



GOODBYE TO THE POINT?

It's the news that many had hoped would be avoided - the planning appeal to demolish The Point has been approved. Following Milton Keynes City Council's refusal of the original planning application, to which Town Councillor Andy Thomas submitted evidence on behalf of the Town Council, the case went to appeal in March. Despite the strong arguments against the scheme, the Planning Inspector has now given this the go-ahead, subject to funding being secured for the development.

In The Point's place will be nearly 500 flats in five individual blocks, with the tallest reaching 21-storeys high. Developers also have plans to build a rooftop cinema, shops and leisure spaces. Quite when work will begin on the site is unclear, but it now appears to be only a matter of time before the iconic Point is no more.



International Festival brings creativity and celebration to Central Milton Keynes



The IF: Milton Keynes International Festival returned to CMK this July, bringing ten days of inspiring performances, installations and events that transformed the city centre.

Thousands of residents and visitors turned out to enjoy a vibrant programme that brought art, culture and creativity to public spaces across CMK and Campbell Park. From large-scale outdoor spectacles to hands-on workshops and thought-provoking exhibitions, the festival offered something for all ages.

One of this year's most memorable highlights was Les Colombes - a stunning display of over 2,500 hand-folded white doves suspended above Middleton Hall in the centre:mk. The doves carried a personal message of hope, created by local residents in a series of community workshops.

Elsewhere, the festival brought spoken word and poetry to new audiences through Utopia in Verse, a performance led by local poet-in-residence Maureen Onwunali and young people from Milton Keynes. Campbell Park and CMK's green spaces also hosted a packed line-up of shows, from aerial theatre and drumming to comedy, dance and immersive walk-through installations.

As well as being a much-loved part of the city's summer calendar, the festival is also recognised internationally for its quality and innovation. Produced by The Stables, the event continues to showcase Central Milton Keynes as a creative, inclusive and dynamic place to live and visit.

The festival takes place every two years - and we're already looking forward to welcoming it back in 2027.

Secklow Gate bridge set to reopen in September

Secklow Gate Bridge, one of CMK's key road links, is scheduled to reopen in September - after nine months of closure.

The bridge has been closed since a fire broke out in a market stall beneath it in December last year. While the market reopened soon after, damage to several structural elements of the bridge meant it had to remain closed to traffic.

As one of the city centre's three main cross-city centre routes, the closure has caused significant

disruption - especially for local bus services and commuters.

Specialist testing commissioned by Milton Keynes City Council has now concluded, and a full repair programme is underway. The work will restore the bridge to full safety standards and allow traffic to flow once more by early autumn.

We are hopeful that by the time of the next newsletter we will be able to announce a return to 'business as usual' for the bridge.



CMK Town Council unveils landscaping investment and community support at annual Parish Assembly

The Town Council recently hosted its annual Parish Assembly - an opportunity for residents to meet their town councillors and hear the latest updates from across CMK and Campbell Park.

At April's meeting, town councillors shared several exciting developments, including continued support for key community groups and the launch of a major new project to improve local green spaces.

Funding was confirmed for CMK Green Gym, UnityMK and Milton Keynes Citizens Advice Bureau, reflecting the

Town Council's commitment to residents' wellbeing and access to vital services.

We also announced a £35,000 per year landscaping fund, running over the next four years. This investment will enable Milton Keynes City Council's contractors to carry out additional landscaping works across CMK, particularly in areas needing extra care and attention.

The first year of additional work will focus on the neighbourhoods around South Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Streets, with improvements including pruning, shaping, replanting, and repairs to sunken landscaping. Other areas will benefit in future years.

David Stabler, Chair of CMK Town Council, explained: "This landscaping fund gives us a real opportunity to make a visible, lasting difference in our residential areas. It's about restoring pride in the public realm and making sure every part of CMK feels cared for and well maintained."

Unfortunately, despite these important updates, this year's Assembly was again very poorly attended. We're keen to change that. The date of the 2026 Parish Assembly will be shared in our Autumn newsletter, and we'd love to see many more of you there. It's your chance to stay informed, ask questions and help shape the future of where you live.



Overgrown planters will receive attention thanks to the Town Council's investment

New trees for Midsummer Boulevard

A major tree replacement scheme along the Midsummer Boulevard side of the centre:mk is set to begin this July, with 39 new trees being planted to replace those that are dead or dying.

The new trees will be planted in specially designed pits that include direct surface water feeds - helping ensure they stay healthy and thrive for years to come.

The project also aims to restore the original clean sightlines between trees and pillar posts, a key design feature of the area. To support this, some street furniture will be slightly repositioned to re-establish the visual alignment.

Heritage maps will be installed at either end of the scheme, while older tree pits will be restored and new ones surrounded with specific loose gravel to support healthy growth. The Town Council welcomes this initiative and hopes it will provide a successful template for future tree replacement schemes.



