

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****Pride in our city - Midsummer Boulevard East SPRING CLEAN - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

Staff from Milton Keynes Council's Streetcare department will be working together with members of the Central Milton Keynes Partnership - thecentre:mk and Midsummer Place, and the CMK Market on Midsummer Boulevard East (from Midsummer Place to the Theatre) to carry out a major 'spring clean'. Landscaping will be cleared and cut back allowing deep cleaning, litter picking and graffiti removal, jet-washing, steam cleaning, gum removal, replacement and repair to granite kerbs and paving, redundant signs and posts removed, painting of benches and porte cocheres and so on. The CMK Partners will be mobilising up to 60 staff and all their equipment and sharing expertise to spruce up the area in what is planned to be the first of many such days throughout the city centre.

**Open University Public Lecture at Milton Keynes Gallery – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm  
You and Your Lifestyle**

A major research project into Britain's cultural tastes and their impact on society, hear the findings and see how closely your tastes might fit national trends at this interactive public lecture, held as part of the Economic & Social Research Council Festival of Social Science. Admission is free, tea and biscuits will be provided please contact [k.d.ho@open.ac.uk](mailto:k.d.ho@open.ac.uk) to confirm attendance. To find out more see: [www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/cutural-capital-and-social-exclusion](http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/cutural-capital-and-social-exclusion) or [www.esrcfestival.ac.uk](http://www.esrcfestival.ac.uk).

**Loch Fyne – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charity Dinner – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Based at the Hub, their birthday celebration is also a fundraising opportunity for the charity RNLI. Live music will entertain you throughout the evening, as well as cookery demonstrations from their Head chef Jamie and the team. It is recommended that you book between 7pm and 8pm as the auction will start at approximately 9am, to book contact 01908 546570 or for more information see [www.lochfyne.com](http://www.lochfyne.com)

**Open Meeting for the Voluntary and Community Sector – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am – 1.00pm**

**Acorn House Conference Suite, 351 Midsummer Boulevard** - Milton Keynes Council of Voluntary Organisations (MKCVO) is holding an Open Meeting as part of a programme designed to generate and promote active engagement of the MK Voluntary and Community Sector in the development of targets and work programme for the Local Area Agreement. The event will be an opportunity for the Voluntary and Community Sector to meet with statutory agency partners to discuss how to work in partnership to deliver the future.

For more information contact [may.chung@mkcvo.co.uk](mailto:may.chung@mkcvo.co.uk) or on 01908 661623.

**Sports Relief Mile – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am**

Join in the fun starting at Witan Gate/The Hub:MK piazza area (public square behind the Jurys hotel) the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile. Why not invite your family and friends to cheer you along? Depending on the distance you want to travel it is possible to do 1.09 miles, 3.06 miles and 6 miles long. The day will finish at 5pm, for more information see: <http://www.sportrelief.com/node/315>

**MK 40 Tapestry, Middleton Hall in thecentre:mk - 20<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> April**

See 60 meters of vibrant tapestries by local and regional schoolchildren.

For more information see: [www.thecentremk.com](http://www.thecentremk.com)

**Easter Eggstravaganza in the Theatre District - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

The Theatre District is hosting a Music & Dance Eggstravaganza from 11:30am until 7pm. Local talent will perform through the afternoon including 10 year old Natalie K who has recently won a starring role in the Lion King in London's West End and 14yr old Natalie Chua who was part of Simon Cowell's Angelis group which made Platinum album sales and in 2004 she beat 5,000 other competitors to be the youngest ever winner of an International song writing contest. Other well known local artists will also perform on the day and there may be the opportunity for undiscovered talent to take to the stage in an open mike section. Further details are available through [www.theatre-district.co.uk](http://www.theatre-district.co.uk) and [www.mkvibe.com](http://www.mkvibe.com)

**Milton Keynes Gallery Exhibition - Marcel Broodthaers – continues until 30 March 2008**

Considered one of the most important artists of the C20th, this is the most comprehensive exhibition in the UK since his Tate Gallery retrospective nearly 30 years ago. For more information see [www.mk-g.org/MarcelBroodthaers](http://www.mk-g.org/MarcelBroodthaers). Admission free!

