

# New Towns Heritage Research Network Plenary Conference, Coventry University 5 July 2018

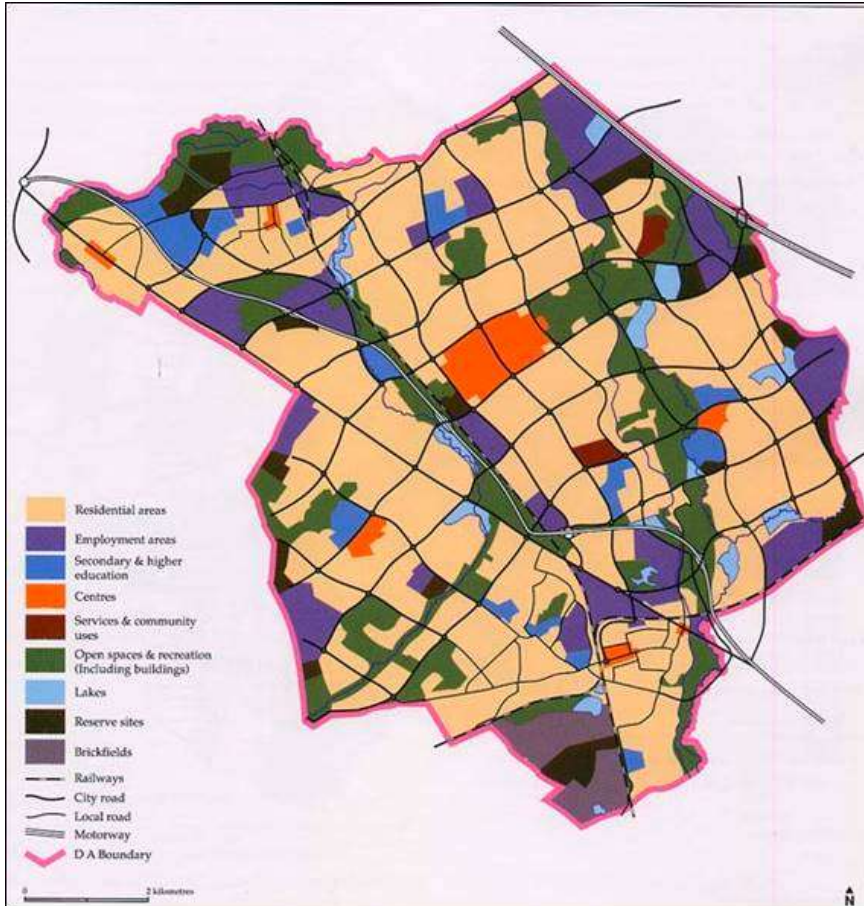
## Milton Keynes: The Design City Project reflections, its impact and future



