

Welcome to the first e-newsletter of the year.

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2010 ROUND UP**MARCH****Network Rail began work on their new National Centre**

Network Rail take over the former Hockey Stadium site developing a new National Centre for over 3,000 Network Rail staff.

Milton Keynes Awarded 'Plugged in Places' as only one of three place in the UK

Milton Keynes Council and Renault-Nissan Alliance sign an agreement to roll-out electric vehicles and infrastructure in the borough. Over 250 charging points will be placed across the city, the first points were installed by the food centre before Christmas. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council - Electric Vehicle Charging Points](#)

MAY**Cec Tallack becomes Leader of Milton Keynes Council**

Councillor Cec Tallack became leader of the Liberal Democrats and Milton Keynes Council taking over from Sam Crooks.

New Coalition Government came into power

The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed the first full coalition government in Britain since 1945, with David Cameron serving as the country's 52nd prime minister and Nick Clegg becoming his deputy.

JUNE**Destination Dining – opens at thecentre:mk**

Late June saw the redevelopment of Queens Court to Destination Dining with Carluccios', Nando's, Café Rouge and Yo Sushi opening from 8am to 11pm daily. For more information see: [thecentre:mk – Destination Dining](#)

JULY**New City Brand Launched**

Launched in July, the city brand works to promote Milton Keynes in a consistent and positive light. A dedicated website www.amazing-mk.co.uk enables organisations to log on and use the brand and spread the word about Milton Keynes.

IF: International Festival

The festival ran from the 16 to 25 July, it was the first of it's kind and a great success with 115 performers and 45 exhibition/experience days, the 10 day event reached some 90,800 people with £992k cash raised in funding and sponsorship and £226k worth of goods and service raised in-kind. Over 2,500 volunteers hours enabled the event.

OCTOBER

Buszy Opens at the Old Bus Station

The old nightclub space over the former bus station in Central Milton Keynes began its transformation into a youth hub complete with dance studio and café space all possible due to the half million grant from SIT Trust and V, the youth volunteering charity to Make a Difference (MaD).

New Centre Director at thecentre:mk

Robert Hall became Centre Director at thecentre:mk with Robert Goodman moving onto a new post at One New Change Shopping Centre near the centre of London.

NOVEMBER

MK Theatre - New General Manager

Andrew Lister became the new General Manager of MK Theatre in November when Elizabeth Adlington moved to take up the post at Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury.

Destination Milton Keynes Launch iPhone Application

DMK and digital partner 4fx design and Multimedia Ltd launched a new free tourism and visitor information iPhone application for the city called Amazing MK. The application allows you to save your searches and locate venues from where you are standing.

Local Enterprise Partnership

South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) including Milton Keynes at its centre was approved by Government is now the fifth largest in the Country.

DECEMBER

Coachway J14 Opens

The site has been redeveloped with a new building consisting of a heated waiting area for approximately 100 people and customer information screens. Other facilities include a café, convenience shop and ticket office for the National Express Group, public and disabled toilets with baby changing facilities and a taxi service. The site has 24hour manned security with CCTV coverage of parking areas. Park and Ride is also run from the coachway into the city centre on a regular service. Parking is free and a return bus journey to the city centre costs £2.00 per adult.

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MKCCM CITY CENTRE OPERATIONS UPDATE

Extreme Weather & Gritting Schedule

Throughout the recent snow and icy conditions the Councils environment team have been working through the nights to grit the roads in the city centre, with MKC operatives being seconded to handling everything that all the snow and ice brings with it!. This year 3,200 tonnes of salt has been used with a total of 42 gritting operations to date. From Friday 17 December to Christmas day over 2,000 miles were covered by the team and over 1,000 tonnes of salt distributed. Daily weather and gritting report to members based on information from the council team will continue to be distributed, should anyone wish to receive this please email kay.greenhalgh@mkccm.org

CMK Street Cleansing Resources

MKC have carried out a review of the street cleansing programme in CMK and are trialling changes and enhancements in February and March. If you have any feedback on this good and bad to assist with the evaluation in April please comment to kay.greenhalgh@mkccm.org

Sign up to MKC for alerts on green bin, refuse and recycling collections

You can receive free message alerts via email and text direct to your mobile phone about green bin, refuse and recycling collections from Milton Keynes Council. To receive free text messages go to <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recyclingsignup/>

For those interested Milton Keynes Council have a log of highway minor maintenance works that have been identified, it is borough wide and available on-line for more information see: [Milton Keynes Council - Highway Minor Maintenance Works](#) . If you have any faults to report please do so via the Council's online reporting system: [Milton Keynes Council Problem Reporting](#)

After8 Festive Hut

Following last years success the, After8 Group, working with SaferMK, NHS Direct, Thames Valley Police and St John's Ambulance set up a unit on Xscape to provide festive revellers with directions, warmth, first aid and water. The service operated every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings out of the mobile St John's Ambulance Unit from 11pm to 4am with the help of volunteers. In total over 600 people were engaged with by the 'Elf Service.

