

Summer is officially over, with the count down to Christmas underway - only 16 weeks to go!

### **MKCCM City Centre Operations Update**

**Wayfinding** – Great news - last week saw the installation of the first phase of the new wayfinding signage consisting of 12 signs along Midsummer Boulevard starting at the edge of Station Square (installed 24 August) and finishing at the Theatre District. The signs you will see are the 'totem' signs with 3 larger, full CMK map signs yet to be installed in the next few weeks. Signs near Sainsbury's, Lloyds Court and the library will be installed before Christmas and further phases will be installed over the next year or so. Please let the council know via email to [walking@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:walking@milton-keynes.gov.uk) or ourselves if you have any comments on the [new](#) signage.

In addition new signs have also been installed along the new CMK redway running from the Civic Offices (cnr Silbury Boulevard/Saxon Gate) to Saxon Court (cnr Avebury Boulevard/Saxon Gate) with landscaping works yet to be completed.

**After8 Research Focus Groups** – The After8 Group looks at the evening economy in CMK through its Operation & Transport and Communications working groups. As part of the Communications groups work, six focus groups are being set up to better understand what people think of the night time offer in the city centre that cover Diners, Cultural Groups, Young People, Families, Clubbers and Frontline Staff taking part. **We are now looking for participants** for the [Families group](#) (You must be available on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm (for one hour only); Must be aged over 18 and have a child over the age of 10 years and regularly or have recently visited Central Milton Keynes after the hours of 8pm) and [Diners groups](#) (Must be available on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 6pm (for one hour only); Must be aged over 18 and dine regularly and recently in CMK) - if you feel you could contribute please contact me at [carmel.blyth@mkccm.org](mailto:carmel.blyth@mkccm.org). If you would like to share your views on the evening economy with us by phone or email please contact us. Results of this research will be available from late October. For further information on the After8 Group see: [www.after8cmk.co.uk](http://www.after8cmk.co.uk)

The **West End development Site** (between Avebury Boulevard and the H6, Childs Way and Witan Gate and Grafton Gates) has been tidied up with the landscaping improved and some works still underway. The old Wyvale garden centre site near the Xscape is also due to be tidied up.

**New parking meters** have been installed by Milton Keynes Partnership (MKP) around the new Pinnacle:MK office development on Midsummer Boulevard. Mostly standard rate with some premium rate bays along the front of the building.

The council will be replacing some of the **street name plates**, we have provided a list of those most in need of replacement, but if you know of any that are in a very poor state please email details to the City Centre Manager [kay.greenhalgh@mkccm.org](mailto:kay.greenhalgh@mkccm.org).

**New street lights**, matching those already in and around the new developments, will be installed to replace faulty lights and some repairs to the damaged granite cladding will also be carried out by the council in the next few months.

**New gritting equipment** for the CMK salt route has been ordered by the council and will be available for use this winter to avoid some of the problems encountered in the very bad weather last winter. Probably wont snow now!

Later this month Waitrose, in the food centre, will have a **new fleet of trolleys** and new hi-tech system for keeping them in the area immediately surrounding the store. This will reduce the amount of trolleys customers leave around the city centre. And a reminder that if you see abandoned trolleys anywhere in CMK please call the Trolley Hotline 0800 3161241 and report the location.

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### **CONSULTATIONS**

**CMK Parking Changes Consultation** – In Spring 2009 MKC presented extensive information on some proposal to change the CMK parking scheme. As a result of the feedback received, they are now formally consulting on a revised proposal. For information on what the proposals are see: [Milton Keynes Council Parking Changes Consultation](#). The consultation finishes on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 all comments must be received by this time, previous responses will not be taken through to the current formal consultation process.

