

ORGANISATIONS IN MILTON KEYNES

Destination Milton Keynes has provided MK with yet another first – the only independently-operated tourist information service in the UK! Their aim is to offer much needed key tourist services that will promote and develop the Milton Keynes region as a destination for business and leisure. They currently provide an information service and free venue finding and accommodation finding services.

Free venue-finding service: The Conference Desk will help you source a venue for meetings, seminars, conferences or training.

Telephone 01908 677 020 or email info@destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk

Free accommodation booking service: If you need a room for an overnight stay, whether it's one room for one night, or block bookings for several nights, Destination Milton Keynes can help. Telephone 01908 677 010 or email accommodation@destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk
You can find out more about them by visiting - www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk

Milton Keynes Consortium - 40th Celebrations

A consortium has been set up to work in partnership with other organisations and agencies (including the Council and Chamber of Commerce) to deliver a day long event on **June 23rd** in celebration of the city's 40th year. The consortium is inviting businesses, community groups, artists, entertainers and anyone with an interest in MK to join in the celebrations via the website www.miltonkeynes40.co.uk. The success of the event will be heavily influenced by the funds and benefits in kind that can be raised from now on. These events require a lot of resources, both human and financial so we need as many people to support it in order for it to grow and develop both this year and in the years ahead.

New Director for thecentre:mk

thecentre:mk is delighted to announce the appointment of Robert Goodman as its new Centre Director. Robert will join the company on Monday 12th March, to head up the 140-strong company that manages the shopping centre.

Robert has a strong retail background, having most recently been responsible for retail, marketing and commercial contracts for Budapest Airport in Hungary. Before that, he was Retail Director for BAA Scotland, looking after retail development in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oxdox International Documentary Film Festival - 10 to -25 March 2007

The largest Documentary Festival in the UK, with over 100 films from acclaimed directors around the world will be screened in Milton Keynes, Oxford and London. MK venues include Cineworld at Xscape, Odeon at The Point, the Enigma Cinema in Bletchley Park and the Filmhouse in Buckingham. Full details can be found at www.oxdoxmk.com. We will be emailing out regular updates on the film showings during the festival.

City Challenge – 21 April

Milton Keynes is celebrating having been selected to host the thrilling City Challenge, the ultimate one day team adventure. On the 21st April, soap stars, politicians and the country's leading businesses will descend upon Bletchley Park and the streets of Milton Keynes to battle for victory in a series of top secret challenges. Beneath the grit of competitive spirit lies a heartfelt intention: to raise thousands of pounds for the Leukaemia Research Fund. For more information please go to: www.challengerworld.com

The MK Factor – 07 April

Would you like to be one of six finalists to sing at the launch of the Milton Keynes Dons Stadium or perform on stage at The MK 40th Gala performance at The Milton Keynes Theatre?

On Saturday 7th April 2007 Milton Keynes is holding its own "MK Factor". KiK Music in partnership with the MK Dons, The Citizen, Milton Keynes Theatre and the Holiday Inn are offering an opportunity, for anyone who has an MK postcode and is over 14 years of age, to come along and audition to a panel of judges including our very own local celebrity Trevor Marshall at the Holiday Inn, Central Milton Keynes. Successful applicants will go through to a second round on Sunday 8th April. The event, which is part of the Milton Keynes 40th Anniversary Celebrations, is open to all, from singers, musicians and dancers, to circus and street performers representing art forms from across the world. For more info visit www.kikmusic.org.uk

OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Real time passenger information

Bus passengers on city services within Milton Keynes will soon benefit from up-to-the-minute travel information. RTPI means that passengers on routes 4, 5 and 23 will be able to see the 'real time' their bus is due on signs located at bus stops and on large screen displays located at key destinations. Information will also be available on the internet and by using the SMS text messaging function on mobile phones.

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/media_centre/press_releases.php?ID=64

Casino for MK

Milton Keynes has been awarded one of just 8 licences to build a 'Large Casino'. There were seventeen licences granted in total by the independent Casino Advisory Panel.

New Development Information Sites

The Partnership's Information sites at Midsummer Place and Middleton Hall in thecentre:mk have been updated with new information and a new site has been installed at the city's railway station. A fourth site is to be installed at Xscape in mid March and will also show development videos and presentations. Contact us at The CMK Partnership (details at the bottom of this email) for more information.

