



With best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2008, and welcome to the first e-newsletter of the year.

2007 Round Up

In November 2007 the Central Milton Keynes Joint Venture Board was disbanded, a decision taken by the joint venture partners - Milton Keynes Council and English Partnerships in an attempt to simplify the development process within Central Milton Keynes. The new structure is currently being worked out and we'll keep you posted on this as information becomes available.

Artist Bill Billings

The well known local artist Bill Billings sadly died on Boxing Day, aged 69. He is best known for creating play equipment from concrete for local children in the shape of two dinosaurs located at Peartree Bridge and Leon School, but the creativity did not stop here as he was also known as a painter, sculptor, musician and playwright. He will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

thecentre:mk plans for expansion, first drawn up in 2001, have been withdrawn and are currently under review by the Joint Owners of the centre, Hermes Real Estate and Prudential, as they look at how best to provide world class 21st Century shopping in the heart of Milton Keynes. During 2008 a dedicated team will review the plans to ensure the shopping experience delivered for Milton Keynes will be one of the best in Europe.

University Centre Milton Keynes

University Centre is on target to open at 200 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes in September 2008. The Centre will be managed by the Milton Keynes College and will focus on higher education development within Milton Keynes. For more information see:

http://www.mkcollege.ac.uk/?_id=821&PHPSESSID=13717d95233b73eab41ee6227d113f73

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

CMK Joint Venture Board – John Walker stepped down as chair of the CMK Joint Venture Board.

Milton Keynes Partnership Committee - Sir Bob Reid is to step down as chair of the Milton Keynes Partnership Committee (MKPC) at the end of March 2008, following four years in post. English Partnerships will begin the process to recruit a successor early 2008 for details see: <http://www.mkpct.org.uk/content.asp?ContentID=1395>

English Partnerships – Robert Napier has now taken up post as Chairman following the retirement of Margaret Ford for further information see:

<http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=9790B328C9824FC184B78AED91DB0900>

Milton Keynes Partnership – Chief Operating Office, Jane Hamilton is due to retire during March 2008 following four years in office. Milton Keynes Partnership will shortly be announcing its revised management arrangements. <http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=18ABCD AF665744D69E0A5F7EC1B14DD5>

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust – announced that it has appointed Dr. Nicholas Hicks to succeed Barbara Kennedy as Chief Executive following Barbara's decision to take early retirement. Nick is now in post, for more details see: <http://www.mkpct.org.uk/content.asp?ContentID=1395>

CONSULTATION

Milton Keynes Council - Your money, Your Choice: Budget Consultation 2008/09

Here, is an opportunity to have your say on Milton Keynes Council's budget. Everyone uses council services, such as roads and pavements, recycling and waste collection and so decisions on the council's budget affect you. Your councillors want to hear what your priorities are and what you want money spent on and they want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to have their say. Closes 04th February 2008 – For more information see:

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultation/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=51926>

OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

The hub is now on the verge on being fully operational with only Dim t scheduled to open during January 2008.

For more information on the Hub openings please see www.thehubcmk.co.uk

The New Year has seen the closure of Elements Eatery at the Theatre District following a decision by the owners to retire. The restaurant will be shut for three months before re-opening under new owners Red Hot World buffet and Bar for more information see: <http://redhotbuffetshacks.co.uk/index.htm>

Crime is down, but remain vigilant

Crime figures for Central Milton Keynes are down on last year, though vigilance is still needed as thieves are still targeting vehicles in the city. Please do not leave Satellite Navigation systems or other valuables clearly visible in your car.

EVENTS

The Events Calendar for 2008, giving details of events being held in and around Milton Keynes is currently being updated. It is available via email and will be continually updated. If you would like to receive it or would like to add events please e-mail carmel.blyth@cmkpartnership.org

40 Years of Milton Keynes Exhibition

During the Queen's visit on 29th November she was presented with an exhibition on the past, present and future for the City. The exhibition shows a visual history of Milton Keynes and its future aspirations. This has now been relocated to thecentre:mk near the Crèche by John Lewis – well worth a visit.

Our Place:MK

A two-day exhibition looking at Pioneers and Heroes of Milton Keynes from Lord Campbell and famous code breakers to business leaders and sports stars. Taking in Middleton Hall at thecentre:mk on 22nd and 23rd January. For more information see: www.livingarchive.org.uk

MK Contemporary White Wall – located in thecentre:mk down the side of John Lewis

From 22nd January 2008 to 2nd March, Maslen & Mehra present their Native Series - mirrored sculptures of animals are placed in built urban environments to reflect the man-made structures around them and then photographed. For more information see: <http://www.miltonkeynescontemporary.co.uk/>

MK City Orchestra

On 25th January 2008 Milton Keynes City Orchestra formally welcomes Sian Edwards into her new role as Principal Conductor, with a concert - **"Principal Changes"** - at Milton Keynes Theatre. **Concert tickets** for this event, which takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 25th January 2008 are priced £28 - £9 (concessions available), and are available direct from Milton Keynes City Orchestra on **01908 558311** or from Milton Keynes Theatre Box Office on 0870 060 6652.

