

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT Whitehall, London S.W. 1 Teles: 23866 Telegrams: Locapia, Parl, London Telephones: Victoria 8546, est.

tion for the future are examined in this plan under the following aspects: Population and Housing: Employment; Village Fabilities and Conservation and the Environment. The policies gut forward in the Plan are designed to protect and enhance the personal of the examination of Calverton and will be used as the basis for planning in Calverton for the contributions.

OPULATION AND HOUSING

- The April 1981 Cereus recorded a population for the village of Calverton as 162 persons. Assuming an occupancy rate of 2.7 persons per dwelling in is estimated that the current population is 165 persons.
- At present there are 61 dwellings in Calverton, all of which are privately owned and these provide a reasonable variety of dwelling types and sloss within the Village. There is one planning permission to consent an existing barn to residencial use evoltationing in Lower William.
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buildings. Further information on grants may be obtained from the Borough Council.

- 7. The Structure Plan provides that in rural artificeness was disablement should be restricted to that crossary to need the structure of th
- The designation of the New City of Street Names has mount that lead on the property of the Original Area has convival that the converse of the New York of the Names of the Na
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- The general policy against new development would no predude the possibility of extensions or elterations t existing buildings.

The consequence of this restriction on further development is that the local needs of the community which cannot be accommodated within the exceptions noted above, will be mat in the adjacent new city of Milton Keynes.

- Subject to paragraph 9, applications for planning permission for residential development within the village will be assessed in relation to the following considerations:
- a. the extent to which it would meet a particular ineed;
 b. the amount of existing and proposed development

- c. the impact of the proposed development on adjace
- the impact of the proposed development on the charact of the area including the effect of any intensification of the use;
 - the present use of the site;
 - the provision of existing natural features on the site; the provision of mains feed and surface water decisions
 - h. The appearance of the proposed building

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MPLOYMENT

- 2. Calverton in ocenien with most other village, has suffered declining local employment opportunities, primarily due to the decline in agricultural employment over the last 50 year. The consequence is that local employment is restricted in nature and the village is largely dependent on the New City of Mitton Keynes and other surrounding towns for employment.
- 13. To present the killing bettering useful a density register. The Europh Control would anset a series assistant on the Europh Control would annex to experience of the Europh Control of the Euro

VILLAGE FACILITIE

hops: There is currently a sub-post office in the village.

The North
Buckinghamshire
Way

A thirty mile footpath
route from the Chiltern
Hills to Wolverton



Neighbourhood House, 92 Weavers Hill Fullers Slade Milton Keynes.

Dear Colleague

FULLERS SLADE FESTIVAL 15TH - 20TH MAY 1989

We are planning a week of activities to celebrate the completion of the renovation work on the estate and the 120th birthday of Nations.



Introduction

This document sets out a vision for how we believe public art can play an important role in the creation of distinct identities for Fairfields and Whitehouse, two new areas of Milton Keynes. Art projects can assist in interpreting local history and help connect new residents to the place they have chosen to live

As well as exploring Fairfields, Whitehouse and the surrounding areas we have spent time in the Milton Keynes archive researching the history of Milton Keynes West, the final piece of the Milton Keynes puzzle.

We feel that public art has a significant role to play in fostering a strong sense of community amongst new residents. Therefore we have developed a number of commissions that will result in projects that add to the range of opportunities for the evolving community to interact with each other. Furthermore we propose that residents be directly involved in the creation of some of the projects.

Collaboration has been key to the creation of this strategy; we have worked closely with both the developer of Milton Keynes West and the Milton Keynes Culture Team, as well as engaging with the two parish councils.

Overarching theme

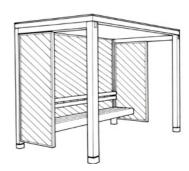
Milton Keynes West: where urban meets rural

For many years the land within Milton Keynes West was the buffer between urban Milton Keynes and rural Calverton. This clearly defined urban/rural boundary ran along Walting Street and Danstead Way.

