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MKCCM CITY CENTRE OPERATIONS UPDATE**CMK Landscaping**

Landscape improvements are currently underway in CMK. Plans have been drawn up following consultation with partners along with guidance from the Council's landscape architects. Clearance work of the Silbury/Saxon Gate underpass quadrant is nearly complete and wildflower seeding pictorial meadow and border planting is well underway whilst awaiting the appropriate planting season for the larger trees and permanent plants.

The Midsummer/Saxon Gate underpass quadrant will be addressed over the next few weeks with pruning, clearance autumn. This work is being done in order to enhance landscaped areas of the city centre in high footfall areas. Milton Keynes Council aim to provide planting that will open up the space and brighten the area, be low maintenance and offer ground cover all year round.

We will keep you informed of progress as works continue. Should you have any queries or feedback please contact Carmen Kane, Central Neighbourhood Manager, carmen.kane@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Portes Cochere – Avebury Boulevard

Repairs and installation of new lighting to the portes cochere on Avebury Boulevard between the Theatre District and Xscape have now been completed providing a brighter and more attractive crossing especially during the busy evening times.

Britain In Bloom

Due to previous success in achieving the Gold Award at last years regional Britain in Bloom, Milton Keynes have been chosen to represent the region again at this years national competition - Britain in Bloom kicked off in March with a series of planting events around the borough and judges will be coming to visit in August. For more information see: [Britain in Bloom Announce Finalists](#)

Pavement Repairs

Milton Keynes Council have completed the reconstruction of the footway on Avebury Boulevard North between Lower 12th Street and the Theatre, the works involved upgrading the existing 'old' paving slabs and included upgrading the paving in the ramp under the adjacent porte cochere.

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 & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**MKCCM Stakeholder Forum**

Our sixth Stakeholder Forum took place on 06 April focusing on 'Thinking Big' in terms of the future for Milton Keynes. Discussions were led by five panellists, Pete Winkelman (MK Dons), Cheryl Montgomery (MK Resident), Theo Chalmers (Urban Eden), Duncan Phillips (DP Associates and Destination MK) and Clive Faine (Abbeygate Developments). Over 40 people attended and joined in discussions on how to grow and develop the vision for the city in the future. 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 to be held on **Wednesday 12 July 12pm – 2pm**.

Proposed Changes to the Organisation of Special Education Needs

Milton Keynes Council seeks comments on the proposed changes to Special Educational Needs (SEN) departments in secondary schools. The consultation looks at why the council is proposing changes, how this links to the current inclusion strategy and what the next steps for implementing changes would be if they are approved. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email schoolconsultations@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 24 March closing date is 18 May.

Asset Management Strategy

Milton Keynes Council wants to talk to tenants about the future of their housing stock and prepare an Asset Management Strategy to set out how they plan to keep council-owned housing in good condition so that it meets the needs of service-users in the years to come. They want to know from tenants and leaseholders whether the principles they have identified are right as well as identifying tenants experiences and priorities for improvements. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Council](#) or contact Simon Aslett on 01908 679250 or email simon.aslett@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 04 April closing date 06 June 2011.

The Future Management of Milton Keynes Day Nurseries

Milton Keynes Council manages and fund eight day nurseries providing 295 childcare places offering fully day care integrated with early years education for children aged 3 months to 5 years. They are seeking your views to help to find the best way forward based on the proposals. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or email growchildcare@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 06 April closing date is 08 July 2011.

Draft Cemetery Land Use Strategy

The development of this strategy is driven by requests and queries being received from various organisations concerning cemetery provision and the need to define the Councils position to enable forward planning of the necessary infrastructure to cope with the growth of Milton Keynes. For more information see [Milton Keynes Council](#) or contact Angela Abbott on 01908 568112 or email crownhill@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Consultation began on 12 April closing date is 28 June 2011.

