

Theo Chalmers

Theo Chalmers is managing director of Verve Public Relations and chair of Urban Eden.



www.urbaneden.org www.vervepr.co.uk
e: t.chalmers@vervepr.co.uk
Tel: 01908 275271

A secret betrayal of fundamental principles

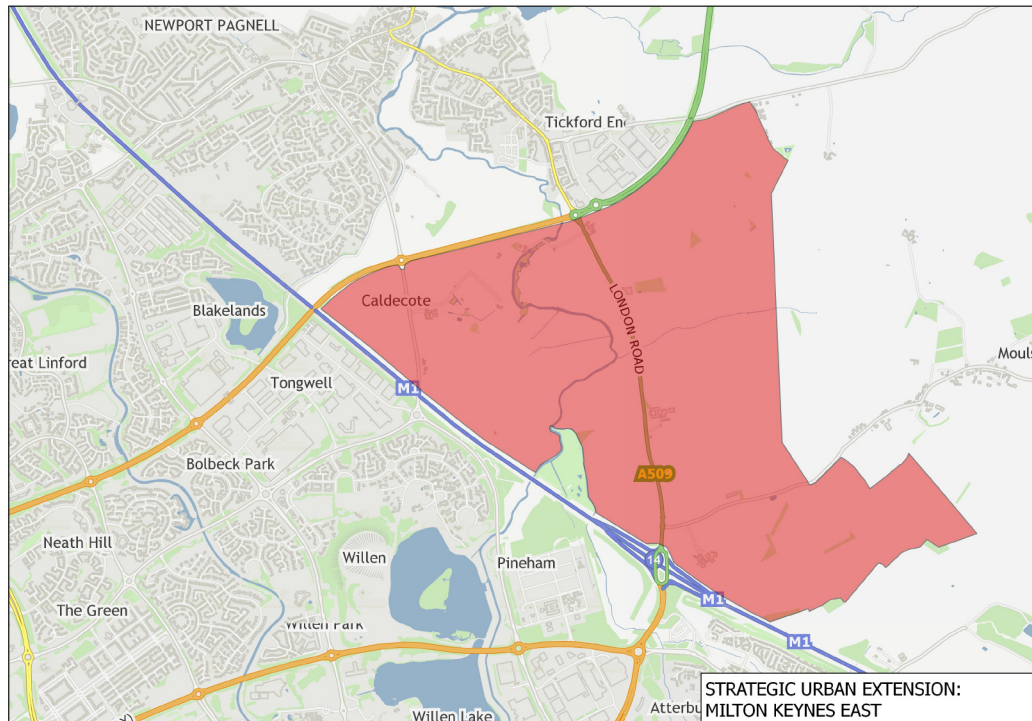
I HAVE written previously about Milton Keynes Council's plans for a new Eastern extension of Milton Keynes just over the M1 with no grid roads, no grid squares and the briefest of nods to redways despite every firm commitment in the new, now-approved, Plan:MK. The plans cover approximately 440 hectares encircled by the M1 to the west, the A422/A509 to the north and Moulsoe and the wider rural area to the east.

The draft Milton Keynes East Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document, which had been prepared by the council's planning department without extensive public consultation, was taken to a Delegated Decision on June 18 to decide whether or not to consult on the draft document for a period of six weeks.

Angry

As hoped for in these pages, the decision was called in by angry councillors and others. However the council's cabinet member for transport and planning, Cllr Martin Gowans, still decided to launch an extended consultation exercise for a slightly revised version to give parish councils and others enough time to have their say.

Thus the public consultation runs from August 7 until October 16 this year, ending at 5pm. Have your say at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>



planning-and-building/planning-policy/milton-keynes-east-development-framework.

Links to all relevant documents are also on that site. One such document is the actual Draft Milton Keynes East Development Framework SPD July 2019. In that document, one of my

many correspondents has found this shocking phrase on page 40:

*4.3 Movement Framework
4.3.2 The movement network must be designed to discourage car travel, so it should provide short direct pedestrian routes to key generators of movement*

such as bus stops, shops, schools, and other facilities.

Let me run this past you again: *"The movement network must be designed to discourage car travel"*. What planet exactly are these planners living on? Who or what gives them the authority to betray the principles

that made Milton Keynes a model for new cities worldwide?

The government-approved Plan:MK document which they themselves prepared specifically acknowledges and champions our unique grid roads and grid squares with grade-separated pedestrians and cyclists safely on redways and fervently promises to deliver them in this and any other expansion area.

Movement

For instance: *"The unique grid road network will be expanded and fully integrated into the design and layout of new developments and regeneration areas."*

In an age where more and more of us are buying electric or hybrid cars, exactly what is the excuse of the planners to sneak in an anti-driver phrase like this: *"The movement network must be designed to discourage car travel"*? Surely independence of movement in a non-polluting car future is what the citizens of Milton Keynes quite reasonably demand and fully expect?

If the planners find themselves philosophically incapable of delivering it, perhaps the elected councillors should remove them from their posts and bring in those who can. And the sooner the better. Cheerio.

Have your say and help us to help business thrive

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Chief Executive
Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce

NUMBER 7 is certainly lucky for us as a Chamber group. For we are thrilled to be able to announce that we have retained our place as the seventh largest direct membership Chamber in the UK in the network of 53 Chambers accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce.

Our consistent focus on member engagement at Milton Keynes Chamber and its sister Northamptonshire Chamber has seen fruitful dividends over the past year.

Our members are at the heart of all that we do and all that we strive for. So I am delighted



Paul Griffiths

to report that 1,334 individual businesses were members of Milton Keynes and

Northamptonshire Chambers during the last financial year.

A massive 85 per cent of those - 1,143 individual businesses - came to our events or training sessions during the year and 97pc of our members came to an event or training session or used our HR and legal, tax and health and safety protection services, delivered by Quest, during 2018-19.

These figures are testament to all the work that goes on behind the scenes at the Chamber. Thank you to staff, directors and stakeholders for all your hard work, belief and dedication.

Now help us to help you even further. Our Quarterly Economic Survey for the third quarter of this year was due to go live on August 27. The QES is the largest private

business survey in the borough and links into policies and strategies used by the Bank of England.

By responding to our QES in even greater numbers, businesses can help us to give an accurate picture of the state of the area's economy and strengthen our voice when we are fighting their corner.

We use this data when we meet with local MPs, council leaders and a variety of regional bodies to help to shape economic strategies and policies which promote and enhance growth and enterprise.

■ Have your say. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5DQ6NXXB>. The survey closes on September 16.



BE PART OF A RESPECTED, INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS
COMMUNITY AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE,
ADVICE AND OPPORTUNITIES

01908 547820
www.ChamberMK.co.uk