With the creation of Fairfields and Whitehouse this edge has moved south-west. Furthermore the boundary between urban and rural has become blurred.

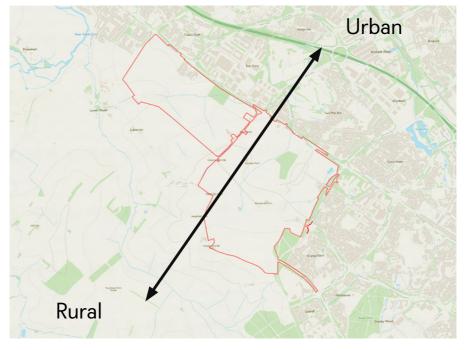
We believe that there is much potential for public art to explore the relationship between rural and urban. This was a theme that the early designers of Milton Keynes themselves explored, for instance through the design of street furniture, as illustrated for these designs for a glass and steel urban bus shelter and a rural timber version.















Urban Palette









Rural Palette













Public art grid

Using public art commissions to reinforce a lost grid

There was a time when the land covered by Milton Keynes West was destined to be included in the original designated area of Milton Keynes. This would have resulted in a very different look and feel for the areas now known as Fairfields and Whitehouse.

In April 1966 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Draft Order for a New Town of 27,000 acres included the Calverton Wealds. However when the Housing Minister, Anthony Greenwood, made his formal announcement on 23 January 1967 the designated area was reduced to 21,870 acres due to the exclusion of the area around Calverton.

It's almost certain that if the original designation had gone ahead, the Milton Keynes grid would have extended through to our site. As a nod to what could have been we are proposing to lay a conceptual grid over Fairfields and Whitehouse and to mark the corners of the grid-squares with artworks.





Overarching aims

Creating places of interaction

We are interested in the public spaces where people might interact with each other; inside pubs, around postboxes and noticeboards and on country walks. These examples can be seen in Calverton and hamlets and villages to the west of Milton Keynes West. The interactions that take place in these places are ones that we want to generate in Fairfields and Whitehouse.

We are also interested in how people interact with the place; it's landscape and history. Sometimes this is a case of opening one's eyes to what's already there, in other instances this requires revealing something that can't be seen. How people interact with a place is important in establishing one's place in the world.

The artist commissions that we propose in this document all aspire to promote interaction with people and place. This was a theme that both parish councils felt was crucial in the early years of the new communities. Some of these projects are permanent and sited in Fairfields and Whitehouse, whilst others are temporary.



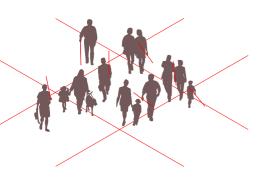






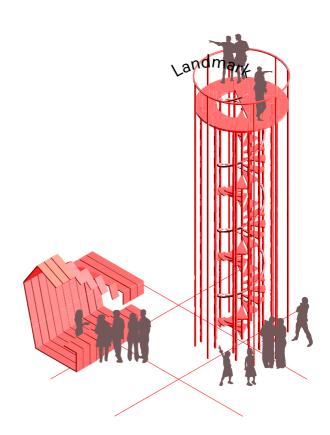
- Nodes
- Furniture
- Landmarks
- Mass Participation
- Digital Archive

