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**MKCCM CITY CENTRE OPERATIONS UPDATE****Community Payback**

The Central Neighbourhood Management Team (CNMT) has been working with MKCCM and the Thames Valley Probation to arrange for 'Community Payback' (a team of up to 10 low risk offenders carrying out community service under supervision) to begin a programme of improvement works in Central Milton Keynes every Monday for the next 12 months. Starting on 18 July 2011 the team began working on painting railings, cleansing signage and cutting back vegetation in the city centre starting on Avebury Boulevard at the Marlborough Gate end.

**CMK Tree Management**

The 77 Robinia trees that border Santander House on Grafton Gate, Midsummer Boulevard, Silbury Boulevard and Upper Second Street have recently had all dead branches removed as well as any that were posing a threat to the building, parked vehicles or the pedestrian walkways. These works were completed following an audit and risk assessment including damage already caused in the area due to fallen branches. It has been necessary to suspend some parking bays during the works in order to avoid damage to vehicles, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

**Highways Works**

Over 50 highways & 6 landscape repair enquiries have been reported and logged on the council system since May 2011. A number of these have been dealt with, with the rest planned to be completed. 7 highways major works jobs have been completed in June on Grafton Gate, Elder Gate north of Midsummer Boulevard near Santander House, 251 Midsummer Boulevard near Solstice House, Genesis House and Lower 12th Street. The highways team will be in Campbell Park from Monday 1 August for 20 days to carry out repairing works to damaged roads.

**Landscape Enhancements**

Bedding plants have been planted as a temporary measure at the Silbury Boulevard/Saxon Gate underpass quadrant including petunia, marigold, spider plants and morning glory. The permanent planting of replacement trees and shrubs will be carried out in October when the weather conditions are more suitable with similar enhancement clearance and in-fill planting being carried out at the Midsummer Boulevard/Saxon gate underpass at the same time. Details of the planting schemes will be available next month and can be requested via MKCCM.

**Street Nameplate Replacements**

Following a full survey earlier this year over 40 missing or damaged CMK name plates have been replaced. A number of name plates were identified as faded, with the plate structure in good condition, adhesive printed labels have been fitted successfully thereby reducing costs. Further replacement and upgrades will be carried out.

**Lower 10th Street (between Midsummer Place and the Point)**

Following concerns raised by Midsummer Place management the bus shelters have had glass repairs carried out as required and been thoroughly cleaned. Midsummer Place has also installed two new cigarette butt bins to reduce the amount of smoking related litter.

**Audits**

The CNMT have been undertaking a full audit of the CMK public realm infrastructure over the past month reporting and logging all maintenance works required to enable a programme of repairs to be produced, prioritised and planned in line with resources.

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](#)

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## **CONSULTATIONS & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal of Reasonable Alternative Sites**

The Milton Keynes Core Strategy sets out the vision for the Borough to the year 2026. In light of the recent judgement in a High Court case relating to Forest Heath's Core Strategy, further consultation is being carried out on the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal of Reasonable Alternative Sites, to provide certainty that the process is legally compliant. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email [development.plans@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:development.plans@milton-keynes.gov.uk). Consultation began on 15 June closing date is 27 July 2011.

### **Broadband Consultation**

Milton Keynes Council invite you to participate in an on-line survey to assess broadband issues, extent of coverage, demand and willingness to get fast connections. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council](#) or contact 01908 252147 or email [MyLocalBroadband@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:MyLocalBroadband@milton-keynes.gov.uk). Consultation began on 30 June closing date is 30 September.

### **CMK Parking Scheme Changes**

MK Council are proposing modifications to the CMK Parking Scheme. Statutory Consultation has now been brought forward to start on 4th August with implementation hoped for 19 September, when further details are available we will notify you....

### **MKCCM Stakeholder Forums**

Our seventh Stakeholder Forum took place on the 12 July and looked at CMK as a Business Neighbourhood Front Runner and over 30 stakeholders attended to discuss how this could work in CMK. A full report is being produced and distributed, should you wish to receive a copy or attend future forums please email us. We are also interested in hearing your suggestions for areas of focus for future forums. The next will be held on Wednesday October 19 at 5:30pm.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The **MKCCM 2011 Events Calendar** gives details of events being held in and around Milton Keynes and is shared with Destination MK and other partners. If you would like to include your event please email [carmel.blyth@mkccm.org](mailto:carmel.blyth@mkccm.org). We are also identifying events for 2012, so if you have confirmed or have provisional dates please let me know.