*Shane Downer, Milton Keynes Council*



# A 30 second history of Milton Keynes...

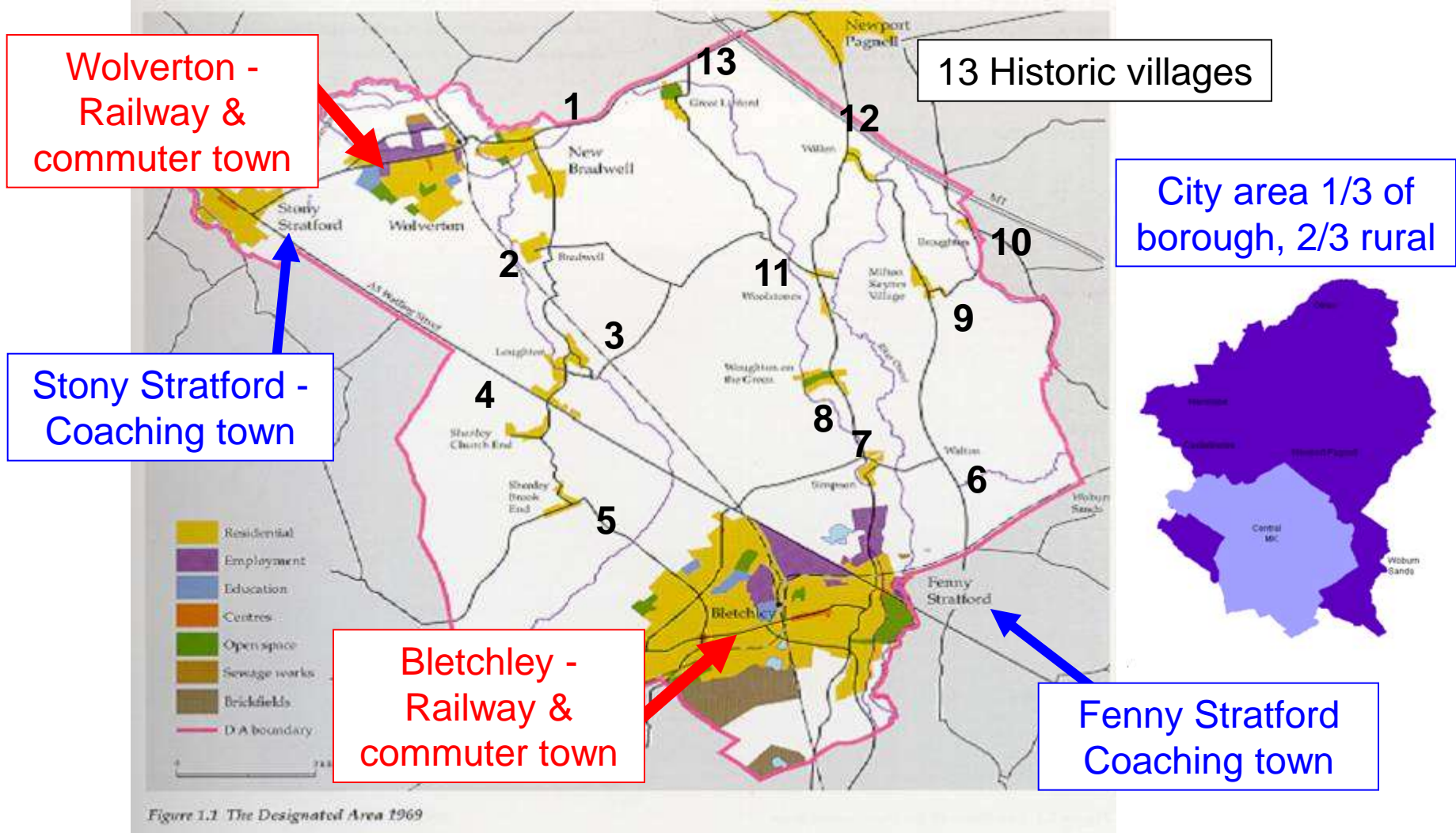


- Plan for 250,000+ people
- Grid-roads (motor vehicles)
- 'Redways' (pedestrian, bikes)
- 20% green space, linear park
- Zoning of land types
- Low-density housing
- Economic 'power-house' created

'MK' always set up to be a city...



# Okay, well maybe 60 seconds...



# AHRC Seminar Milton Keynes: January 26 2017

## Where we were then:

1. MK 50 – A point in time for Milton Keynes and other New Towns
2. European Capital of Culture 2023 – Different by Design
3. Future Growth – New Towns no longer ‘new’ - meeting the challenges rapid urbanism and diversity is bringing;

## MK Futures 2050 Commission: Making a Great City Greater.



# AHRC Seminar Milton Keynes: January 26 2017

## Issues and Tensions:

1. Those that built the City concerned at losing the cities grid design
2. Plan:MK – Growth and development to 2031
3. New Town Heritage Register - characterisation

A question of balance not protection - MK needs policies to enable growth but respect the original design

Milton Keynes New Town  
Heritage Register  
Statement of Significance *Draft*  
Prepared for Milton Keynes Council  
April 2017

