. Privately-owned scooters cannot be used on any public road, pavement or Redway - people that do so are breaking the law and could be fined £300.

Special legislation passed for the trial means that rental scooters, like those that are in MK, can be ridden on Redways and minor estate roads with speed limits up to 30mph. They cannot be ridden on grid roads or public pavements.

E-scooters can be used for 'door to door' trips, taking you where you need to go and then being parked almost anywhere. There is a kickstand for people to use for parking,

periods without use. Typically, operators will respond 2-4 hours after a report is made.

Other concerns surrounding e-scooters include pedestrian safety, accidents and anti-social behaviour.

Dozens of residents responded to the Town Council's Facebook enquiry stating that scooters often come up "out of nowhere", speeding past without warning. They are fitted with horns or bells but these aren't always used.

MK Council believes there is enough space on Redways to cater for pedestrians, cyclists and e-scooter users – and the trial will soon prove whether this is true or not.

The trial, which ends in November, will help clarify whether further education on e-scooter etiquette is needed, or whether a



Thousands to attend reggae festival

World-class reggae acts, including Aswad, Maxi Priest and The Maytals Band, will be performing at a family-friendly event in Campbell Park on Saturday 14th August.



▲ *Aswad - ready to reggae!*

The events plateau will transform into a bustling venue with 7,000 attendees enjoying reggae, dancehall and dub & jungle music. There will also be a Caribbean food market with vendors offering authentic cuisine from near and far.

Bringing the community together is true reggae philosophy, and that's what this event aims to do – socially distanced, of course!

Other events taking place in Campbell Park this summer include Pride, The Big Nineties Festival and Ibiza Orchestra Live.

Discounted trips on Electra

CMK residents will be the first to see Electra, the new all-electric narrowboat, hit the water at Campbell Wharf in all her pristine glory.

This year, the boat will visit parishes that run along the Grand Union Canal. Short canal cruises will run from July to October. Bookings open on 1st July, and you can find out more at bmkwaterway.org/mkcommunityboatelectra.

As you live in CMK, you can get an exclusive 10% discount off of trips on Electra. This is only for residents in our parish, so you need to provide proof of address.

Please contact the CMK Town Council office if you want more information on how to claim your discount.

Electra is an accessible boat, run by volunteers. Those that are interested in fulfilling voluntary roles both on and offshore can find out more information on the website above.



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We're on Hogwatch

Following a positive reaction to an interesting talk by The Parks Trust on the secret life of Campbell Park, the Town Council is interested in hosting more residents' events.

Guests at the previous Zoom event heard that Campbell Park is one of the largest formal urban parks to be built since Victorian times. It is around 100 acres, and the jewel in the crown of MK's rich parkland.

It is home to extensive wildlife including long-eared bats that roost in the woodland, newts and dragonflies which enjoy the ponds, and endangered hedgehogs that need our help now more than ever.

Hedgehogs are at risk of extinction due to increasing road traffic, destruction of hedgerows, and climate change.



So for now, while we think about future events, we're inviting CMK residents with gardens to take part in The Parks Trust's Hogwatch project.

This is where hedgehog numbers are recorded using footprint-survey tunnels. The tunnels are left out for five nights, twice a year, so it doesn't take much time to join in.

You simply keep an eye out for any activity, whether it be footprints, food deposits, or droppings... don't worry, you don't have to collect them! By finding out where hedgehogs are (or aren't), The Parks Trust can create more habitats for local hedgehogs to flourish.

To join Hogwatch, visit theparkstrust.com

www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

CMK West Ward:

Andre Brady: andre.brady@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Andrew Thomas: andrew.thomas@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
David Stabler: david.stabler@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

CMK East Ward:

Amir Chahardehi: amir.chahardehi@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Gill Kirkup: gill.kirkup@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Murphy: philip.murphy@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Campbell Park Ward:

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