Node

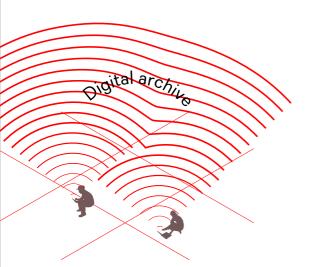




Nass participation

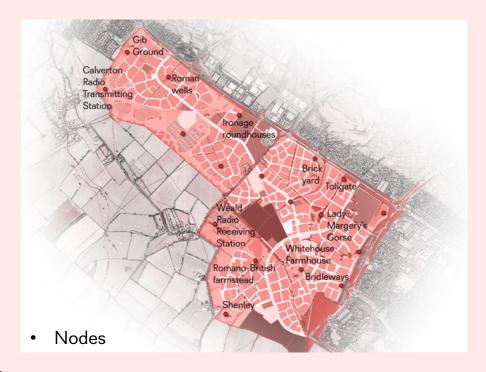




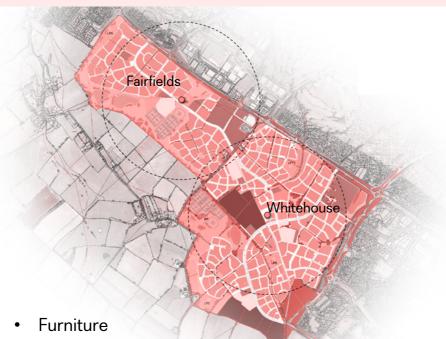


Intervention locations

Three of the project categories will be permanently sited works, and the plans on this page identify the initial locations for these







Initiative 1: Nodes

A trail of small art objects, signage and text that tell the story of the place.

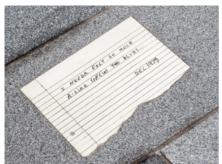
The node commissions are concerned with encouraging exploration of Fairfields, Whitehouse and the wider area. This concept of exploration is concerned with both the physical exploration of the area and the historical exploration of the area's past. This dual approach will inform both the creation of the artworks and also the public's interaction with the pieces.

By dispersing the nodes throughout Milton Keynes West we hope to encourage a variety of different forms of interaction with the pieces. Some might become familiar as they are located in areas with high footfall, others will be perceived as discoveries located in less familiar spots.

Whilst the nodes will be engaging in their own right, they will take on a greater significance as part of a network of art pieces to be visited. It is this idea of a trail that we find exciting. People will find their own routes between nodes, experiencing each in a unique order. The public will make their own trails; nodes may become points to discover on treasure hunts or artworks to take rubbings from.

















Nodes Commissions: Introduction

To bring a variety of different approaches and outputs the Nodes the have been split into three commissions. This will ensure that the works aren't homogeneous and will allow for moments of surprise.

The Nodes will be delivered over three phases so that they can be installed in areas that are coming up to completion.

Nodes Commissions: One, Two & Three

Anticipated Dates:

Mid-2021 to mid-2022 (commission one), mid-2022 to mid-2023 (commission two) and mid-2023 to mid-2024 (commission three). Commissioning process to begin six months before each project.

Outline Details:

The principal aim for this commission is to create a varied collection of permanent artworks, that are relevant to their specific locality and that will enhance people's enjoyment of the area. The network of artworks will link the different spaces within the area and in doing so the works assist with the notion of place-shaping. These works should be well integrated wherever possible into either the hard or soft landscape or architecture, and collectively act as a 'draw' for members of the public to explore the area. Physical interaction with the

artworks is expected and should be encouraged.

Artists are expected to respond to the multi-layered heritage of Fairfields and Whitehouse and assist in the creation of a distinctive identity for this new area of Milton Keynes. As a starting point the artists will be provided with some suggestions for site-specific history to respond to, however the appointed artist will be required to undertake further research into the area.

Community Involvement:

The artist will be expected to provide opportunities for members of the growing local community to contribute to the project in some way in order to gain an element of local ownership. This should go beyond mere 'consultation' and might take the form of workshops that foster coproduction. The aim will be at all times to strike a balance between genuine community involvement, whilst striving for excellence in contemporary practice.

Practicalities:

The work should be permanent, robust, resistant to vandalism, as well as being extremely difficult to move, weatherproof, and straightforward to maintain. The fabrication and materials of the artworks must be fit for purpose, including reasonable levels of resistance to water, heat, fire and sunlight that will enable them to 'weather' well over a 20-25 year period.