### **thecentre:mk**

**Summer Beach – 25 July – 31 August** – Middleton Hall is being transformed with a real sand beach and seaside family fun games. Enjoy relaxing seaside entertainment, sports and challenges, play crazy golf, have fun on the carousel and helter skelter, climb palm trees and visit the RNLI lifeboat display. Every Wednesday throughout the day, the little ones can watch traditional Punch and Judy shows. The popular children's Discos are back every Friday night too! For more information see: [thecentre:mk](#)

### **Midsummer Place**

**Young Fashion Designer of the Year Awards 2011** - A showcase displaying photographs from the awards night will go up in Midsummer at the end of the month. On Tuesday 14 June, Midsummer Place drew in a crowd of over 600 people with 58 students showcasing their designs on the night; the awards were created to celebrate the young talent of Milton Keynes. The Awards will be returning in 2012, which plan to be bigger and better. For more 'What's On' in Midsummer Place see: [Midsummer Place](#)

### **Xscape**

**Xscape Island - 23 July - 14 August** - This Summer, join the Xscape team of castaways on the real sand beach, complete with Message in a Bottle game where you can win prizes, the SNO!zone raft build challenge, and much more besides. All the details coming soon see - [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)...

**MKFM - Broadcasting live from Xscape, MKFM are on a mission to bring local radio back to Milton Keynes.** MKFM is on air on 107FM during July - let them know what you think and join their campaign to make MKFM permanently available on FM. Feedback should go to MKFM at [MKFM.com](http://MKFM.com)

### **Theatre District**

For information on venues see: [Theatre District](#)

**MK Gallery – Midsummer Place** (opposite John Lewis, next to the Theatre)  
**New Art MK: Eight Artists from Milton Keynes (Exhibition 8 July – 18 Sept 2011)**

**Preview:** Thursday 7 July 2011 / 6-10pm / All welcome/ Details [here](#)..

**Exhibition Events: Sat 16 July / 11am-1pm / Free: [Family Friendly Tour](#): [New Art MK](#)**

**Fri 22 July / 5 - 7.30pm / Free / All welcome :** [Family Evening](#).

**Sat 23 July / 1pm / Free / All Welcome :** [Free exhibition tour](#)

**Regular Events:** Thursday evening [Scratch Nights](#), [Friday Night Films](#) selected by the eight featured artists.

**MK Gallery Project Space:** (building opposite the Gallery): **The Artists' Voice: Edith Garcia + Leon School Pupils (8 July – 31 July 2011)** Preview: 7 July/ 6 pm – 7.30pm / All welcome. An exhibition of work by MK school pupils, created with Los Angeles born artist Edith Garcia during her year-long residency at the Leon School and Sports College, Bletchley, details - [HERE](#). 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.

**Calling All Local Charities To The Hub's Charity Bazaar! - 24 July** (Midsummer Boulevard/Witan Gate/Avebury Boulevard)

The Hub Milton Keynes, with the support of new radio station MKFM, will host a Charity Bazaar on Sunday 24 July. Staged in the Central Piazza of the Hub organisers are looking to attract as many local charities as possible to take part in the event. With some of the area's most well-known charities already signed up, the Piazza is set to become alive with colourful stalls representing a diverse range of charities offering retro clothing, toys, furniture, bric-a-brac...and much more! There are plenty more stalls available for other charities to become involved. For further information please contact Jardine Michelson Public Relations 0845 165 1651 /[katie@jardine-michelson.com](mailto:katie@jardine-michelson.com) or [Susie@jardine-michelson.com](mailto:Susie@jardine-michelson.com) or see: [www.the-hubmiltonkeynes.com](http://www.the-hubmiltonkeynes.com)

**Parks Trust July Programme - Campbell Park, Central Milton Keynes**

This summer the Parks Trust is offering two separate plays performed by Illyria for visitors to enjoy.

**Friday 22 July at 7:30pm - Fantastic Mr Fox**

**Friday 5 August at 7:30pm - Shakespeare's Twelfth Night**

Take a picnic, seat and blanket and enjoy the performances set against the stunning backdrop of Campbell Park. Performances will go on whatever the weather so be prepared for rain or shine. Tickets cost £9 per adult, £6 per child or £25 per family of four and must be purchased in advance, as last year's event was a total sell out make sure you don't miss out. Buy tickets on-line at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com), in person at Campbell Park Pavilion or call 01908 233600.

**World Picnic - Sunday 24 July at 1pm till 6pm -** THREE different stages with great performers with stage 2 provided by DiverseMK and some exciting international artists provided thanks to the International Festival, plus body zorbing, learn to drum and bollywood dance, lots of stalls and different food sellers. Enjoy international cuisine, music and dance. Bring a picnic and enjoy this cultural day. For more information and other events visit [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com).