The Big Lottery (Young People's Fund) has announced an award of just over £143,000 to Milton Keynes Gallery for its Young People's Project (YPP) - ensuring the development of an exciting new peer-led scheme for young people aged 15-24 over the next three years.

Smokefree Legislation

From 1 July 2007, virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smokefree. A smokefree England will ensure a healthier environment, so everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from secondhand smoke. For further information see

<http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/>

Theatre District New Openings

Lloyds No 1 Bar has reopened its doors after a major refurbishment and has gone 'smoke free' Monday – Friday during the day.

Buddha Blue, an exclusive new nightclub is due to open its doors Mid March, for more info email info@buddhablue.co.uk

...and don't forget the Wheel, it's on site until June and is open from 2-11pm weekdays and 11-10pm at weekends. Adults £4, Children & Seniors £3, family tickets(2+2)£12. Full Gondola (6) £18. It's a fantastic view and well worth the spin.

CONSULTATIONS

Plans and documents which are currently available for your input and comments include:

- Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document – closes 14 March 2007
- Future Options for Primary Education in West Bletchley – closes 13 April 2007

For more information on consultations and how you can get involved click on

<http://www.mkweb.co.uk/council-democracy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=19046>

Businesses - Do you want your opinion to count?

The BCC (not the BBC) has started work with the polling company Populus to help them to build a Voice of Business Panel. This will enable them to get the immediate opinion of businesses on key issues and will give Chambers an edge in getting our voice heard.

To make it work the Chamber of Commerce need as many businesses as possible to register for the poll. If they get enough businesses in MK & North Bucks to register the BCC will extrapolate the data specifically for our area, which they will happily feed back to their membership.

Sign up for the poll and get your voice heard!

The web link to register is: http://populusinteractive.com/populus/qserv?sec=ANON_BCC0207

DEVELOPMENTS:

Milton Keynes Partnership Website - www.miltonkeynespartnership.info -

Provides information about the organisation and the work they do. For each development listed below you will now find a direct link to the website should you require more detailed information.

- ◆ Campbell Park – Phase 1 Residential
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=8

- ◆ CMK Public Transport Improvements
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=11
- ◆ MK Theatre & Gallery Expansion
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=5
- ◆ Theatre District Residential
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=12
- ◆ thecentre:mk Shopping Centre expansion
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=6
- ◆ Campbell Park Marina
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=3
- ◆ Combined Heat and Power Plant
http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=10

CBX3 / thehub:mk – next to the CBX2 at the corner of Witan gate and Avebury Boulevard, the Ramada Encore and Jury's Inn hotels have been open since August 2006 closely followed by the opening of Sam and Maxies Bar and Grill. The 400 apartments of thehub:mk will see their first residents moving in by early summer this year. The 1½ acre Central Piazza is planned to celebrate it's opening this summer and will have around it restaurants and bars such as Cafe Rouge, Strada, Zizzi, Las Iguanas, GBK, Starbucks and Dim T.

Leisure Plaza – Currently home to Planet Ice and the Megabowl, over the next few years this area will be redeveloped by local company Abbeygate Developments, making it the home of an extensively refurbished ice rink upgrading it to a 4000 seater international facility. There will also be a 170,000 sq metre store alongside other leisure and retail facilities including several restaurants. Work is expected to start on site in April 2008 and reach completion by mid 2009.

Sainsbury's Store and Residential – 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 Kings Oak, 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

West End CMK Residential – The first stage infrastructure work has begun to pave the way for new and exciting plans to develop the city's West End. The area between Midsummer Blvd and Childs Way, from Witan Gate to Grafton Gate will comprise some 650 homes plus offices and shops along with a school and community facilities. A developer has not yet been appointed and consultation is due to take place mid 2007. Expected completion for Phase 1 is 2010.

http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=7

Junction 13 Improvements – Overnight work started on 14th February at Junction 13 of the M1 to improve the flow of northbound traffic off the motorway and onto the A421 in Milton Keynes. The scheme is due to be completed by the end of March 2007.

For more info visit www.englishpartnerships.com

Other infrastructure projects in Milton Keynes include;

- ◆ A5 Portway ongoing until April 2007
- ◆ Improvements to Junction 14 of the M1 – due to start this month and continue until December 2007
- ◆ A421 duelling from the Kingston roundabout will continue until May 2007

Local Events Listing

If you would like a copy of our Events Calendar which lists local community events and the MK40 Birthday celebrations, e-mail kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org and we will forward it to you.

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 Kay for anyone interested in receiving a copy.

Kay Greenhalgh

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