Due to the scale of the pieces it is not envisaged that planning permission is required for these commissions. However engagement with landowners, developer, house-builders and landscape designers will be required throughout the commission.

Budget:

The budget will need to cover:

- The artist's fee (including design and community engagement)
- Materials and fabrication
- Installation and transport
- · Engineering fees (structural/civil)
- Contingency

Commissioning Process:

This project is suited to a range of artists working in the public realm and would be appropriate to early-career artists as well as more established practitioners. Therefore an open call through existing channels such as Arts Jobs would make this commission available to the widest range of artists.

As far as possible local people should be involved in the selection process for the artists.



Initiative 2: Furniture

Permanent commissions that become useful assets for the community and encourage socialising.

The furniture commissions are an opportunity to foster community interaction and socialising. The concept is inspired by the communal nature of the kitchen table and other furniture that encourages social interaction. In the context of Fairfields and Whitehouse the furniture commissions will be new standalone projects that help to add to the vibrancy of this evolving place and become spaces where the growing community can meet and socialise.

For these projects to be truly successful they must have the community at their heart. This means involving residents in every step of the commissions, from defining the brief and taking part in the selection of artists, to decision-making and co-production. These projects will also include a celebration event when the community can be thanked for their involvement and the finished commission passed to residents for their custodianship.

These commissions will create the opportunity for the community to work closely with creative-practitioners and exchange knowledge and ideas whilst shaping the identity of the evolving Milton Keynes West.















Furniture Projects: Introduction

There will be two Furniture commissions, one in Whitehouse and one in Fairfields. They will be architectural in scale with the functionality of a well-designed piece of equipment. They will be large enough to have a presence in the landscape without being overly complex or cumbersome.

Furniture Projects 1 & 2: Whitehouse and Fairfields

Anticipated Dates: 2021 to mid-2022

Outline Details:

The briefs for these project will be developed with local residents and it is expected that the community will continue to be involved as decision-makers throughout the projects.

The ideas for these commissions will emerge from the Mass Participation project undertaken in 2020. That project will seek to increase the engagement of local people in creative projects in Whitehouse and Fairfields, and will act as the beginning of a conversation about what the furniture pieces could be.

Residents will help develop a brief for these commissions. The Milton Keynes Council team will meet with residents groups and discuss possible projects that meet the needs of the community. This will be formulated into an artist's/ designer's brief.

Community Involvement:

Opportunities should be created for members of the local community to be involved in co-design or coproduction, for instance in an element of the build.

Practicalities:

Whilst the brief for these projects is unknown, the following considerations must be taken into account:

- Robust, resistant to vandalism and straightforward to maintain.
- The fabrication and materials of the commission must be fit for purpose, including reasonable levels of resistance wear-and-tear and weathering.
- A 20 year lifespan with minimum maintenance required from timeto-time.
- Planning permission may well be required and the artist/design will be responsible for this and any other statutory approvals.
- Designs should be distinctive and site-specific.
- The construction should be sustainable, economically viable and environmentally thoughtful.
- The finished piece should celebrate the gathering of people

- and communities around a common activity.
- Importance should be placed on ensuring that the artwork is attractive when not in use.
- The design must be inclusive to all regardless of age, race, gender, disability, medical or other need.

Budget:

The budget assigned to each project will need to cover:

- The artist's fee (including design and community engagement)
- Materials and fabrication
- Installation and transport
- Engineering fees (structural/ civil)
- Provision of fixed equipment
- Planning & statutory fees (if required)
- Contingency

Feedback from the Parish Councils:

In developing this strategy we met with the two Parish Councils to discuss the overarching concepts and initial ideas for the Furniture commissions.

We had originally envisaged that the Furniture projects would be the first commissions undertaken with the community. However following discussions with the two Parish Councils about the challenges they were facing with engaging and recruiting residents we felt that it would be too early to initiate these projects if we wanted to ensure genuine community ownership.

