



MK:U WELCOMES FIRST 'SILICON VALLEY' STUDENTS

MK's proposed, ground-breaking university has partnered with a global accountancy firm to take on its very first degree apprentices – despite not having an official base yet.

MK:U and Grant Thornton UK LLP, which has an office along Avebury Boulevard, will pilot these Level 6 BSc degree apprenticeships from September 2021:

- Chartered Manager
- Data Scientist
- Cyber Security
- Digital and Technology Solutions

Up to 200 students will be taught from the upcoming university's temporary home in Bouverie House.

It is the first step towards MK:U becoming reality as project leaders Cranfield University and MK Council continue to press the Government for financial backing.

MK:U is planned to have a strong focus on digital technologies and bridge the technological and skills gaps by creating 'ready for work' graduates.

The forward-thinking university has received backing from major business partners including Microsoft and Santander.

Santander has promised to partly fund the £300m university. MK Council, SEMLEP, Cranfield University and other businesses will also contribute but £100m is still needed from the Government to make it happen.

Should Government funding be granted, MK:U would be erected on a 10-hectare site on Avebury Boulevard - the last major undeveloped site in the city centre.

The university quarter would be made up of several 'landmark' buildings, around 3,000 study-bedrooms, 600 parking bays and community spaces, to name a few of its features.

It is planned that MK:U, if approved, will become part of CMK life, providing community hubs and opportunities to get involved with activities.

High rise plans for Saxon Court



The planning application for Saxon Court's £190m redevelopment, MK Gateway, has now been submitted and the Town Council's Planning Committee met recently to consider its response.

Whilst it was a matter of concern that the revised plans for the scheme have now resulted in a 34-storey residential tower (behind an improved Saxon Court), the committee recognised that there are no planning policies that preclude the approval of very tall buildings. Also, the developer, First Base, has amended the plans to considerably improve the provision of new community space following discussions with CMK Town Council.

The planning committee therefore

agreed to support the application subject to measures to protect and enhance the lifestyle of the residents currently living in the vicinity.

The planning application is currently open for comment and your views will be considered by Milton Keynes Council Development Control councillors in due course. To view the proposals and have your say, visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning, follow the instructions to comment on planning applications, and type in 'Saxon Court'. It will then outline how to submit a formal comment.

Speaking about the development, Cllr Andrew Thomas, the Chair of Planning, said: "The scheme is a complex one which raises a number of concerns.



"The Town Council's main objective in responding to the application is to seek to protect parking rights for residents and to ensure that the public realm in the area is enhanced for the benefit of current and future residents, recognising that Milton Keynes Council is likely to approve the scheme. We would therefore urge anyone who has concerns or is interested in the development to follow the link to view the scheme and submit comments."



International Festival a success!

The International Festival put smiles on faces when it returned to CMK in July

There were five free art installations in the area, including the awe-inspiring Breathing

Room by Anna Berry (pictured, with 'Grid Spinners').

It was the unique escapism that we all needed. Monica Ferguson, Festival Director,

told us she is "delighted" that it went ahead. Monica continued: "In these challenging times we have had fantastic feedback from guests to say they felt safe visiting the Festival, and importantly enjoyed the programme. We are now looking ahead to the next Festival in 2023 - watch this space!"

Cllr Gill Kirkup (East CMK Ward) was among those who volunteered to support the festival at our doorstep. "It's been a great summer for events happening on our doorstep, including some which have been supported by funding from your Town Council." Cllr Kirkup added.

American artist Thomas Gray, who lives locally, also found some brilliant locations during the Festival for his new film 'Grid Spinners'. The film features a magical bicycle trip to discover MK's rich landscape and community life. The Town Council is helping to fund this unusual film which is due for release next year.

Tackling vandals and litter louts

Littering and graffiti is a regular issue in our community. These criminal acts continue to impact nature and our landscape.

Litter has been especially troublesome as lockdown restrictions have eased. Coffee cups, bottles and other rubbish are regularly scattered across footpaths and stuffed into hedges.

MK Council has tried to raise awareness about the environmental and financial costs of littering and fly-tipping. They also do regular clean-up patrols in public spaces at least every eight weeks, with areas of high footfall - such as around the train station - being visited more frequently.

But these measures have not proved effective. As a result, there will soon be 'litter wardens' throughout MK delivering warnings and on-the-spot fines for litterbugs.

Remember, leaving rubbish next to a bin is also classed as littering, so if the bin is full then you should take your waste home or risk getting a fine.

"The second issue, graffiti on underpasses, is especially off-putting for local residents and people using the footpaths," says Councillor

Linda Inoki (Campbell Park Ward).

It is MK Council's responsibility to remove 'emergency' graffiti within 24 hours. This includes offensive, sexual and racist messaging.

All other graffiti, such as name tags and symbols, are removed in due course but recently the Town Council arranged for the official 'anti-graffiti crew' to do a major clean-up of the underpasses near the Campbell Wharf development and Campbell Heights.

We will do our part, but you can help by reporting problems with litter or graffiti by visiting www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/report-or-request-it. Follow the instructions and try to give as much detail as possible, including photographs of the problem. MK Council will investigate all complaints.

Campbell Park is owned by The Parks Trust which unfortunately has to spend £350,000 a year on litter-picking! Please report any cleansing issues there via email to: info@theparkstrust.com.



Say hello to 'The Modernist Glade'

Installation of temporary art project The Modernist Glade has begun at Station Square. Over 50 trees in coloured pots have been dotted across the

open space. Wildflowers have been planted on the lawns and there will soon be an experimental beehive, cinema screen, and e-scooter hub.

The scheme will continue to take shape in the coming months and will remain in situ for two years.

