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**MKCCM CITY CENTRE OPERATIONS UPDATE****Landscaping**

Work on Saxon Gate/Midsummer Boulevard and Saxon Gate/Silbury Boulevard underpass junctions is due to begin in the next few weeks. The work will aim to improve colour, groundcover and year round interest.

**CMK Neighbourhood Warden**

The Council's CMK Neighbourhood Warden Rob Harriman has been working in partnership with the Enforcement Officers with an aim to educate and reduce smoking related litter, which carries a £75 fixed penalty notice along with education work.

**Portes Cocheres**

Work is due to start within the next month to enhance night time attractiveness and aid crossing the walkways between the Theatre District and Xscape through installing new lighting to identified ports cocheres on Avebury Boulevard.

**Potholes**

Through January and February, 843 potholes have been repaired in Central Milton Keynes, works are ongoing.

**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](#)

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**CONSULTATIONS****Draft Milton Keynes Economic Development Strategy**

The strategy objective is to maintain, develop and grow economic development activities in Milton Keynes leading to a prosperous economy for Milton Keynes. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email [pam.gosal@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:pam.gosal@milton-keynes.gov.uk). Consultation began on 21 January closing date 11 March 2011.

**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.

**Abandoned Shopping & Luggage Trolley Consultation**

Abandoned trolleys are a common problem around Milton Keynes. The consultation is proposing an annual review to ensure costs are covered for the service delivered by Milton Keynes Council. The proposals include a fee increase from £15 to £22 per unit payable by the trolley owner for its return. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email [safercommunitiesunit@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:safercommunitiesunit@milton-keynes.gov.uk). Consultation began on 21 January closing date is 15 April 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](mailto:carmel.blyth@mkccm.org)

### **thecentre:mk - Middleton Hall (near John Lewis)**

**Craft Fair – 12 – 13 March** – see a wide selection of hand crafted items by selected artists, designers and craftsmen.

**Milton Keynes Food Festival – 18 – 20 March** – see a wide range of exhibitor's offering quality food and drink.

**Milton Keynes Garden Show – 25 – 27 March** – ideas for your garden and outdoor spaces.

**Nintendo 3DS Nationwide Tour 2001** -31 March – 03 April - trial a whole range of 3D games as well as 3D cameras, motion sensors and much more.

For more information see: [thecentre:mk](http://thecentre:mk)

### **Midsummer Place**

Midsummer Place will be taking part in several activities to raise money for Comic Relief on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, for more information see: [Midsummer Place](#)

### **Theatre District - Mascot Olympics**

The date for the 2011 Theatre District Mascot Olympics has been set for Saturday 11 June, organisers are asking local charities to step forward if they would like to be the main beneficiary of the event. Anyone interested in being involved with The Mascot Olympics please contact the organisers direct - [sara.mills@theatre-district.co.uk](mailto:sara.mills@theatre-district.co.uk).

### **Milton Keynes Gallery**

#### **Gerard Byrne's - a Case Study: Loch Ness, 2001-2011: until 3 April 2011**

The exhibition is 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) - for information on new exhibitions see the Gallery website.

**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**

'Chamber Roots' – concert performance will take place on Saturday 19 March 2011 at 7.30pm, Stantonbury Campus Theatre. For more information see: [www.mkco.org](http://www.mkco.org) or contact the MKCO Box Office on 01908 558311.

### **Parks Trust March Programme**

For more information on what events are on in the park visit: [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

### **FRINGEMK – 08 March 2011**

To mark the Centenary of International Women's Day 1911 -2011 - the 'Effective Collective' is a citywide initiative of arts organisations and individuals who are piloting what should be an annual series of events to mark this established, globally celebrated day. The theme for 2011 is 'Decent work for women' and the event will be hosted by thecentre:mk and Midsummer Place which employ upwards of five thousand women in the heart of the city. 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](http://www.ambassadotickets.com/miltonkeynes) (booking fee applies)

## 2011 Midnight Moo

MK Midnight Moo, 16 July 2011, Ladies' 10 Mile Walk come join the herd and register at [www.mkmidnightmoo.com](http://www.mkmidnightmoo.com) or call the Moo Hotline 01908 306698

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

### **Sainsburys Central Milton Keynes**

Fairtrade Fortnight commenced on 28 February and Sainsbury's, Milton Keynes is celebrating the success of Fairtrade. On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** they will be displaying and sampling Fairtrade products and we would like you to join them and get a better understanding of Fairtrade. Please go along to their Café between 12.00 – 14.00.