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CONSULTATIONS

Housing in Multiple Occupancy

On 29 December Milton Keynes Council put into effect an Article 4. It removed permitted development rights for a change of use from a dwelling house to a house of multiple occupancy. The direction does not apply to the wards of Hanslope Park, Olney, Sherington and Danesborough. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or contact Graham Talbot on 01908 253886. Consultation began on 30 December closing date is 24 March 2011.

MK Council Budget Consultation 2010/11

The Council would like to consult residents, partners and businesses about the budget for the coming financial year 2011/12. Your views are needed to inform the decisions that the full Council will make in February 2011. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email budget@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 23 December closing date is 4 February 2011.

Local Standards Consultation

Milton Keynes Council are currently consulting a wide range of tenants and other stakeholders about the standards they expect in areas such as anti-social behaviour, repairs and maintenance and tenant involvement. By April 2011 they will have finalised a range of standards in consultation with residents. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council](#) or contact Simon Aslett on 01908 679250 or email your comments to get.involved@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 15 November and concludes on 15 February 2011.

Consultation on a draft 'A World Class Transport Vision & Strategy for Milton Keynes'

The Transport Vision and Strategy covers the entire borough including the city, older towns and rural areas. It looks across the period from 2011 - 2031 and beyond. The Transport Vision and Strategy will form key components of the Council's next and 3rd Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The LTP3 is a statutory document that the council has to submit by April 2011. The document sets out a strategy that will enable the transport vision to be realised over the next 20 years or so. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email transport.strategy@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 12 November and concludes on 4 February 2011.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2011 Events Calendar gives details of events being held in and around Milton Keynes. If you would like to include your event please email me at carmel.blyth@mkccm.org.

thecentre:mk - Middleton Hall (near John Lewis)

Motorshow – 14-17 January - see all the latest models for 2011 at your leisure all under one roof.

Oceans Home & Garden – 17-30 January – see the new range of indoor products including solid oak and walnut furniture, luxury leather sofas and contemporary pieces, all at an affordable price.

For more information see: [thecentre:mk](#)

Milton Keynes Gallery

Gerard Byrne's - a Case Study: Loch Ness, 2001-2011: 14 January – 3 April 2011

This exhibition will be Gerard Byrne's first major solo show in a UK public gallery. It presents the culmination of ten years of research around the Loch Ness Monster, the myth fuelled in the 1930s by the popular press in order to sell newspapers. Including photography, film, text, sound and archival material.

Project Space Exhibition (building opposite the Gallery) - Inter-Action MK: Opening Doors - from hurt to hope - 6 - 30 January 2011

Opening Doors - from hurt to hope is an art project organised by Inter-Action MK aimed at raising awareness about Domestic Abuse. A group of teenage girls working with the MK Youth Offending Team have created the doors that reflect their thoughts and responses during a series of workshops looking at what makes a healthy Relationship.

Regular Events: These include diverse, experimental Thursday evening [Scratch Nights](#), the [Saturday Art Trolley](#) and [Live Guides](#).

For more information see: [Milton Keynes Gallery](#) opening times for the Gallery: Tuesday – Friday 12pm till 8pm, Saturday 11am-8pm, Sunday 11am-5pm, closed Mondays.

Milton Keynes City Orchestra

The High Sheriff's Concert – 20 January 2010 at 7.30pm

The performance will take place at Milton Keynes Theatre with conductor Hilary Davan Wetton and soloist Simone Porter. For more information see: www.mkco.org or contact the MKCO Box Office on 01908 558311.

Parks Trust January Programme

For more information on what events are on in the park visit: www.theparkstrust.com

FRINGEMK

Visit the exhibitions at Project Space no 1, Midsummer Place For more information see: FringeMK

Milton Keynes Theatre. To find out more or book tickets call Milton Keynes Theatre Box Office on **0844 871 7652** or visit www.ambassadotickets.com/miltonkeynes (booking fee applies)

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OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Midsummer Place

The Christmas gift wrapping service in Midsummer Place raised £7000 for charity Advantage Africa in just three weeks. Throughout December, shoppers to the centre could donate money to have their Christmas presents wrapped by volunteers in the shopping centre, to raise vital funds for people affected by poverty, disability and AIDS in Africa.

Invest Milton Keynes (IMK)

Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) reports 102 investment successes to the end of December, overhauling last year's record figure of 98 with three months still to go! Cumulative job totals for the year so far are 1693 safeguarded and 773 new. The safeguarded jobs figure is the city's best since December 2008. Enquiry levels remain healthy too, almost 6% ahead of this time last year. For more information see: www.investmiltonkeynes.com

Thames Valley Police

Please continue to ensure all valuable property is out of sight in your vehicle. For more information see: Thames Valley Police

Digital Switch Over

On 30 March 2011, the switchover will begin in the Milton Keynes area for viewers receiving TV signals from the Sandy Heath transmitters, with viewers getting their signal from the Oxford transmitter switching over on the 14 September. To find out when you are likely to switch you can enter your postcode on Digital UK's website digitaluk.co.uk or phone 0845 505050. A digital road show will be run on the 21 January at Kingston Shopping Centre and 22 January in Central Milton Keynes, we'll keep you posted on the exact location.

