



Big plans for CMK Market?

It seems that plans to transform and enhance CMK Market are getting underway, with Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) recently announcing it will be taking over management of the site.

Although we don't exactly know what changes MKDP are planning to make, the City Council-owned company wants the market to become a 'stronger retail and food destination' and make the shopping experience more 'dynamic and modern'.

MKDP was initially on the lookout for development partners to bring this vision to life, but has since decided to take things in-house. MKDP Special Projects Director,

Adam Sciberras, explains: "We believe that an in-house team who work in the city and, in the main, live in the area too, is best placed to manage the market and evolve the existing offer.

"This has the potential to bring great social value and improve what is an essential resource for a significant proportion of Milton Keynes' residents, particularly those with lower incomes."

The traditional market has been a staple of CMK life for decades, and the Town Council hopes the plans will strike a balance between modernising the market while preserving its unique heritage.

Say hello to CMK's new PCs!

Two new Police Constables have started on the beat in CMK, and they will be working in collaboration with our local PCSOs, partner agencies and residents to make the city centre a safer place to live and work.

PC Willker Da Silva Melo and PC Charlie Coates have worked for Thames Valley Police for several years, and started their new roles in March. They know the local area well and will be tackling issues that matter

to the community including anti-social behaviour, knife crime and domestic violence.

As CMK neighbourhood officers, together PC Da Silva Melo and PC Coates will be a visible presence and have the powers to make arrests, issue fines and conduct investigations.

They say: "We plan to use proactive, community-focussed, intelligence-led policing to identify crime and bring offenders to



justice. We hope this will promote Milton Keynes as a safe and welcoming city, both to its residents and visitors. We look forward to building strong working relationships with members of the public and other partner agencies serving CMK."



CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE CAMPBELL WHARF EXTENSION

The Town Council has shared its concerns over developers' proposals to build hundreds more apartments at Campbell Wharf. Milton Keynes City Council has already granted planning permission for developer Crest Nicholson to build 34 homes on the north side of the site, which is just off Park Street and near to the canal. However, in a turn of events, Crest Nicholson is now seeking to completely overhaul the plans and instead build 274 apartments.

This major change in direction, lodged as a completely new planning application, would see nine tall apartment blocks built. Crest Nicholson also wants to build basement and podium parking beneath the development, alongside private gardens and green roofs for residents.

The Town Council has formally objected to the application, citing concerns with the lack of affordable housing, inadequate parking and poor mixture of apartment types which means that, in its view, the application fails to comply with planning policy. We are also concerned that the development would severely impact the surrounding area, especially the scenic canal and Grade II listed Campbell Park.

Town Council Chair of Planning, Andrew Thomas, comments: "The Town Council is concerned about these plans to deliver another high-density development in such a picturesque part of the parish, and not to mention the lack of affordable housing and parking for residents. There is already a lack of parking in Campbell Wharf and the development isn't even complete, so this scheme could be a recipe for disaster."

i

2023/24 Parish Taxes

Parish taxes won't be increasing in 2023/24, meaning the amount you pay will stay the same for the fourth year in a row. Town Councillors have agreed that an increase isn't necessary.

Town Council Chair, David Stabler, says: "This is, of course, good news for all residents. Even though our precept remains the same, we will continue to work on your behalf and develop new projects throughout the year."

Your Town Council's parish taxes remain one of the lowest in Milton Keynes

Upcoming residents' survey

This year, the Town Council plans to launch a residents' survey to boost our understanding of the community that we serve. It'll be happening over the next year and we hope that you will take part as this project paints a real picture of our parish and helps us tailor resources to enhance the experience of living in CMK.

The last survey was conducted in 2015 and it provided us with lots of helpful information. We feel that now is the right time to repeat the exercise, especially given the changes that CMK has seen over the past few years.

Our first step will be an analysis of the census data when this is available at a parish level later this year, and we will keep you up to date as this project takes shape.

Feeling the crunch?



The cost-of-living crisis is taking its toll on families, with skyrocketing bills and mortgage interest rates leaving many out of pocket. There are lots of resources to help those in tough financial positions, including the Citizens Advice MK which provides confidential and practical advice on how to save money.

That is why we are pleased to announce that a money-saving initiative will soon launch exclusively for CMK residents, giving you access to a dedicated fortnightly face-to-face advice service. There will be between 5-6 appointments per session, each with an experienced and qualified Citizens Advice caseworker. Sessions will be held at The Skills Centre in the centre:mk.

The new service has been made possible thanks to a grant by the Town Council, matched by Citizens Advice. Citizens Advice Director, Ben Thomas, explains: "A bespoke service for parish residents means that the majority of clients can continue to be seen within 5 to 7 days of contacting us. In our experience, those experiencing issues in their lives are more likely to seek help if the service is on their doorstep."

It may take a while for the service to get up and running, but details will be included in the next newsletter and put on our website soon. In the meantime, Citizens Advice can be contacted through the channels below:

citizens advice



Advisors can be reached on **freephone 0808 278 7991** Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.



Visit www.miltonkeynescab.org.uk and click 'Digital Drop In' at the top right of the page. This service is open Tuesday to Thursday, from 10am to 3pm.



Visit www.miltonkeynescab.org.uk and select 'E-mail Advice' from the 'Get Help' Menu. Fill out the contact form and someone will contact you within three working days.



Text **'ADVICE'** to **70020** and someone will call you within three working days.

So, whether you need advice on slashing your energy bills or want to see what cost-of-living payments or discounts you may be entitled to, Citizens Advice has experts on hand to provide free and confidential help.

Life-saving NHS testing unit coming to Lloyds Court

The Government has chosen Lloyds Court as the site of a new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) to ease ever-increasing pressures on MK Hospital.