THE PLANNING SPOTLIGHT

Could progress finally be made on the Food Centre site?

A detailed planning application has now been submitted for the redevelopment of the Food Centre site. Originally approved in 2020 for over 400 homes, a new planning application has been lodged with further detail - which outlines plans to build 482 flats across several apartment blocks.

The developers also plan to include much-needed resident parking using the existing car park (which will retain much of its original detail), two new public access routes through the site and landscaped public spaces. There are also plans to include 10% affordable housing provision, which could include shared ownership, rent to buy or social housing. The Town Council has long campaigned for greater affordable provision, and while the 10% is lower than we had hoped for, it is welcomed.

The Town Council's Planning Committee recently met to discuss the 'Reserved Matters' planning application, and a decision by the City Council is expected later this summer.



Town Councillor Andy Thomas, Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee, said: "We support this application in principle, but have raised several concerns with the City Council that we hope will be addressed. The former Food Centre site has been left in a state of demolition for too long. We hope this marks the beginning of real progress - removing the black hoardings and finally bringing this site back to life."

Campbell Park Northside: Plans to build nearly 2,000 homes revealed

Developers have shared an insight into their plans to develop the stretch of land that lies opposite Campbell Park, which could eventually be known as Campbell Park Northside. Developers Glenbrook and Urban Splash have submitted an outline planning application to the City Council, seeking approval to the masterplan for the development of the land off Silbury Boulevard from Adelphi Street down to Pilgrim Street, approaching the canal.

The application, which will require detailed consideration, is for a maximum of 1,850 properties - including up to 300 retirement units, another 300 student accommodation units, and even land allocated for self-builds. This is a huge development, and could bring thousands more residents to CMK.

As this is an outline application it establishes the principles of the development. Detailed designs and further planning applications will be required if this proposal is approved.

More information on the plans are available via the City Council's online planning portal, by typing in the planning reference: PLN/2025/0703.



Former Cotswold Outdoor site could become self-storage and office unit

A planning application has been submitted to demolish the long-vacant retail unit at the corner of North Grafton roundabout. The unit was once home to Borders Bookshop, a car showroom, and more recently, Cotswold Outdoor.

A planning application to build a hotel on the site was previously submitted, and subsequently approved, but the owners decided not to proceed. The latest plans for the site are to demolish the existing building and instead build a large self-storage facility, complete with a handful of offices to let. The Town Council has objected to the scheme.

A decision on whether to approve or refuse the scheme has not yet been made by the City Council. If you would like to find out more, visit the City Council's planning portal online and type in the planning reference: PLN/2025/1030.

CMK Town Council seeks to increase its number of councillors



Central Milton Keynes is growing - and so is the need for representation.

As part of a city-wide Community Governance Review, CMK is one of ten parishes proposing changes to the number of its town councillors. With the number of council tax-paying properties in the parish increasing by at least 300 each year since 2021, the Town Council has requested an increase from eight to ten town councillors to better represent our expanding community.

Milton Keynes City Council has endorsed the proposal, which is now open for public consultation until 11 September 2025. This process can take place every few years to ensure local governance keeps pace with population changes across the city.

Importantly, our town councillors are volunteers; they give their time freely to support residents, oversee local services, and help shape the future of CMK and Campbell Park. Increasing their number will help ensure our community continues to be well represented.

To see the full proposals and have your say, visit milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/community-governance-review-2025

Dozens of residents supported at outreach sessions funded by CMK Town Council



Thanks to funding provided by CMK Town Council, Citizens Advice Milton Keynes continues to deliver vital support to residents across CMK and Campbell Park through its dedicated outreach service.

Between October and March, the service supported 130 people living in CMK, with 57 of those attending the free fortnightly drop-in advice sessions funded by the Town Council. The sessions, held at the Skills Centre in the centre:mk, provide free and confidential advice on issues ranging from debt and benefits to housing, energy costs and employment rights.

Throughout the six month period, the drop-in sessions saw residents receive over £65,000 in successful benefit awards, nearly £15,000 in personal debt was written off and managed, and £450's worth of charitable or hardship grants were applied for.

Citizens Advice also distributed 14 fuel vouchers for those struggling to top up their gas and electricity prepayment metres.

CMK Town Council is proud to fund this important programme, ensuring residents can access the help they need, when they need it most. As cost-of-living pressures continue, the Town Council remains committed to supporting local partners that make a real difference in the community.

You can book a session by scanning the QR code and completing a secure booking form.



/CMKTownCouncil



@cmktowncouncil



@cmktowncouncil



Scan here to visit CMK Town Council's website, where you can find out more information on who we are and what we do. You can also download the application form for our 2023-2024 small community grants scheme.



SCAN ME

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:

MinHi Chun: minhi.chun@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Anurag Jain: anurag.jain@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Murphy: philip.murphy@cmktowncouncil.gov.uk

Campbell Park Ward:

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