**FRINGEMK@WESTBURY - 20 July** - Grete Dalum Tilds 'The Beach House' opens on the Whitewall in thecentre:mk (near John Lewis). Until 30 July - MK Printmakers Show continues at both the Project Space 1 and Faceboard in Midsummer place, near Pret a Manger and Starbucks. For more information see: [FringeMK@Westbury](#)

**Britain in Bloom**

Judges visited Milton Keynes on Tuesday 06 July, viewing some of the newly launched community projects along with the long standing displays. The judges will return on 11 August for the National Final Judging Day, we'll keep you posted on how Milton Keynes does....

**Sky Ride – 28 August**

A community bike ride that gives you the chance to get out and explore your local area. The route details are yet to be announced, to participate is free so register early to secure your place visit: [www.goskyride.com](http://www.goskyride.com)

**Milton Keynes City Orchestra - 'The President's Concert' - 2 October**

Held at at Milton Keynes Theatre, principal conductor Sian Edwards and soloist Tim Hawes perform the 'The President's Concert'. For more information see: [www.mkco.org](http://www.mkco.org) or contact the MKCO Box Office on 01908 558311.

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## **New Opening:**

### **The Greene Room - Theatre District**

This new style entertainment venue is open on Wednesday nights for comedy shows, Thursday for Burlesque, Friday tributes like Abba, Michael Jackson and Michael Buble; and Saturday night is La Kabaret with the resident dancers, the Dollz. For more information and to make bookings - [www.thegreeneroom.co.uk](http://www.thegreeneroom.co.uk)

### **Theatre District - Red Hot Buffet – new destination**

From the 15 July, Red Hot World Buffet and Bar will be launching a brand new destination in their around-the-world restaurant, with a month long Caribbean Food and Drink Festival - packed with delicious foods, mouth-watering cocktail and a swinging atmosphere with 18 mouth watering authentic Caribbean dishes to their menu. With live music, a sandy beach, palm trees and deckchairs.

### **Milton Keynes Partnership Planning Sub-Committee**

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 July, if you wish to see the agenda and relating papers for the next Milton Keynes Partnership Planning Sub Committee please click on the link below:

[MKP- Planning Sub-Committee](#)

A copy of the agenda and papers are also available to view in the offices of the Homes and Communities Agency

### **MK Forum - Fred Roche Foundation - Public Meeting 28 July, 7.30pm @ MK Gallery**

'FUTURE MILTON KEYNES' - The speakers will pursue themes aimed at rekindling the enthusiasm and passionate belief in Milton Keynes and the great adventure of creating a new city in all its manifestations which was so prevalent in the early days of its creation under Fred's guidance. Speakers: David Lock - CBE Chairman of David Lock Associates Ltd and Malcolm Buchanan - Chair of ATRA EU Chair: Lee Shostak – Founding Director of Shared Intelligence & Chair TCPA. Registration from 7.00 pm, Please phone the gallery on 01908 676900 to reserve your place. For further details of the lecture please go to:- <http://www.fredrochefoundation.org.uk> or contact Neil Higson on [neil.higson@greenartuk.net](mailto:neil.higson@greenartuk.net)

### **thecentre:mk Recognised for Groundbreaking Sustainability Initiatives**

Has been ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the UK as one of The Sunday Times Best Green Companies. thecentre:mk also picked up two awards for Best Small firm with higher environmental impact and outstanding environmental performance.

### **Toys, Games and Childhood Memories – “It's Childs Play”**

From 1 July to 26 August come upstairs in MK Central Library and see the exhibition of artefacts from MK Museum, Holley Cornelius Collection at Bletchley Park and other heritage partners. There is also an artist in residence running children's activities. For more details contact 01908 322568 (Living Archive, Wolverton)

### **Invest Milton Keynes (IMK)**

As of June 30, the city's inward investment agency Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) has recorded 26 inward investment successes for the city for the 2011/12 year. The businesses concerned have created a total of 135 jobs and retained 178 for Milton Keynes. Follow IMK at [www.investmiltonkeynes.com](http://www.investmiltonkeynes.com) and [www.twitter.com/InvestMK](http://www.twitter.com/InvestMK)

### **Thames Valley Police**

During the month of June there were 5 'theft from motor vehicle offences' in CMK and 1 theft of motor vehicle. Do not leave anything in your car and if you have to leave anything inside ensure it is not on show, remove valuables such as sat navs and laptops.