Our initial idea of a commission for a community kitchen for Fairfields proved a useful starting point for a conversation with the Parish Council, which ultimately resulted in us going back to the drawing board. However the concerns they had with that initial idea have fed into the brief presented here.

The community agreed that the developments lack a 'heart' and that these projects could help change that.

Other suggestions have included a fitness trail and amenities for cyclists.

Initiative 3: Landmarks

Large scale sculptural waymarkers that act as meeting places and landscape features.

The landmark commissions will create assets that enrich the character of Fairfields and Whitehouse and become focal points to help orientate people in the landscape. These will be large-scale projects that through their scale and appearance will encourage residents and visitors to interact with them.

The landmarks have been positioned in key locations on walking routes arriving and departing Milton Keynes West. The North Bucks Way, a long distance walking route, passes between Fairfields and Whitehouse and two landmarks have been located along its length. A third commission will be located at the convergence of a number of local footpaths that lead to the countryside around Calverton.

It is important that the landmarks are not simply follies in the landscape, so each will have a specific function; Viewing, Gathering and Making.

These are the largest and most technically challenging of the commissions and therefore more time and resources have been allocated to these projects.















Landmark Project 1: Viewing Commission (Whitehouse)

Anticipated Dates:

2024-2026. Commissioning process to begin six months before.

Outline Details:

This project is concerned with the act of viewing; an opportunity to view the surrounding urban and rural context from the site's highest point. It is anticipated that this commission will take the form of a viewing tower located close to Hazeley Wood.

Landmark Project 2: Gathering Commission (Fairfields)

Anticipated Dates:

2026-2028. Commissioning process to begin six months before.

Outline Details:

This project is concerned with the act of gathering; a space where people can congregate to discuss, perform, exercise and learn together. It is imagined that this commission could take the form of a shelter or pavilion within the large open space to the north west of Fairfields.

Landmark Project 3: Making Commission (Whitehouse)

Anticipated Dates:

2028-2030. Commissioning process to begin six months before.

Outline Details:

This project is concerned with the act of making; creative infrastructure that provides space to work and opportunities to explore creativity. This project will be within the environs of the existing Two Mile Ash Farmhouse.

Requirements for all Landmark commissions:

Community Involvement:

The artist undertaking the commissions will be expected to provide opportunities for members of the growing local community to contribute to the project in some way in order to gain an element of local ownership. This should go beyond mere 'consultation' and might take the form of workshops that foster coproduction. The aim will be at all times to strike a balance between genuine community involvement, whilst striving for excellence in contemporary practice.

Practicalities:

As per the other sited works the commission should have a 25 year lifespan.

It may be that planning permission is required for these commissions due to the potential size of the installation. During the brief development phase the Culture Team will liaise with the planning department to ascertain the planning requirements. This will be fed into the brief and project programme.

Engagement with landowners, developer, house-builders and landscape designers will also be required throughout the commission.

Budgets will need to cover:

 The artist's fee (including design and community engagement)

- Materials and fabrication
- Installation and transport
- Engineering fees (structural/ civil)
- Planning fees and any other statutory fees such as Building Control
- Production of a maintenance manual
- Contingency

Commissioning Process:

Local people should be involved in the development of the project briefs and the selection process for the artists. The local authority may decide to undertake an invited longlist or make an open call.



Initiative 4: Mass Participation

Documenting the evolving community through projects realised through their direct participation.

The Mass Participation commissions seek to engage and empower residents through the creation of site-specific temporary projects. These commissions will be realised only through the direct participation of residents and local people, with everyone taking part acting as an artist through a process co-creation. It is crucial that everyone who participates has a substantive effect on the work.

The output of these commissions will contrast and complement the permanent sited works that will be developed through the Nodes, Furniture and Landmark commissions. Whilst it is unlikely that every resident will participate directly in the Mass Participation commissions, the projects will all have an element of public presentation that will allow the work to reach a wider audience.