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

Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) recorded a further ten investment successes (new company arrivals or resident company expansions) for the city in February, including two from the key sector of high-growth, high value, knowledge-based business. This produces a cumulative total of 118 investment successes for the 2010/11 year so far, including 49 (42%) key sector businesses, building upon what is the highest number of annual successes recorded by IMK since it began operations in 2005. February's successes provided 103 safeguarded and 35 new jobs, taking the cumulative totals for the year to 1,880 safeguarded and 1,106 new jobs. The current job figures are the best recorded by IMK for two years. Enquiries received by IMK for commercial land and property were 5% ahead of last February. For more information see: [www.investmiltonkeynes.com](http://www.investmiltonkeynes.com)

### **Thames Valley Police**

Thames Valley Police has started a new Community Engagement Service Point (CESP) at Milton Keynes Central Library, where members of the public can go for information and crime reduction advice. Steve Hatton, a trained police volunteer who has worked with Thames Valley Police for six years, will be on the ground floor of the library between 10:30am and 12:30pm on Saturdays. Please continue to ensure all valuable property is out of sight in your vehicle. For more information see: [Thames Valley Police](#)

**Milton Keynes Interactive Mapping System** - <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mapping/> The Council's interactive mapping system "My Milton Keynes Maps" can be used to: report problems and request services; find the location of facilities within the Borough; and look at local information overlaid on maps.

### **Local Elections**

If you wish make a difference in your community then you have just a few weeks to be nominated to stand as a prospective councillor at the local elections in May. On Thursday 5 May the local elections are due to be held in Milton Keynes. 17 seats on the Borough Council and nearly 200 seats on parish councils are due to be contested. If you wish to play a part in shaping your community then nomination forms can be obtained from the civic offices or downloaded from the website at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections/](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections/) All nomination forms must be returned between Monday, 28 March and noon on Monday 4 April, if you wish to take part in elections to contest one of the Borough wards or one of the parish elections

### **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](http://www.census.gov.uk)

### **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](http://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.

### **Destination Milton Keynes – iPhone Application**

DMK and digital partner 4fx design and Multimedia Ltd has 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 are standing. For more information see: [Amazing-Mk iPhone Application](#)

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### **ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES**

#### **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](http://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**

Owing to staff shortages, CARSHAREMK will be temporarily closing to new applications on 17 March and reopening for business on Tuesday 3 May. New members are welcome for the next couple of weeks, so those of you who wish to bypass the recently introduced car parking charge increases need to get your applications completed and processed as soon as possible – please visit [www.transportmk.com](http://www.transportmk.com) for additional information. For existing members who have April renewals, you will be receiving reminder emails shortly. Please follow the steps contained within that email promptly to ensure your permits are renewed in good time. Unfortunately there will be no telephone or email support during that six week period of downtime

#### **Arriva**

Fuel up, Parking up, VAT up, using the car does not always add up. Try Arriva's online fuel calculator to see how much money you could save by taking the bus into the city centre. You can also see how much CO<sup>2</sup> can be saved, meaning you can do your bit for the environment too. Unlimited daily bus travel in MK costs less than £1.30 per day when you buy a 4 weekly ticket online. Visit [www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk) for more details. Go on, get on board and start saving money. Next time it costs you over £80 to fill your car up, just think you could have had 2 months travel for the same price and had time to read the paper on your journey!

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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](#)

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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](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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