CDCs are equipped with ground-breaking technology that allows NHS professionals to deliver potentially lifesaving checks, tests and scans. It means that residents can be seen closer to home, with the aim of shorter wait times and faster diagnosis.

The new facility coming to Lloyds Court will offer services including blood tests, ultrasounds, x-rays, bone density scans and ophthalmology. It's said that the new centre will be able to deliver an extra 221,214 tests, checks and scans a year once it opens.

The Town Council welcomes the great news, which means that residents will have a core NHS facility right at their doorstep.



'Illegal' parking near Campbell Wharf

The Town Council has noticed an increasing amount of cars parking on the Overgate approach to Campbell Wharf. Technically, this road is a designated rural clearway which means that cars aren't allowed to park there. These restrictions also apply to Silbury and Avebury Boulevard on either side of the park.

However, it seems that drivers are unaware as there are few signs explaining the restrictions. We have raised this issue with Milton Keynes City Council, who also agree that there isn't enough signage. The City Council will be installing more clearway signs on lampposts, including along parts of Enmore Gate, Skeldon Gate and all three sections of Overgate very soon. Once the signs are installed, drivers parking illegally could face a fine.

Town Council Chair, David Stabler, says: "Campbell Wharf has become a popular destination for visitors, and it seems that they don't know about the parking restrictions in place. These new signs will make it clear and ultimately make the area safer for drivers and pedestrians. This is a great example of the Town Council and Milton Keynes City Council working in partnership to swiftly address an issue that causes concern for our residents."

Sail into Spring aboard Electra

Electra, the all-electric community boat based at Campbell Wharf, is gearing up for another season of cruises on the Grand Union Canal. The boat will return to the waterway in June after having essential upgrades and enhancements to keep it looking good as new.

Electra had a strong 2022 season and carried over 2,500 guests on public cruises and private charters. This year, we can expect the firm favourites, including cream teas and fish and chips, to return, alongside partnerships with local food suppliers. There will be a mixture of longer 5.5 hour cruises to shorter 2.5 hour charters happening throughout the week, with the choice of morning or afternoon slots.

Over the next couple of years, we also hope to see Electra develop a shore base at Campbell Wharf Marina. Many cruises already start and finish there,

but Electra currently doesn't have a physical and identifiable base. The Town Council has provided a grant towards the creation of the base and also lent its support to the Bedford & MK Waterway Trust to apply for further Section 106 Planning Obligations funding from Milton Keynes City Council to hopefully make it happen.

Town Council Chair, David Stabler, says: "We are pleased that Electra's first year of sailing was a great success and are pleased to support the growth of this unique facility for Milton Keynes. It's a true asset to our community and I'd encourage everybody to have a cruise along the canal this summer."

CMK residents with an MK9 postcode are entitled to a 10% discount on their booking - enter the promo code 'MK9202310' when booking at www.bmkwaterway.org/electra.

Electra's volunteer callout

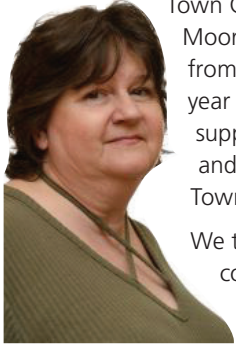
The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, which runs Electra, is seeking new volunteers for the 2023 season as demand has doubled since the boat's launch in 2021. Volunteer Chair, Denise Taylor, said: "Electra volunteers are a friendly bunch who work as one big team, creating and delivering a range of enjoyable cruises on the Grand Union Canal. Some people crew the boat, others work behind the scenes to get everything ready, and some people do a bit of both."

They are recruiting now for Cabin Hosts, alongside shore-based vacancies in Customer Liaison, Social Media, Marketing, Outreach, Fundraising and Project Management. Those interested can email volunteers.electra@bmkwaterway.org for further details.



TOWN COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Councillor steps down



Town Councillor Mary Moore has stepped down from the role after a year of great service and support for the aims and objectives of the Town Council.

We thank her for her commitment and wish her well in the future.

We welcome a new councillor

The Town Council is pleased to welcome Anurag Jain as a Town Councillor for East CMK.

Anurag, who has lived in Milton Keynes for the last 20 years, says: "I am committed to giving back to my community and making a positive impact on the lives of those around me. With a background in social care, I bring a blend of empathy, compassion and problem-solving skills to the role of Town Councillor and I am looking forward to making a difference in my community."

Anurag contacted us after receiving our public call-out in the previous newsletter and will make a great contribution to the Town Council.



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 Town Council Clerk, Paul Cranfield, at clerk@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

Wheeled bins on the way

Later this year, the majority of households in Milton Keynes will be making the switch from plastic sacks to wheeled bins. Eligible households will each get four bins: black (general waste), black with blue lid (plastic, metal and glass), black with red lid (paper and cardboard), and green (food and garden waste). The black and green bins will be collected weekly, with recycling collections being on alternate weeks.

The wheeled bin switch has been welcomed by many households, with the initial trial proving positive. However, many properties in CMK simply don't have the capacity to store four large bins. The Town Council has voiced residents' concerns and is working closely with Milton Keynes City Council to make sure these properties,

such as townhouses or apartments, are kept in mind.

The City Council will be writing to every home in May to let them know what type of collection they will receive.

But, residents can now check in seconds whether they'll receive wheelie bins or sacks when Milton Keynes' new waste collection starts later this year. The online postcode checker has been developed so local people can check what they're due to receive; <https://tinyurl.com/Wheelie-Bins>



This can also be used to ask the City Council to review their property for a different solution. Reviews requested will begin in May, running over a number of months.

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:

Anurag Jain: anurag.jain@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.