You can find out more about The Modernist Glade by reading the summer newsletter at www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council resists unsightly plans for pavilion parking

The Parks Trust has lodged a controversial planning application to add an extra 51 spaces on the edge of Campbell Park because the overflow car park is becoming “increasingly well used” all year round.

A spokesperson for The Parks Trust adds: “It will be surfaced in the same golden gravel as the existing car park and paths in the park.”

The Town Council has objected as it feels these permanent, ‘hard’ parking spaces

would seriously impact the views across from the cricket green towards the canal.

Campbell Park has been nationally recognised for its attractive design and this application would have a real impact on a beautiful landscape.

There is no additional development to justify more parking, and the Town Council says that the case for parking to be so significantly increased has not been made.

Andrew Thomas, Chair of the Planning Committee, said: “This application would damage the edge of Campbell Park without there being a good reason to do so. Indeed, we believe this goes against Milton Keynes Council’s ‘green’ agenda. The park is the jewel in the crown of CMK and needs protecting.”

You can comment on the plans by visiting www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning and clicking on the option to comment on existing planning applications. Then, search for ‘Campbell Park Pavilion’ and you will find the submission.



Developments in the e-scooter saga

CMK Town Council last addressed the rocky ground of the current e-scooter trial in the summer newsletter.

This sparked debate among residents who believe there are issues surrounding safety, anti-social behaviour, poor parking, and speed.

Further feedback has highlighted worries about under-age use.

Cllr Gill Kirkup (East CMK Ward) witnessed a boy, around 13-years-old, riding through a building this summer which is clearly illegal and dangerous.

You must be 18 years old and have a current driving license – including a provisional – to rent an e-scooter, but children are sometimes using their older friends’ or parents’ accounts to hire them.

Adults who allow children and teens to use their account need to realise that if an offence is committed, such as drink-riding or riding indoors, it is they who will get the points on their licence or be fined. This should be highlighted when creating an account.

In terms of speed, we have discovered that the speed limit for

hire scooters will be reduced in busy areas in the near future. It will drop from 12.5mph to 5mph around the shopping buildings and at the train station.

Other future changes include mandatory number plates and better zonal parking, so users would have to leave scooters in designated areas rather than ‘dumping’ them anywhere.

Rental e-scooters in MK are all part of a government-run trial, which assesses the impact of this green mode of travel in 50 different parts of the country. The trial was due to end this year but it has been extended until 31st March 2022. It means that any legislation is unlikely to come into effect until mid-2023.

You can read the initial e-scooter article that sparked this debate by visiting <http://cmktowncouncil.gov.uk>





Changes to bin collections from 2023?

MK Council has confirmed that wheelie bins will be rolled out to most households in April 2023. These will replace the plastic sacks that residents can currently leave for kerb-side collection.

This decision followed a pilot and consultation with thousands of homes. Three in four households wanted to switch, so most residents will soon have **four** wheelie bins for sorting their rubbish.

Collection will also be switching from weekly to fortnightly, with households putting out alternate bins each week. MK Council hopes that this will help make MK "one of the greenest places to live", by preventing spillage, increasing recycling and reducing the carbon footprint of collections. However the new system has been designed for houses and, since most people in CMK live in apartment blocks or townhouses, residents are wondering how it will work.

For example, CMK's Eaton Mews has a shared bin store but it's not large enough for 200 wheelie bins.

Peter Linn, who is the Director of Eaton Mews, said: "The scheme as currently proposed would simply be impossible to implement, as much as we would welcome a more sanitary and economic alternative to the use of plastic bags."

MK Council suggested building external bin stores or adding more of the large, communal bins as an alternative, but most

CMK residents realise this could be problematic too.

Following enquiries, MK Council has told the Town Council that they recognise there is an "issue" with wheelie bin storage, so apartment blocks can continue with plastic sacks or with their current arrangements for the first phase of the rollout. This will be reviewed once the new scheme starts, which will likely be late 2023.

MK Council Leader, Cllr Pete Marland (pictured), explains: "Doing the rollout of the new system in this way will allow the council to work with residents and the Town Council on what would work best, and allow us to look at how new waste technology could be used to do that.

"Given the number of new flats set to be built in the city centre over the next few years, it's really important the Council gets it right, which is why we won't be rolling out any changes for flats at the same time as wheelie bins, so that we can make sure that when changes are proposed they are the right ones."

The Town Council welcomes the leader's promise to work with local people and is interested to hear your views on the proposals. Please email Paul Cranfield, clerk, via clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk.

Car cruising concerns

Anti-social car cruising has increased in the parish since lockdown restrictions eased, sparking concern and frustration among residents.

The highly-disruptive act is unregulated. It usually takes place at Network Rail's HQ, with hundreds of drivers revving their engines and doing 'donuts' in the car parks.

Car cruising has been banned by MK Council and there is currently a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place to try and control it, with police fines possible of up to £1,000.

Despite this clampdown, residents have told us that cars gather in various local car parks most weekends. The Town Council shares your concerns and has asked MK Council what they are doing to combat this.

A spokesperson for the Borough Council says that they, alongside the police, are taking the problem "very seriously". Police officers have been attending car-cruise meets to give out warnings and issue fines for any breaches of the order.

"We have been advised by the police that the majority of car-cruise attendees are well behaved and it is the minority that breach the PSPO," the spokesperson added.

But people that rev their engines, spin 'donuts' in car parks, and 'pop' their exhausts are breaching the order. Residents noticing any of these acts (a list can be found in full at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/carcruisingpspo) should contact police via 101.

And if there is an immediate danger to people nearby please call 999.

MK Council says that they might use temporary CCTV if they hear about problem hot-spots.

If you have any further concerns about car cruising then please contact Paul Cranfield, town council clerk, on clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk.



www.cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

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