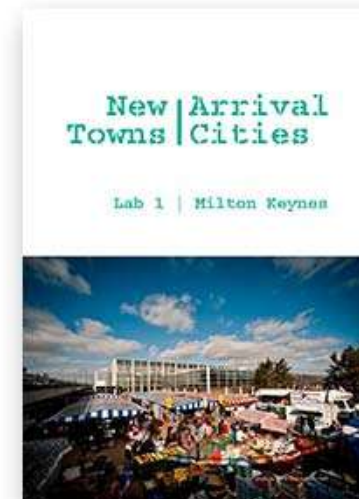
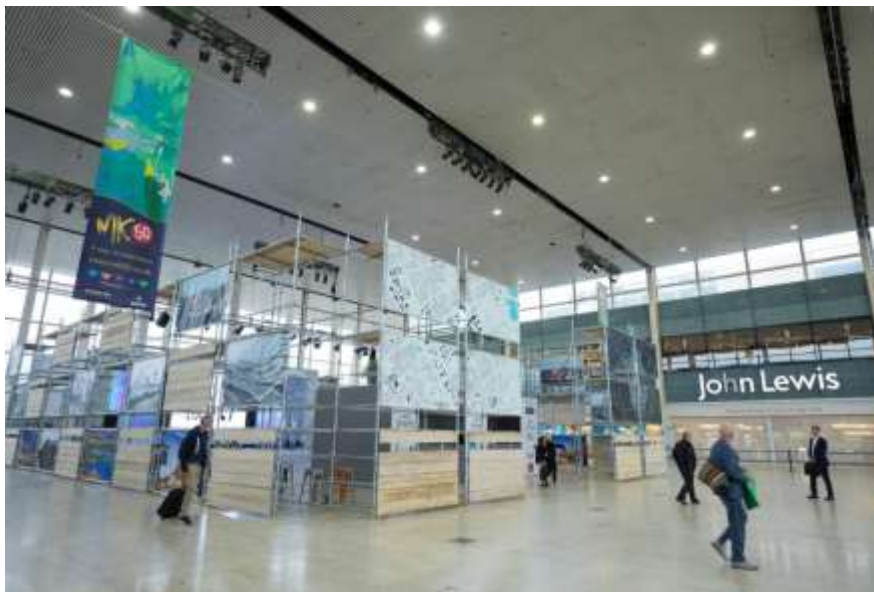




# Towards a European Destination City

## Testing 'Different by Design':

1. 'CityFest': International New Town Day and AoU Symposium
2. Europe4Citizens – A City of Migration – 'The People are the City'
3. Cultural Ambassadors – A 'next generation vision' for MK



# Local: Valuing the New Town Heritage

## A City of New and Different Voices:

1. Pioneers versus the Next Generation
2. Life by Master Plan – Role for heritage and Culture?
3. Conferences, seminars, symposia and City Labs!

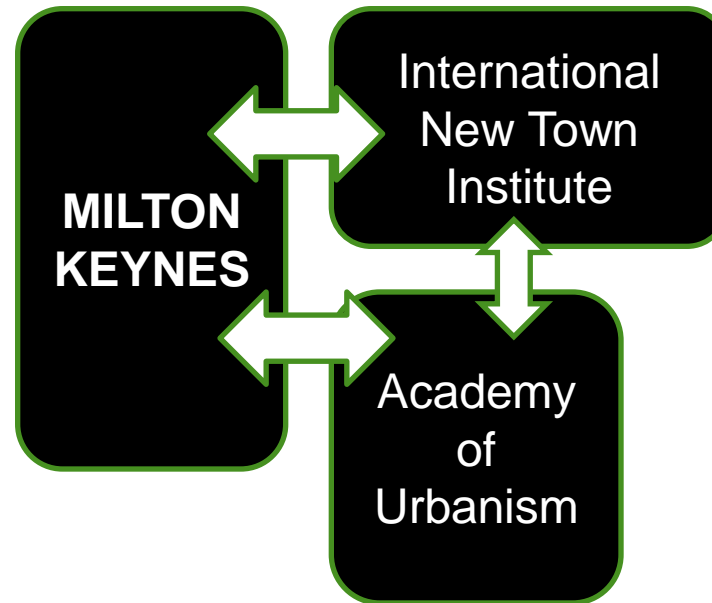


# National: New Towns, Networked

## AHRC:

1. Peterborough, Harlow, Rotterdam – beyond?
2. Research – marketing and communication
3. MK City Discovery Centre – A natural home for the Network