## **OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

**The Hub:MK – The Living Room** is due to open early summer on the corner of Witan Gate and Midsummer Boulevard, and will feature a restaurant and bar area together with an outdoor terrace overlooking the central piazza. DIM T is also due to open soon: For more information on the Hub please see [www.thehubcmk.co.uk](http://www.thehubcmk.co.uk) / [www.thelivingroom.co.uk](http://www.thelivingroom.co.uk) . Businesses are moving in to the offices within the Hub - Davis Langdon, HSBC, Knight Frank, Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Centre is already operational. The Institute of Chartered Accountants will complete their move by the end of March.

### **Thai Modern Restaurant opens on Upper Fourth Street at Witan Court**

The contemporary style restaurant with traditional Thai cuisine recently opened its doors for business. For more information see: [www.thaimodern.co.uk](http://www.thaimodern.co.uk)

### **Apple store opens in Midsummer Place Shopping Centre**

Recently opened between the Schuh and Puma stores, the Apple store is filled with all the latest must have computers, iPods, gadgets and gizmos. For more information see: <http://www.apple.com/uk/retail/miltonkeynes/week/20080302.html>

### **New Sculpture – Theatre District**

A new outdoor sculpture has arrived in the Theatre District on the site previously occupied by the big wheel. ATOL – otherwise known as 'A Tree Of Life', was designed by Phillip Pauley, a local artist and businessman. The artist is currently offering the sculpture for sale to help raise funds for his next public art project and forthcoming exhibition, for more details [info@pauleylandscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@pauleylandscapes.co.uk) / [www.theatre-district.co.uk](http://www.theatre-district.co.uk).

### **Discover Milton Keynes**

Opening in a shop unit at 672 Silbury Boulevard (on the outside of the Shopping Building by Burger King), this project is led by the Milton Keynes Heritage Association (MKHA) and supported by a number of partners including Milton Keynes Council, the CMK Partnership, thecentre:mk and Living Archive. It will showcase what makes Milton Keynes special – both to its citizens, and as a hugely expanding international centre planned to reach a population of 350,000 by 2031. Due to open in May with an exciting programme of events and exhibits – more information is available at: [www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk](http://www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk)

### **Getting Home Safely – Taxi Guideline**

To travel home safely you should either pre-book a private hire vehicle (minicab) from one of the licensed Milton Keynes private hire operators or use a licensed black taxi cab (Hackney Carriage) that can be flagged down. Do not accept an offer from a private hire vehicle if you have not pre booked it – you will be uninsured to travel and the driver can be heavily fined as recently discovered by a Milton Keynes taxi driver. Private hire mini cabs display a blue license plate on the rear of vehicle while black cabs will have a white hackney carriage license plate.

### **Buses**

MORE and more people are taking to the buses to get out and about in Milton Keynes as passengers numbers are going up by 100,000 journeys a month, figures show the number of journeys made in Milton Keynes rose from 7.2m in 2006 to more than 9m in 2007 – up 26% and easily outstripping the UK average of 4% growth over the same period.

## **ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES**

### **Sports Relief Mile - Road Changes:**

The following roads closures and some parking bays will be temporarily closed from 18.00 hours on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March until 21.00 hours on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.

The parking areas that are affected are as follows:

- ◆ All bays on the south side of Midsummer Boulevard from the Witan Gate junction to Saxon Gate, in front of Jury's Inn, Midsummer Court, English Partnership offices and Exchange House.
- ◆ All bays on either side of Witan Gate between Silbury Boulevard and Midsummer Boulevard in front of Witan Court and Sovereign Court
- ◆ All bays on the North side of Midsummer Boulevard in front of Solstice House (251 -299 Midsummer Boulevard) and in front of Genesis House (301 – 349 Midsummer Boulevard) between Upper Fourth Street and Upper Fifth Street
- ◆ All bays on the South side of Silbury Boulevard in front of Silbury House ( 252 – 300 Silbury Boulevard) and in front of Medina House (302 – 340 Silbury Boulevard) between Upper Fourth Street and Upper Fifth Street

- ◆ All the parking bays on the west side of Witan Gate between Midsummer Boulevard and Avebury Boulevard in front of Witan Gate House and on the north side of Avebury Boulevard between Lower Fourth Street and Witan Gate to be converted from standard parking to temporary disabled parking facilities for the event.

