



THE CITY OF MILTON KEYNES

It's official – Milton Keynes is a city! After three failed attempts, Milton Keynes has been granted city status as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Town Councillor Andy Thomas said: "It is great news that Milton Keynes has finally been given the recognition it deserves. MK is a place of innovation, opportunity and culture. What's more, now we can officially call CMK the city centre!"

Campbell Park's Sculpture Trail

Did you know that there are eleven sculptures and pieces of public art in Campbell Park? The artwork ranges from striking creations such as the iconic beacon on top of the hill to more subtle artwork such as the living willow sculpture, called circle dance, by the canal. You can view all the pieces by taking a self-guided walk through the park. A handy map, complete with descriptions of the art, can be found on The Parks Trust's website. The Parks Trust is looking to add another sculpture to Campbell Park, and we will keep you updated as these plans progress.



Say hello to 'Park Square'

It has now been 15 years since the Wyevale Garden Centre along Avebury Boulevard closed to the public, and, in the years since, the site has remained a vast open space eagerly awaiting re-development. Therefore, the Town Council is pleased to announce that construction has started on the site which will soon be known as 'Park Square', a brand-new residential community made up of over 300 build-to-rent apartments.

The £56m project will see the 1.6-acre site transformed by four blocks that house the apartments, ranging from studios to spacious three-bedroom duplexes. Residents will have use of underground car parking, an on-site gym, residents' lounge, landscaped courtyard and rooftop garden. We can also expect to see retail and flexible commercial spaces included in the scheme.



Councillor David Stabler, Chair of CMK Town Council, said: "Park Square will breathe a new lease of life into the heart of CMK, and The Town Council welcomes the investment on a site that has been left vacant for over a decade. This development will provide our community with more than 300 high-quality apartments. We can expect to see increased interest in CMK, especially now it's the centre of a new city."

There was a groundbreaking ceremony in April to mark the beginning of construction and you can expect to see lots of activity on the site as the works progress. Construction company Galliford Try, which also built the new offices at 100 Avebury Boulevard, will be using 'modern methods of construction' to shorten the construction timescale.

The project was facilitated by local developers Abbeygate, who worked with Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) to source investors. MKDP Property Development Director, Matthew Green, explained: "This prominent, city centre site was vacant for a long time so it's great finally to see work starting at Park Square. Abbeygate's success in securing a robust funder was fundamental. And having Galliford Try, a major construction contractor with an impressive track record in Milton Keynes and in the build to rent sector, is really positive too."

The Town Council will keep residents up to date with the progress of the scheme, and work with stakeholders to see how else Park Square can benefit the wider community when it opens in 2024.

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What powers do PCSOs have?

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) patrol the city to deter antisocial behaviour and prevent crime, and are regularly spotted riding on horseback throughout CMK. However, there is often confusion about what powers the PCSOs actually have.

They have fewer powers compared to police officers but still possess the power to:

- Deal with issues and issue fines involving irresponsible and unsafe use of bicycles and cars, such as cycling on pavements and not wearing seatbelts in vehicles.
- Search and seize certain fireworks, tobacco and drugs (including from under 18s).
- Intervene with the consumption of alcohol in breach of an area-specific Public Space Protection Order (such as in CMK).
- Issue fines for those caught littering, fly-posting and graffitiing.
- Enter properties to 'prevent damage' or issue vital first aid.
- Respond to antisocial behaviour by excluding people from an area and requiring them to surrender their property.

The main powers lie with the PCSOs' abilities to issue on-the-spot fines for minor offences.

All PCSOs must, by law, carry a 'designation card' that shows all 61 powers and this card can be shown to members of the public at their request.

Discounted Summer Trips on Electra

Step aboard Electra this summer and enjoy a scenic cruise on MK's all-electric community boat. There are plenty of unique things to do as part of the new timetable, including 'food cruises' where you can have afternoon tea, fish and chips, and even a curry while journeying down the canal!

Residents with an MK9 postcode are entitled

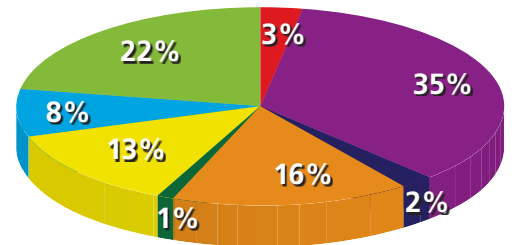
to discounted trips, as long as they have the discount code from the Town Council. Lots of residents have been contacting us to claim their code, and you can do the same by calling 01908 766176 or emailing clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk. Once you have the code, you can book your trip on Electra by visiting www.bmkwaterway.org



How your taxes were spent

The Town Council has agreed not to increase parish taxes, or parish precept, this year. The decision was taken in response to the rising cost of living and financial challenges that residents will no doubt be facing over the next 12 months.

Our precept still remains one of the lowest in Milton Keynes and your volunteer Town Councillors will continue striving to deliver value for money whilst seeking to improve CMK for residents and visitors alike.



- Statutory Costs
- General Admin
- Councillor's Expenses
- Communications
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Support
- Consultations
- Partner Organisations

Meet your Town Councillors

After two difficult years, we are pleased to announce that CMK Town Council's Annual Parish Meeting will be taking place on the evening of Tuesday 12th July. The event will allow you to meet your Town Councillors and find out about ongoing projects and upcoming developments in CMK.

