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A useful weapon to homes under threat

INSIGHT

● Take on HMRC - and win.

● Implications for employers of the Taylor Review.

● Peer-to-peer lending.

● The Charity Governance Code.

● Debt Protocol regulations

● Business structure.

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CONFERENCE MATTERS

The region's leading venues, with a festive twist.

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IN A SOMEWHAT surprising move, considering its apparent former determination to destroy or subsume into bland averageness everything of value in the city we love, Milton Keynes Council has implemented a new set of what might best be called Lesser Listings. I applaud them for this.

These will acknowledge and celebrate significant local buildings, structures, landscapes, artworks and places of local significance that are valued because they contribute to the distinctive identity of Milton Keynes.

These new Lesser Listings are not designed to compete with nor have any such planning significance or protection as buildings nationally listed by the government and its advisors Historic England, such as our grade II listed shopping centre centre:mk which is the only shopping centre listed nationwide. Although the newly recognised assets will not enjoy formal planning protection, it is hoped that they will at least inform planning decisions.

In fact, on the council's own website it states that the Milton Keynes New Town Heritage Register project "seeks to identify,

Heritage Register seeks to protect city's identity. So tell council: 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder'

“

If residents of those target estates band together, maybe they can scupper the plans being drawn up right now.

bring together and celebrate those assets to inform planning decisions and positively promote the new town heritage of Milton Keynes, aiding investment and enjoyment of it by residents, visitors and businesses.”

It occurs therefore that those estates from which the council intends, with its partners Mears Group under the banner YourMK, to evict residents, demolish and completely infill right up to the grid roads may benefit. After all, if the residents of those target estates of Fullers Slade, Tinkers Bridge, Netherfield, Bean Hill, Coffee Hall, Lakes Estate and North Bradville band together to

● *Correction: The public debate in Middleton Hall I mentioned in last month's column was not organised by MK Forum as I stated but the Fred Roche Foundation www.fredroche.org. Apologies to all concerned.*

force recognition of their architectural, social, planning and other benefits, maybe they can scupper the plans being drawn up right now by selected master planners Shephard Epstein Hunter and HTA Design to destroy them.

Urgently

Milton Keynes Council has now published its draft Statement of Significance and Selection Criteria for the Register which are available via the council's website. It has employed consultant Alan Baxter Ltd to produce two documents which will underpin the New Town Heritage Register.

It is on these documents that they are now seeking feedback.

I strongly recommend those whose homes are threatened as well as those in other infill or development areas urgently make a submission. The public engagement runs

until September 15.

They are seeking feedback as follows:

● **Statement of Significance.** This assesses the significance of Milton Keynes new town in the wider context, identifies key themes on which the selection criteria can be based. The council is seeking feedback on the factual elements of this document and the themes identified.

● **Selection Criteria.** These are the criteria that must be met for an asset to be added to the New Town Heritage Register. The council is seeking feedback on the wording of the criteria and the level at which the criteria are set.

Milton Keynes Council might just have handed a useful weapon to those whose homes are threatened. Please do not waste it. And remember that even though many consider Netherfield, for instance, to be ugly, it has decent-sized homes on large plots with good layouts. It sparked a revolution in the sourcing and use of innovative building materials and its residents, I am convinced, generally like it.

Beauty is, after all, in the eye of the beholder.

Cheerio.



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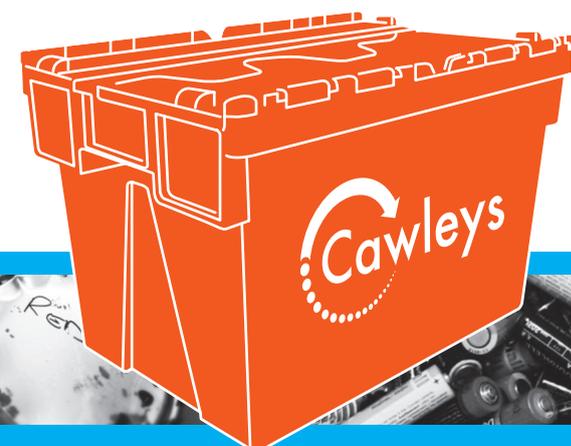
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