Census 2011

The 2011 Census is coming, on 27 March 2011. The population is always changing, but nowhere more rapidly than in Milton Keynes. Every 10 years, a census collects, and then shares facts about society's make-up to many different kinds of data user including local authorities, businesses, charitable organisations, health authorities, and family-tree explorers. In times of austerity, careful service and business planning will be essential. And no community will wish to miss out on its fair share of a shrinking public funding pot. That's why it's so important that everyone completes the census in March. Want to spread the word to your staff and others? All the information is at www.census.gov.uk

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ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES

Changes to CMK Parking – for implementation on 31 January 2011

- Extend premium rate parking by 981 spaces
- Extend standard rate parking by 3872 spaces (into free areas on North and South Row)
- Allow use of CMK resident parking permits on North and South Row
- **Retain standard rate tariff at 30 pence per hour**

● **Retain CMK employee concessionary discount at 50% of standard tariff (equates to £1.20 per day to park)**

- Allow CMK Resident Parking Permit holders to park in standard rate parking spaces on North and South Row free of charge
- Introduce 'Green' parking permit for low emission vehicles at a cost of £75 per annum. Permit valid in standard rate bays only. Available to vehicles that emit less than 120g CO2 emissions per km driven
- Abolish free weekend parking in blocks C1 and C4 (C1 defined as area between Witan gate, Saxon Gate, North Row and Silbury Boulevard, C4 defined as area between Witan Gate, Saxon Gate, South Row and Avebury Boulevard) To revert to weekday parking charges.
- Increase cost of Hotel and Conference scratch-card to £5 per day
- Increase cost of long stay parking to £8 per day (in line with private rail parking operator). Retain 50% discount available to Milton Keynes residents when purchasing annual commuter parking permit.

During January the signing and lining of the new scheme will be undertaken in readiness for 31 January.

TAXISHAREUK

Commuters in Milton Keynes are the first, nationally, to benefit from a new scheme that matches commuters with others making similar regular journeys. Examples of potential savings are on the website and savings of £40 per week are not unusual. As part of the launch £30 TAXISHAREUK registration vouchers are being given away. For more information and to obtain your voucher code visit: www.taxishareuk.com Road shows will be taking place across Milton Keynes over the coming months but why wait? Register and start saving today!

CARSHAREMK

Parking problems? Why not join CARSHAREMK. During January new members can obtain three months free membership. Just quote "**MKCCM15 for 12**" and you'll receive fifteen months membership for the price of twelve. Remember car sharing members' park for '**free**' in CMK and gain access to car share only bays as well as all the standard rate bays. This provides CARSHAREMK members with access to more parking bays than anybody else. Each month the current members of CARSHAREMK save a whole tanker load of fuel. In monetary terms this equates to approx £24,000 and remember this is every month. If you'd like to save a few litres of energy (not to mention the money)! Register at www.transportmk.com

Pay by Phone Parking is available across CMK on all red premium and blue long stay bays. To register - call 01908 918918 or go to www.verrus.com. Once you have registered you can either pay by calling 01908 918918 or by sending a text to 65565 [Milton Keynes Council - Transport](http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/transport). Charges for the service when parking in one of the premium bays are an additional 10p when you park for up to 90 minutes, over 90 minutes the charge is 20p. Long stay bays incur a 20p charge. Any text receipts or confirmations are charged at 10p per text should you want them.

Arriva

Get four weeks unlimited bus travel for less than £1.30 per day when you buy a 4-weekly ticket on line for just £36.00 or on the bus for £40. For more information see: www.arrivabus.co.uk.

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DEVELOPMENTS

Our four Development Information Sites located at thecentre:mk, Midsummer Place, Xscape and CMK Railway Station, display up to date information on the proposed and current developments in CMK. They contain details and illustrations of all the developments listed below and more. This information is also available on our website at: [MKCCM: City Centre Development Information Sites](http://www.mkccm.co.uk/city-centre-development-information-sites)

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If there is information that you would like to hear about that we currently do not cover either in our e-Newsletter, Website or on the Development Information Sites, please advise me. Also, if you see anything operational within CMK that you feel needs addressing let us know and our City Centre Manager and Operations Group can look into it. For more information on our Operations Group and Centre Management role please see: www.mkccm.co.uk.

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 me for anyone interested in receiving a copy.

Carmel Blyth

Communications Officer

Milton Keynes City Centre Management -MKCCM

carmel.blyth@mkccm.org

Direct Line: 01908 398124