The commissions will take place at key moments during the construction of the development until the completion of Fairfields and Whitehouse. This ensures that there will be a sufficient number of residents to participate and will also mark the completion of the final house.















Mass Participation: Introduction

These projects seek to assist in building a sustainable community at Fairfields and Whitehouse, which will be fundamental to their success. The socially-engaged projects that will be commissioned will help to support the growth of a strong identity and culture for the new communities and create permeable links to the surrounding existing communities.

We want these projects to offer a range of ways for residents to access cultural activities and encourage public use of different areas of the site. By commissioning temporary projects from a wide range of art forms we hope to engage diverse audiences.

This engagement will build understanding and ownership of Milton Keynes West amongst residents. We want the collaborative relationship that emerge from the project to support the artist's own creative practice.

Fundamentally these projects will directly engage the audience in the creative process so that they become participants in the piece. The participatory projects that are commissioned from artists could include, but not be limited to:

- food projects
- walks
- archaeology
- mapping

- performance
- dance
- audio tours
- publishing
- ceramics
- photography
- co-curation
- music

Anticipated Dates:

Following discussions with the two Parish Councils we believe that it is crucial to undertake a Mass Participation project in 2020 to help galvanise the community and bring people together.

The first project will be commissioned in 2020 and run throughout the year. As the following projects from the other strands will involve community participation we feel that the next Mass Participation project isn't needed until 2027. At that point we propose projects in 2027, 2029 and 2031.

Ideas for initial project:

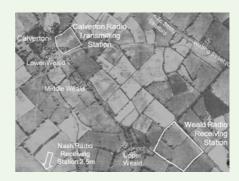
During the Second World War Milton Keynes West hosted two radio stations associated with Bletchley Park's secret radio communications centre at Whaddon Hall some 2 miles away to the south.

The Weald Radio Station received communications from British agents overseas, whilst the Calverton Transmitting Station handled outgoing Secret Intelligence Service radio traffic to British agents in occupied Europe.

As the initial commission will concern listening to the community and communicating their views, we believe this historic parallel could be a fascinating starting point for a project.

Other ideas for later projects:

Beating the bounds is an ancient custom still observed in some English parishes whereby members of the community walk the boundaries of the parish, usually led by the parish priest, to share the knowledge of where they boundary lies, and to pray for protection for the land. There was a record of the 'beating the bounds' in Calverton in 1998. We feel that this would be an interesting activity to undertake in Fairfields and Whitehouse to bring the community together, led by an artist, to walk the boundaries of these new places. If this is repeated over a number of years the boundaries will evolve and grown and eventually merge.









Initiative 5: Digital Archive

A curated digital collection of research and output from the other projects that builds on sense of place.

The Digital Archive will be a unique opportunity to create an ongoing collection of material specific to Fairfields and Whitehouse. This project capitalises on the involvement that artists and creative practitioners will have in researching and interpreting Milton Keynes West over the years to come. The information, observations and interpretations generated through those creative commissions will be deposited in the Digital Archive for everyone to access via the Internet.

It's important that the archive is simple to add content to and intuitive to navigate, as well being future-proof in terms of changes in technology.

The intention is that after the first artist commission the archive becomes a resource for the next artist to use and add to, so that it grows over the lifetime of the commissions. An additional aspect of the project is that the Digital Archive could be transferred to the Living Archive which collects, preserves and shares the history and heritage of Milton Keynes.









Digital Archive: An evolving resource

The other art commissions will have an extended life via this active online platform that will enable the sharing of knowledge, provide an archive for the project and allow wider access for public audiences to the artist's research processes.

This will be one of the first commissions, utilising open source technologies to build a dynamic and sustainable platform for exchange.

A specialist web developer/designer will be commissioned to develop the

Digital Archive who has experience of building and operating similar digital platforms.

The Parish Councils have suggested that the archive could integrate with their community website in some way.

This project will be commissioned in 2021.