### **Grafton Gate Closure – Redway closure**

The redway running along Grafton Gate / Avebury Boulevard at the end of the proposed West End development scheme will be closed due to the installation of services for the development. Please use the redway on the opposite side of the road near Toys R Us and Argos. The closure will be from 03<sup>rd</sup> March until July 2008.

### **Lower Third Street and Grafton Park Closure**

Closed from 07<sup>th</sup> May 2007 reopening 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 due to the Pinnacle Office development works.

### **Parking Changes:-**

#### **Temporary Car Parking Availability:**

Location: Behind Witan Gate House facing Midsummer Boulevard 300 stand rate spaces and 30 premium rate spaces

Location: South Fourth Street at the junction of Avebury Boulevard / Grafton Gate - 297 standard rate spaces

Location: Opposite the National Hockey Stadium, off Elder Gate - 140 car parking spaces

### **New Parking Change Manager now in post:**

Milton Keynes Council and MKP have appointed Sara Bailey as officer to manage changes to parking in CMK as a result of development. A key part of this new role will be to develop a strategy to deliver multi-storey car parks that form part of the approved CMK Development Framework. If you have a query or comment to make concerning changes to parking in CMK, in particular regarding issues you feel will arise as a direct result of the development, you can e-mail [cmkparkingchange@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:cmkparkingchange@milton-keynes.gov.uk). For general parking queries, e.g. permits, penalty charge notices etc, you should e-mail [mkparking@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mkparking@milton-keynes.gov.uk) or visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking)

### **Milton Keynes Central Station**

Work on the new platform is now well underway, over the Easter weekend the new footbridge is scheduled to be lifted into place. Temporary parking for the station can be found opposite the National Hockey Stadium, off Elder Gate providing approximately 140 car parking spaces. Full completion of the works is anticipated in December 2008.

**Easter Disruption:** Coaches will ferry passengers between Northampton and Birmingham International on Good Friday, 21 March. From Saturday to Easter Monday no Virgin or London Midland trains will run from London to Milton Keynes, Northampton, Coventry or Birmingham for **further information please contact Network Rail Helpline on 08457 11 41 41.**

### **West End – Scenery change to H6**

A work programme underway by Milton Keynes Partnership saw 50 London Plane trees removed from the currently disused site where outline planning permission has been granted for the new West End development. Of these, 10 trees were relocated to the Northfield roundabout, whilst the remainder will be kept in a safe haven until sites have been identified for them to be replanted within Milton Keynes or its surrounds. The remaining shrubs and vegetation, together with a number of diseased horse chestnut trees, will be removed from the site and all of the work will be completed before the start of the bird nesting season.

### **DEVELOPMENTS:**

**Milton Keynes Partnership Website** - [www.miltonkeynespartnership.info](http://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.

### **Wyevale Garden Centre Demolition**

Following the requisition of the Wyevale Garden Centre site on Secklow Gate and Avebury Boulevard, barriers have now been erected in preparation for the demolition in mid-March 2008. For more information Ryan Paris at Lambert Smith Hampton 01908 604630 or Denise Wright at English Partnerships on 01908 353790.