Partnerships and Projects are not enough – networks are needed



New Town  
Research  
Network

Design City

Europe 4  
Citizens

EU Research  
Training

Living Streets



# International: 'Go and Sees'

## Network of 'Smart' Cities

1. International Conferences
2. Case Study Visits
3. Experiment and Implement

Amsterdam/Almere 2022

Floriade World Expo

'From Garden City to Green City':

A Future plan cannot be planned  
from 'Business as usual'

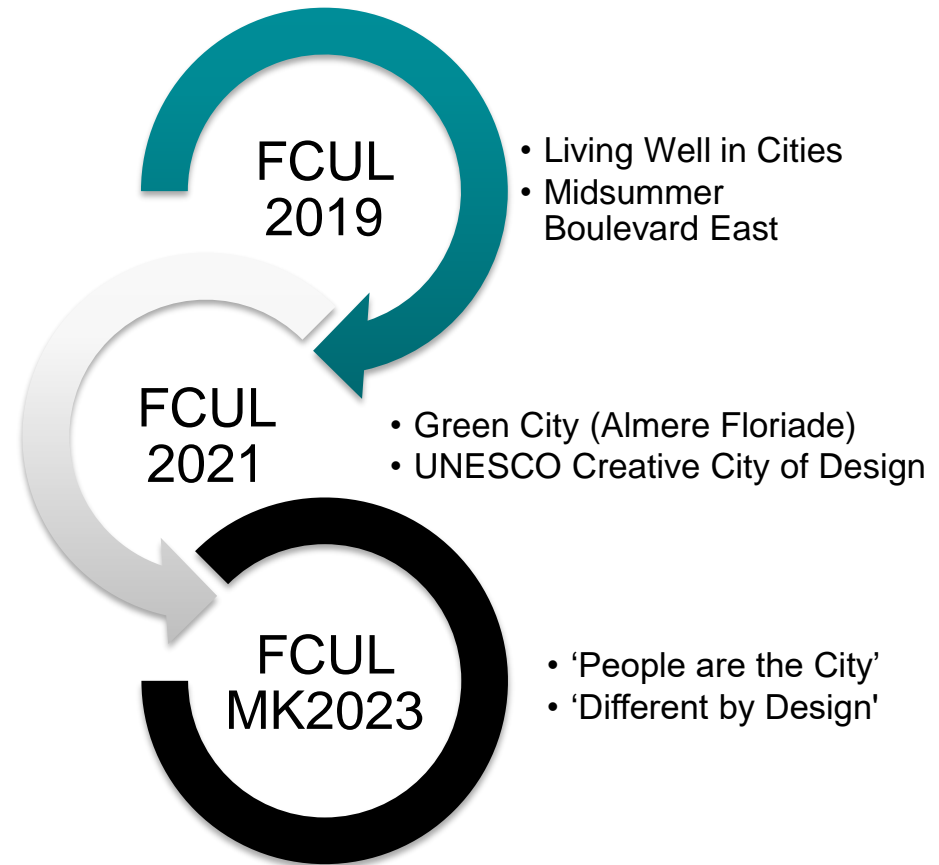


# Milton Keynes: Design City

Exploit our Design heritage – its our USP!

1. International Programme – FCUL 2019/2021/2023
2. Almere – Floriade 2022
3. International Competitions

MK needs to recapture that 'culture of design' and once again be a centre of learning and inspiration to the world.



# Design City: Grid, Green, People

MK is and always been about Living Well in Cities

1. Creative and Cultural Strategy 2018 - 2027
2. MK2050: The Creative and Cultural City
3. ECOC Plan B: Different by Design

Network research, discussion and conclusions underpin the experimentation, evaluation and implementation.





# Milton Keynes: City Archive

## Central Library and Archive

1. Archive partners – internationally significant collections
2. A building and resource fit for purpose for an international city
3. A Living Laboratory for network debate, learning and city planning



# THANK YOU



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