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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. We are also starting to identify events for 2012, so if you have confirmed or even provisional dates please let me know.

thecentre:mk - Queen's Court

Great Taste Market – 13 – 15 May – see a wide selection of stand and delicious produce
For more information see: thecentre:mk

Midsummer Place

For What's On in Midsummer Place see: [Midsummer Place](#)

Xscape – 30 May through half term

Stranded at the Drive In – Xscape with Milton Keynes Theatre will be showing similar style movies to the show 'Grease' in a mock up drive in, inside Xscape. For more information see: [XSCAPE](#)

Theatre District Mascot Olympics - Saturday 11 June

Each year these larger than life characters travel from football clubs as far away as Cardiff, Hull and even Hartlepool to take part and are joined by many local mascots including MK Dons Mooie and Donny, 360 Plays Twizzle and Twirl and past winner Gully Mouse from Gullivers Land. Throughout the day they battle to be the best at the six challenges set with the ultimate goal of being crowned Olympic Champion. If you would like to be involved please contact sara.mills@theatre-district.co.uk. For more information see: [Theatre District](#) also take part in the new 'Find the treasure' game see: <http://www.theatre-district-competition.co.uk/Game.aspx>

Milton Keynes Gallery

Gareth Jones Exhibition - until 26 June 2011

British artist Gareth Jones (born 1965) presents his first major solo exhibition in a public gallery. Describing it as a 'retrospective of new work', Jones returns to earlier projects and filters them through his experience of growing up in Milton Keynes, exploring the social and cultural landscape of Milton Keynes in the 1970s.

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](#).

May Half Term - 31 May - 2 June / 10am - 12noon / Free - Go along and try your hand at a range of creative activities throughout the gallery.

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 Mayor of Milton Keynes' Charity Concert'

Sunday 15 May 2011, 7.30pm at Milton Keynes Theatre - the Mayor's charity concert features Grieg's Piano Concerto played by Yamaha soloist Noriko Ogawa, Pärt's stirring Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten, the Overture from Rossini's The Barber of Seville and Beethoven's epic Symphony no. 5. For more information see: www.mkco.org or contact the MKCO Box Office on 01908 558311.

Parks Trust May Programme

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

FRINGEMK

Artist Angela Ho has been working live in Midsummer place on 'Project Space 1' creating giant sized pencil drawings - these will be on show, alongside the photography of Andra Alexander in Midsummer Place **until the first week of June**. For more information see: [FringeMK](#) .

News: Westbury Farm Studios and FRINGEMK are merging this month to form a new solo organisation called FRINGEMK@Westbury, which is a very exciting consolidation for the city - more information to follow.

Discover Milton Keynes – now located in the central library

'Our Sporting Life Milton Keynes' exhibition - 6 May to 30 June 2011

The exhibition highlights some of our sporting heroes, both local and national and our venues past and present. This is the first phase of a programme of sporting network heritage events and activities. Phase 2 includes a series of workshops collecting stories, discovering some of the sporting memorabilia held by local people along with a touring exhibition and sporting events and activities which will be held at four local venues during 2011. For further details and updates to the programme keep checking the website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage

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)

Race for Life – Saturday 11 June – Milton Keynes National Bowl

Race for Life is Cancer Research UK's flagship event, with 300 events taking place across the UK. The National Bowl is the setting for thousands of women to walk, jog or run on Saturday with the 10k starting at 9:30am followed by the 5k at 11am; entrance costs £14.99 per person. To book your place see: <http://www.raceforlife.org/default.aspx> or call 0871 641 1111. The lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 8.30pm and Saturday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm.

2011 Midnight Moo

MK Midnight Moo, 16 July 2011, Ladies' 10 Mile Walk join the herd and register at www.mkmidnightmoo.com or call the Moo Hotline 01908 306698

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OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

New Openings:

Tea Monkey – opened recently at Midsummer Place beside the oak tree. It is the first of the new specialist tea cafés that will open across the UK offering something different, along with their own special coffee blends and food. For more information see: [Midsummer Place](#)

Arriva invests in information - MKube (Near Zara, outside Midsummer Place/ opposite the Point)

Arriva will open its new, dedicated information centre in the heart of Milton Keynes - the MKube will be the only dedicated travel information centre in Milton Keynes providing a much needed service to residents and visitors. The glass cube situated between the two shopping centres on Midsummer Boulevard opposite the Point, officially opens on Friday 06 May. It will be 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.