During the meeting, the Chair of CMK Town Council will give a presentation on what has been achieved so far and the Town Council's plans for the future, the Chair of Planning will talk about the work of the Planning Committee, and the Chair of CMK Green Gym will explain what the group does in the area. We will also have an open discussion on e-scooters in CMK.

It's a busy time for the new city of Milton Keynes, with lots of change happening in CMK, so this meeting will ensure you can keep in the loop with all that is going on. We would love for you to join us. Cut and keep the details.

Cut out & keep!

You are cordially invited to the annual
CMK Parish Meeting
 on Tuesday 12 July, 6.30-7.30pm
 at Centrecom Meeting Place, 602 North Row,
 Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3BJ

Meet your Town Councillors!
 Presentations will be given on the Town Council's ongoing projects and upcoming new developments in CMK.
 Open discussions on E e-scooters.
 Light refreshments available.

For more information, please email clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk or call us on 01908 766176

A Greener & Tidier CMK

The Town Council has been working alongside partners to improve CMK's appearance by tidying up planters throughout the city centre. Recently, with the assistance of Milton Keynes Council, we arranged for a further six of the quadrant planters along Silbury and Avebury Boulevard to be cleared and replanted.

This work forms the second phase in our ongoing project to renew all of the quadrant planters at the top of each side street on both boulevards.

Currently, some of the quadrants that were replanted prior to lockdown are in need of maintenance work. We have asked CMK Green Gym, which the Town Council supports, to start clearing some of the beds of weeds and unwanted growth (see images below). CMK Green Gym's volunteers do a brilliant job at maintaining green spaces across CMK (they work regularly to keep Fred Roche Gardens looking great), and we hope that this work will continue during the summer months. If you want to help maintain the planters, and assist with other works, you can contact the Green Gym at cmkgreengym@gmail.com



▲ Newly-planted quadrant



◀ From this... to this ▲

Safe E-Scooter Use

In the last newsletter, we announced our eight-point plan looking to clarify safe e-scooter and bicycle use in the busy city centre. This plan, which discusses possible changes such as blanket speed limits and designated parking bays, has been submitted to MK Council and we hope it will influence policy moving forward. In the meantime, we have gathered information from Thames Valley Police and official e-scooter operators to outline responsible e-scooter use.

Currently, it is illegal to use private e-scooters on public land. The Government plans to change the law soon, but for now it is a criminal offence. You can, however, use a rental scooter as part of the Government trial. Lime,

Spin & Ginger all offer rental scooters for people over 16-years-old that have a full or provisional UK licence. The scooters can be ridden on the Redway network and minor (30mph) roads, but not pavements or grid roads. In CMK, users should stick to service roads through car parking areas and via underpasses. The scooters will stop working in built-up areas such as the shopping building, and private land such as Campbell Park.

To ensure everyone's safety, if you spot somebody misusing an 'official' rental e-scooter, you should contact the authorised operator. Misuse can include dangerous riding, riding on footpaths next to buildings, more than one person on a scooter, and drinking alcohol while

riding. Those reporting misuse should provide as much detail as possible such as the time, location, and the description of the rider so that appropriate action can be taken.

The e-scooter operators can be contacted via the details below:

Lime
miltonkeynes@li.me

Ginger
info@ginger.town

Spin
support@spin.pm



Town Council's New Chair



After serving as Chair of the Town Council for 10 years, Rebecca Kurth has decided not to seek re-election to that position. She will continue as a councillor and was also elected Vice-Chair.

David Stabler, previously Vice-Chair, has been elected Chair for this electoral year. At the formal Annual Meeting, Councillor Stabler paid tribute to the leadership shown over the years by Councillor Kurth.

We welcome a new councillor

The Town Council is pleased to welcome Mary Moore as a councillor for East CMK. Mary moved to Milton Keynes in 2014 and, after living in different parts of the city, has settled in CMK. She says: "I'm a firm believer in the importance of community and having lived in London for many years, I know that being a city doesn't have to be a barrier to community engagement and shared pride in our surroundings. I hope that, as our city grows, so too will its sense of community. I'm really excited to be joining CMK Town Council and look forward to helping shape our ever-changing home."



Councillor wanted

However, we still have a vacancy and would like to hear from anybody who would consider joining the Town Council. If you are genuinely passionate about making CMK a better place to live and work, and have a few hours to spare each month, then please get in touch.

Please note that this is a voluntary role. If you want to learn more about becoming a town councillor, please contact the clerk, Paul Cranfield, at clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

Concerns about new build-to-rent scheme

Plans have been submitted for an upward extension of 500 Avebury Boulevard, an office block near Saxon Court (the future MK Gateway development). Developers wish to transform the building into 237 rental apartments, many of which would be built as part of a three-storey rooftop extension. The Town Council has raised objections to the scheme, especially regarding parking and delivery access. We have also highlighted concerns about the lack of active frontage, and have asked the developers to review this so that the proposed apartment block offers activity at ground floor level along the boulevard.



Litter pick

Your Town Councillors took part in the first 'Love Where You Live' litter pick in April. The litter pick campaign is part of a partnership between CMK Town Council, CMK Ward Councillors and neighbouring parish councils to clean up the area.

Councillor Philip Murphy and a resident joined the clerk taking part in the first event. Two large black bags were filled in just a short while! We are now looking for volunteers to sign up for future litter picks in CMK.

If you would like to register your interest, please email clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk.



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

Campbell Park Ward:

Peter Lightfoot: peter.lightfoot@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Rebecca Kurth: rebecca.kurth@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

CMK East Ward:

Mary Moore: marymoore@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Murphy: philip.murphy@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

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.