Milton Keynes Theatre

One-day Festival of Creativity – 26th January

An opportunity to participate in performances, workshops and acoustics sets. For more information see: www.miltonkeynestheatre.com

Milton Keynes Gallery Exhibition

Marcel Broodthaers - 26 January - 30 March 2008

The most comprehensive exhibition in the UK since his Tate Gallery retrospective nearly thirty years ago. Broodthaers was a poet, photographer, film-maker. To find out more about the artist and listen to his Interview with a Cat visit www.mk-g.org/MarcelBroodthaers

ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES

Lower Third Street and Grafton Park Closure

Due to the Pinnacle Office development, on Midsummer Boulevard Lower Third Street and Grafton Park road access is now closed. Anticipated completion of the development is April 2008, at which point the closed road access will re-open (see further details below).

Parking Changes:-

Witan Gate – Parking around Witan Gate House

Witan Gate House is now private parking for Witan Gate House users only. Temporary car parks can be found behind Witan Gate House towards the station end and South Fourth Street. The change of use is due to the development of West End Phase One residential which includes the previously privately owned car park for Witan Gate House.

Midsummer Boulevard (southside) between Grafton and Witan Gate

Due to the Pinnacle Office development, temporary parking is located at South Fourth Street at the junction to Avebury Boulevard/Grafton Gate providing 297 spaces.

Coachway Temporary Relocation from J14 to Campbell Park

It is proposed that the Coachway relocate temporarily to Campbell Park while the re-development of the current facility takes place. The temporary Coachway facility will include 80 car parking spaces and CCTV security, this facility will operate in exactly the same way as the current one. While this facility is relocated, redevelopment at

J14 will begin with a state-of-the-art Coachway building, improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Park and Ride facilities will also be improved with approximately 360 dedicated car parking spaces due for completion January 2009.

Milton Keynes Central Station - Network Rail Update

Work at Milton Keynes is progressing well. The footbridge running from Redland Drive across the railway was extended and reopened in December work can now be carried out to install track and a new platform. Over the Christmas period work was successfully carried out to install new track and signalling and also the planned demolition of the bridge from Lincelade Grove across the railway. A new bridge deck will be lifted in over Easter and the new bridge will open during the spring. The temporary car park opposite the National Hockey Stadium, which was opened in July 2007, to compensate for the closure of some car parking spaces to the south of the station is proving to be successful. Full completion of the works at Milton Keynes is anticipated in December 2008. For further information please contact **Network Rail Helpline on 08457 114141**.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Milton Keynes Partnership Website - www.miltonkeynespartnership.info

Provides information about the organisation and the work they do. For each development listed below or shown on this display you will now find more information on their website should you require it.

Office Development, Off Of Avebury Boulevard

Abbeygate Developments have produced final design proposals for an office development with commercial retail uses. Included within the development will be a 1,000 space multi-storey car park. The planning application was registered with Milton Keynes Council on 07th December 2007 for further information see:

<http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/development-control/documents/Weekly%5FList%5F3%5FDecember%5F2007%2Epdf> page 2

Campbell Park Residential Phase 1, now to be known as Campbell Square – Residential developer George Wimpey has begun on the site located between Campbell Heights and Albion Place, the development will incorporate 280 apartments and town houses with a community space as well as small business and retail space. Anticipated completion of the development is early 2010. For more information see:

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=8/

<http://www.georgewimpey.co.uk/newhomes/North+Thames/CampbellSquare/>

Pinnacle Central Milton Keynes – (Midsummer Boulevard Office Development)

The hoardings are up and the cranes have arrived the new development consists of office space with two small retail units. Main construction works are underway and completion will be in stages with the first phase due in summer 2008 and total completion by Spring 2009. The developer is Hampton Brook Developments Ltd

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=39

Sainsbury's Store and Residential Development – a new residential showroom situated within the development on Avebury Boulevard is open to the public. A total of 64 units have been released for sale with 28 being sold to date. Located on the eastern side of Witan Gate and south of Avebury Boulevard, this 8 acre development is rapidly taking shape. Sainsbury's will start trading from the new superstore (their largest in Europe) in December 2008 and the 400 apartments are now being marketed by Barratts, for more info visit www.loveonemk.co.uk and will be available for occupation from late 2007 through to December 2008.

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=4

Infrastructure projects in Milton Keynes include:

Abbey Hill Junction Improvements – work began during August 2007 to improve the A5-H3 Abbey Hill junction, which is expected to continue until 23rd January 2008. Widening work will be carried out on the A5 slip roads and on the approaches to the roundabout. The embankments will also be widened to accommodate the widths of the carriage-ways. Traffic signals will be introduced at the northern Great Monk Street and the eastern Monks Way approaches to the roundabout. Also, the current part time traffic signals at the entrance of the roundabout from the A5 will now operate full time.

Other Developments:

- West End One – Residential http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=7
- Leisure Plaza <http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/Binary.ashx?Document=18064>
- Xscape Expansion <http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/development-control/documents/weeklylist29%5F10%5F07%2Epdf>
- Theatre District – www.lanewhomes.co.uk/ / www.aragon-housing.co.uk/twentyfour7/
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=5

- CMK Public Transport Improvements http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=11
and:
<http://www.englishpartnerships.com/page.aspx?pointerid=7301EBA7B16E4FEBBDF12300B88F6926>
 - MK Theatre & Gallery Expansion http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=5
 - Combined Heat and Power Plant http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=10
- Whilst every care has been taken in putting together this e-newsletter any errors of fact or omissions are the author's. Please forward any corrections, suggestions and additional names and e-mail addresses to Carmel for anyone interested in receiving a copy.

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