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# Bid farewell to yet

I MUST admit I am becoming enormously frustrated by the endless attacks on our city's infrastructure. Why can't English Partnerships just leave it alone? What proof is there that the original master plan did not work? And what arcane reasons can there be to cut down every tree, close every road, build on every inch, remove all the parking?

OK, so I'm exaggerating, but when you hear what they're doing now, you'd be angry and frustrated too.

Their latest attempt to divert public land to private use is a Stopping Up order of Highway on Witan Gate, Avebury and Midsummer Boulevards under the Highways Act 1980 Section 116. It's being heard at Milton Keynes Magistrates Court on August 3 at 10am. The order seeks to stop up the car parking areas adjacent to these streets.

### Developer

The reason? Apparently, Witan House, the large pink granite office building between Avebury and Midsummer Boulevards, currently has its own car park across Avebury Boulevard on land sold/leased to them by EP or its predecessor. Unfortunately, this is exactly where Milton Keynes Partnership wants to build Phase One of the West End CMK development, to be built by its 'preferred' developer Places for People.

This is the outfit which held 'Public Information Sessions' in Midsummer Place recently, womaned by three young ladies from 'oop North' who knew absolutely nothing about Milton Keynes and

*'This development is yet another ugly blight on our city, attempting to bring densities as 'enjoyed' by the citizens of Shanghai to Milton Keynes.'*

who, I'm informed, were really only available to show how far Photoshop has come in trying to make pigs' ears look like silk purses. It is by these cod-consultations that EP justifies laying waste our Urban Eden.

You probably know that this development is yet another ugly blight on our city, attempting to bring densities as 'enjoyed' by the citizens of Shanghai to Milton Keynes (the net equivalent of over 54,000 people per square kilometre, by my maths). One artist's impression, a soft-focus, night-time shot (see page 11) is, of course, the best possible interpretation of the development and even that is heartbreakingly hideous.

They are, I understand, expecting flat owners to cover it with ivy growing in pots on their balconies in order to make it look attractive. Great until they go on holiday, I suppose, and the ivy dies. The scheme includes 650 homes - 180 homes per hectare, the highest-ever density in Milton Keynes - offices and shops and a school on top of a car park.

It's an instant ghetto in waiting with not even enough parking for its residents, let alone visitors. For those who have seen the film *Bladerunner*, it looks like the city in which the film is set after everyone with money has fled 'off world'. Where's Rutger Hauer when you need him?

However, I digress. So if the car park needs to be taken away from Witan House, home of BP, where are those hard-working oil tycoons going to park their cars?

No worries, thinks EP, we'll take some public highway and make that into a car park for them. You could not make it up, could you? EP is re-privatising the car park to Witan Gate so that it can be given exclusively to the office block. The roads they are privatising are frontage service roads providing access to the buildings.

### Ironic

Remember that the Boulevards are Clearways, so there is no stopping or parking. So far as Urban Eden's experts can tell, that access is not being replaced. These people really do not understand what they are doing.

This act of urban vandalism removes another chunk of public parking in an especially ironic place given that the so-called 'Hub' over the road is supposed to attract thousands of us for eating and drinking (although why anyone would want to spend any time there, I don't know).

The central windswept square is both private and internal, it contributes nothing to the street and all

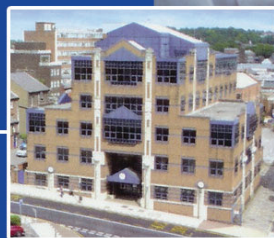
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POLLARDS of Bletchley - one of Milton Keynes' most respected family businesses - has won a three-year contract to supply the new Stadium:MK with Bay West paper products and soaps for its washroom facilities.

The Bay West System is known for its cost-effective range allowing savings of up to 40 per cent on washroom service costs. The contract is one of Pollards' largest in recent years and directors William Kirby, John Pollard, Bruce Pollard, Paul Neate and the team are delighted with the success.

William Kirby and sales manager Mike Wood worked together to provide a tailor-made package for Stadium:MK. The contract includes more than 500 dispensers for toilet rolls, hand towels and soap and began last month.

Pollards already supports the MK Dons through sponsored matches and the team at Stadium:MK is com-

## Pollards wins stadium contract

mitted to sourcing many of its business requirements from local companies. MK Dons FC chairman Pete Winkelmann says: "We have always been keen to use local suppliers wherever possible and the quality of service that Pollards is able to offer matches the high aspirations of the stadium and we are delighted to be working with them."

Mr Kirby says: "Stadium:MK promises to be one of the UK's outstanding sports and entertainment venues and Pollards is pleased to be part of this ambitious project. Most

people - mistakenly - think Pollards is just a DIY retailer with a traditional hardware and ironmongery shop. We are far more - an industrial maintenance supplier, offering a wide range of products and established commercial services for the business community, schools and contract cleaners."

With around 10,000 sq ft of retail floor space and a large showroom and warehouse, Pollards stock more than 13,000 product lines, including tools, cleaning products and engineers' supplies for general factory maintenance.

More than 75pc of the business is with industry, the remainder made up by DIY sales. Pollards has free parking at its premises and a fast, efficient delivery service.

John Pollard says: "Our continued expansion is based on a progressive approach to business combined with the personal and knowledgeable service for which we are famous."