In addition, Arriva has worked with National Express and the Original Tour to act as an agent, allowing people to buy tickets directly from the centre for both local and national travel. Businesses wishing to speak to Arriva about the opportunities that the MKube offers should email Linsey Frostick, Regional Marketing Manager at linseyfrostick@arriva-shires.com

Local Elections – Thursday 05 May

The local elections are due to be held in Milton Keynes with 17 seats on the Borough Council and nearly 200 seats on parish councils due to be contested - see the Elections page on Milton Keynes Council website, there will also be a national referendum on the future voting system (AV) to view more information on both the local elections and the referendum see: [Milton Keynes Council - Elections](#)

MK Forum - Public Forum - Monday 16 May 2011

"An outsider's guide to the new ruins of Milton Keynes" presented by Owen Hatherley starting at 7.30pm in Acorn House, Midsummer Boulevard. Come to hear and discuss his challenging views at this public meeting: free to MK Forum members; £3 for non-members. To book please email miltonkeynesforum@googlemail.com.

Invest Milton Keynes (IMK)

Invest Milton Keynes recorded a further sixteen investment successes for the city in March, producing a grand total of 134 for the 2010/11 year. This exceeds target and is the best total IMK has recorded since it began in 2005. IMK would like to thank all the public and private sector partners working for the economic development of Milton Keynes, because of course IMK is not directly responsible for every one of these successes.

The final cumulative job totals for the year are 1,172 new and 2,074 retained, impressive figures compared to the previous two years, even more so given the economic conditions. Enquiries for commercial land and premises also exceeded target and finished 3.6% ahead of last year. For more information see: www.investmiltonkeynes.com

Thames Valley Police

Thames Valley Police has set up 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](#)

Destination Milton Keynes – iPhone Application

For more information on the iPhone application see [Amazing-Mk iPhone Application](#) allowing you to search and locate venues from where are standing.

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ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES

CARSHAREMK

Milton Keynes Council are making some changes to the car share scheme in order to ensure this popular and successful scheme remains viable and will be re-launched shortly.

It is currently experiencing technical difficulties during this transitional process and as a result, Milton Keynes Council are offering FREE temporary car share permits.

When the new scheme is re-launched it will operate under the Parking Shop, based at MK Direct in the Civic Offices, as all other parking permits schemes such as residents and employees do.

Members will then be contacted with details of how to apply for a new Car Share permit. If you have already made payment you will not be required to pay again. In the meantime, please continue to use the temporary permit supplied.

Penalty fines are not being issued to vehicles displaying either a standard valid car share permit or the temporary car share permits but any vehicles not displaying either is likely to receive a penalty fine. To receive a temporary car share permit go to www.transportmk.com or for further information call 01908 243871.

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!

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Six of the first fifty charging points are now electronically live located in the Iceland carpark 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 apply to become a member of the scheme and acquire an RFID access card visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking

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DEVELOPMENTS

Our four Milton Keynes Information Stands are located at the centre: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

Mid April saw the topping out ceremony at Network Rail's new national centre on the old Hockey Stadium site (Silbury Boulevard/Graffton Gate). This milestone means work on the main structure of 400,000 sq.ft, four storey buildings is now complete. Employees are anticipated to move into the national centre in phases from June 2012, with the move complete by September 2012. For more information on the scheme see: <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/5939.aspx>

B4.4 Future Development Site - Childs Way/Avebury Boulevard/Witan Gate Development – Opposite Sainsburys & Vision

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) with MK Council have been working on a brief for the development of the site following commencement in 2006 being halted due to the economic downturn. Plans include up to 400 homes, retail and office space and the opportunity for a hotel. Developers are currently being invited to submit concepts. Stage 3 of the tender process will take place this month with appointment of the successful developer in September 2011 and a potential start on site in early 2012.

Lloyds Court

MK Council have been approached by the owners of Lloyds Court (Mars Pension Fund) to consider redevelopment of the site. Developer interests are being encouraged to develop a brief for the site to go to the Council's Development Control Committee.

Secklow Gate Bridge & CMK Market Update

Work is due to start repairing the bridge in mid-May with completion and Secklow Bridge reopening end June. CMK Market is open as usual but during the works taking place some stalls may be relocated. For any market queries please call 01908 668810. Market opening hours are: Sat 8:30am – 5:30pm, Sun 10am – 4pm, Tues 8:30am – 4pm, Thu/Fri 8:30am- 4:30pm

Station Square Approach Development

The Council's redevelopment works for the area between station square and the station entrance have been delayed until later in the year, in part to reduce disruption during summer events. Full consultation was carried out for the design of the works last year which were due to start in April. Works are now likely to commence on site mid Summer 2011. Further details will be circulated.

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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.

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