Anti social behaviour – This is a priority for neighbourhood officers and the team are actively dealing with any issues around the city centre. Recently a persistent offender was given a 24 week prison sentence for breaching an anti social behaviour order. For more information see: [Thames Valley Police](#)

### **Arriva Information**

Employer Travel Club – helping employers and their staff save money and make commuting easier by bus. Once the employer is signed up with the club employees can purchase discounted season tickets as well as access to a range of exclusive leisure and travel offers. For more information see: [etc@arrivabus.co.uk](mailto:etc@arrivabus.co.uk) or call 0116 27 95133

### **MKube (Near Zara, outside Midsummer Place/ opposite the Point)**

Opened in May MKube is a dedicated travel information centre in Milton Keynes providing a much needed service to residents and visitors. It provides a one-stop-shop for local travel offering timetable

and ticket information, ideas for days out, getting around the city by bus, information on rail services and much more.

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## **ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES**

CARSHAREMK is re-launching as MKC Car Share on Monday 1 August, when permits will be available to purchase online at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking) or in person from MK Direct located at Civic Offices. Members will not see any significant changes, and will still be entitled to use all 350+ dedicated 'CS' spaces and any standard tariff bay. The cost will remain £30 per applicant per annum which covers the administration of this scheme. A lead applicant will be responsible for making both or multiple payments of £30 (dependent on number of sharers) – and all permits/documentation will be issued to them. However, unlike the previous scheme, members will be issued with a single permit containing up to 4 vehicle registration marks, which must be clearly displayed in the vehicle being used to park for free. Unfortunately, 'gold cards' will not be issued in future as we can no longer offer discounted travel fares on local buses or the retail discount vouchers that members previously enjoyed. The commuter car share permit will also be discontinued, although we are committed to honouring the lifespan of all existing permits. If you have any queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us on (01908) 233963 or email [mkcar.share@nslservices.co.uk](mailto:mkcar.share@nslservices.co.uk).

### **On-line scratch-card and permits**

Employee parking permits and scratch-cards are now available to purchase online. You will need to complete an application form online similar to the existing one (which is currently downloadable but must be posted or handed in to The Parking Shop located at MKD in Civic Offices), and also make an on-line credit/debit card payment. You will not need to provide proof of employment, i.e. wage slip or letter on headed paper confirming you are a CMK employee, although a few more questions regarding your employment will be asked. You will be notified when your permit / scratch cards are available for collection, or alternatively, they may be posted to your home address. To use the on-line facility see: [MKC Milton Keynes Parking Employee Scratch-cards](#)

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

Twenty-two of the first fifty charging points are now charged and ready for use located throughout CMK with the rest to follow in the next few weeks. 150 points in total will be installed in MK over the next three years funded under the Government's Plugged in Places scheme - MK was one of the first three places in the UK to receive this funding. To acquire the card at £50 per year which allows you free parking and electricity apply to become a member of the scheme and acquire an RFID access card visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking)

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## **DEVELOPMENTS**

Our four Milton Keynes Information Stands are located at thecentre:mk, Midsummer Place, Xscape and CMK Railway Station. They display up to date information on the proposed and current developments in CMK including details and illustrations of the developments listed below and more. This information is also available on our website at: [MKCCM: City Centre Development Information Sites](#)

### **Network Rail National Centre**

The build is running to the timetable, glazing will be finished in the next 3 weeks then the internal fit out will start. Employees will start to move in from June through to August 2012. For more information on the scheme see: <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/5939.aspx>

### **Secklow Gate Bridge**

The bridge is now fully operational, works under the bridge in the market area continue for a further week addressing street lighting.

### **Station Approach Re-development**

Improvement works to the highways area to the front of the railway station are due to start in mid August. The scheme will create dedicated areas for taxis, buses, cars and cycles directly outside the station building, which will provide safer access for pedestrians and cyclists and a better first impression for visitors arriving in the city centre, it includes:-

- Enhanced pedestrian access
- New, improved and additional cycle shelters
- Improved landscaping and street furniture
- Dedicated bus stop area with new bus shelters
- Complete resurfacing of carriageways

- New dedicated pick up/drop off area
- Separate facilities for hackney carriage taxis

Milton Keynes Council and MKCCM will be keeping businesses and users informed of progress throughout the improvement works so that any disruption can be kept to a minimum. For more information including plans and FAQ's please see [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/station-square](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/station-square).

### **Casino Update**

Milton Keynes Council as the Licensing Authority has confirmed that it has received five Provisional Statement applications for the Stage 1 – 'Regulatory Test'. Four applicants have been invited to apply under Stage 2 of the process 'Greatest Benefit Test'; which sees very detailed proposals of their 'offer' not only showing structural aspects of the facility but also details of their corporate social responsibility arrangements; safeguarding of vulnerable gamblers and counselling support. A key determining factor will be the extent of the financial gaming profit that will be handed over annually so that Milton Keynes Council can ensure the whole of the Milton Keynes Community can gain from its success. It is anticipated that granting of the licence will take place November/December this year.

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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 Milton Keynes Information Stands, please advise us. 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](http://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**

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