### **John Lewis to become Chief Executive of MKP**

Milton Keynes Partnership has announced the appointment of John Lewis as its Chief Executive with effect from April 2008 following the early retirement of Jane Hamilton as Chief Operating Officer. Having worked in the city for the past 10 years and with an extensive background in the regeneration and development industry

John is well placed to manage the complex challenges associated with the growth of Milton Keynes. For more information see: [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/media\\_centre/press\\_releases.php?ID=92](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/media_centre/press_releases.php?ID=92)

### **Campbell Park – Phase 1 Residential**

Developer George Wimpey are now on-site with the development underway and a new sales Office open between 10am and 5:30pm. 12 one and two bedroom apartments are already on the property market. The development includes: 280 apartments, town houses (including 30% affordable housing) and a small amount of retail space. Commercial and leisure uses – commercial / small business space to include professional services, offices, food and drink, local shopping and Community facilities. For more information see: <http://www.georgewimpey.co.uk/newhomes/North+Thames/CampbellSquare/MapAndDirections/> [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=8](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=8)

### **Pinnacle – Central Milton Keynes – (Midsummer Boulevard Office Development)**

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. For more information see: [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=39](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=39)

### **Sainsbury's Store and Residential –**

A three bedroom apartment showroom situated in the residential block opened in December 2007. 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, with 30 of the 60 apartments released for sale now being sold. For more info visit [www.barratthomes.co.uk/](http://www.barratthomes.co.uk/) [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=4](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=4)

### **West End CMK Development:**

**West End One – Residential:** Places for People planning application to Milton Keynes Council was made in January 2008 they are one of the UK's largest property management and development groups – and will develop for first phase of the development. The area between Midsummer Boulevard 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. For more information see: [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=7](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=7)

**Xscape Expansion –** Full plans of the proposals can be seen at the Xscape Development Information Site which will include more specialty retail units, café's and restaurants, and a 120 bed 4 star Hotel. The outline application has been made to Milton Keynes Council the decision is scheduled for the end of March 2008. Once agreed work would be expected to start on site in 2009 with completion due in stages from 2010 to 2011. For further information regarding the application please see: <http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/development-control/documents/weeklylist29%5F10%5F07%2Epdf> page 4 of the document.

**Leisure Plaza –** Milton Keynes Council have approved the application by Abbeygate Developments for the redevelopment which will incorporate the refurbishment of the existing ice facility, new retail and leisure uses near the train station, between Elder Gate and Grafton Gate and Avebury Boulevard and Childs Way. For more information see: <http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/development>.

### **Infrastructure projects in Milton Keynes include:**

- ◆ **Improvements to Junction 14 of the M1** – are underway and are expected to continue until the end Summer 2008.
- ◆ **Abbey Hill Junction Improvements** – Work began in August 2007 on improvements to the A5-H3 Abbey Hill junction this is still ongoing. 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:**

- ◆ CMK Public Transport Improvements [http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=11](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=11) and: <http://www.englishpartnerships.com/page.aspx?pointerid=7301EBA7B16E4FEBBDF12300B88F6926>

- ◆ Combined Heat and Power Plant  
[http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP\\_Projects/project\\_detail.php?Key=10](http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/MKP_Projects/project_detail.php?Key=10)

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Milton Keynes Council**

**Housing Related Floating Support Strategy Review** consultation began on 04<sup>th</sup> February 2008 with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008 for further information contact [supporting.people@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:supporting.people@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

**Heritage Strategy** Public consultation began on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008 with a closing date of 09<sup>th</sup> May 2008, although regarded as a new town, Milton Keynes has lots of Heritage they would like to preserve, and new ideas which will give them a more cultural future. They would like to know what **YOUR** priorities would be out of all the project ideas, for further information please see: [heritage@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@milton-keynes.gov.uk) / <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=56007>

**Milton Keynes Arts Strategy** consultation began on 18<sup>th</sup> February with a closing date of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The Arts Strategy has been drafted by Milton Keynes Council, outlining their commitment to the arts for the next 5 years. The document has been written by the arts team with input, support and response from the arts community. The strategy is available here for download: <http://www.culturemk.org/arts-strategy.htm>

### **Local Events Listing**

If you would like a copy of our Events Calendar which lists local community events e-mail [carmel.blyth@cmkpartnership.org](mailto:carmel.blyth@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 Carmel for anyone interested in receiving a copy.

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