**Network Rail National Centre (on the Hockey Stadium Site)** A series of pre-planning consultation sessions are set to take place in CMK:

12<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 5pm thecentre:mk near Marks & Spencers

14<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 5pm Midsummer Place near the Oak Tree

16<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 5pm thecentre:mk near Marks & Spencers

It is anticipated that over 3,000 employees will work in the Centre. This consultation ends on Friday 18 September, if you would like to comment please send directly to New National Centre, Network Rail, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London, N1 9AG or see

[www.networkrail.co.uk/nationalcentre](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/nationalcentre). Network Rail is aiming for the planning application to be submitted early November 2009 which if successful will see a start on site during Summer 2010 and completion by Autumn 2012.

**Early Years Funding Consultation** - Local authorities will be required to use a single local formula for funding the early year's free entitlement in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors from April 2010. This consultation is to get your opinions on the single pupil count and the single funding formula that is being developed in Milton Keynes. Consultation started on 26<sup>th</sup> June and concludes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**Gambling Licensing Policy 2010 – 2013 Consultation** - Milton Keynes Council as the Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005 has undertaken an extensive review of its current policy that has been in place for nearly 3 years. Consultation began on 01<sup>st</sup> July and concludes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**Heritage Strategy First Annual Review** – Milton Keynes Council is undertaking the first annual review of the Milton Keynes Heritage Strategy 2008 - 2013 and is asking its partners, stakeholders and members of the public for its views and suggestions in continuing to take forward the high priorities agreed in 2008. Consultation began on 27<sup>th</sup> July and concludes on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Archives Future Plan Survey** – A NEW Joint Archives website has been launched by Milton Keynes Council and Buckinghamshire County Council as part of their joint planning to deliver future archives services across the two areas. Partners, stakeholders and members of the public can complete an online survey giving their views and suggestions on how both councils should plan future archives services. Consultation began on 27<sup>th</sup> July and concludes on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Equality & Diversity Framework** – Milton Keynes Council invites you to participate in the public consultation phase of the Equality Policy and Scheme. Consultation began on 28<sup>th</sup> July and concludes on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

For more information on all Consultations undertaken by Milton Keynes Council please go to: [Milton Keynes Council - Consultation Finder](#)

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**The Events Calendar for 2009**, gives details of events being held in and around Milton Keynes for more information see: [MKCCM: Events Calendar 2009](#). If you would like to include your event please email me at [carmel.blyth@mkccm.org](mailto:carmel.blyth@mkccm.org).

### **Heritage Open Days 10 – 13 September**

A wide variety of walks, talks, visits, exhibitions and activities are taking place on four days. For more information on these free events go to [www.mkheritageopendays.com](http://www.mkheritageopendays.com) – leaflets are also available from all MK Libraries, council offices etc.

### **"MK Thru a Lens: Heritage Open Days 2009" - 10 September 4:30pm**

Make a Difference is hosting an exhibition at Church of Christ the Cornerstone in the Café Project as part of the Heritage Open Days. To see more details and RSVP, follow the link below: [MAD-Make A Difference](#)

**FRINGEMK 2009 21 September – 04 October** One of Milton Keynes' biggest programmes of public arts events takes place across the new city including:

**Romance Derived-** An exhibition of the finalists of thecentre:mk Annual Painting Prize will be in Middleton Hall, thecentre:mk from 21 to 27 September 2009. The four winning finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony being held on 25 September from 7 – 8pm.

**Celebr8 09 Parade** will take place on World Peace Day, 21 September, at 5pm celebrating the diversity of our community. The parade at its core celebrates the seven strands of diversity, encompassing acceptance and respect. This year's parade will be led by the ION puppet and will start from Station Square (near CMK Railway Station) proceeding to Campbell Park with 100's of Milton Keynes Community organisations

**Translation** - a series of International Public Art Commissions in the Project Space at Midsummer Place.

The commissioned artists are [Andy Harper](#), [Dr Ryan Pink and Julie Freeman](#), [Sabine Jeanne Bieli](#) and [Doplgenger \(Isidora Ilic and Bosko Prostran\)](#); their works will be spread throughout the whole of Central Milton Keynes until the close of the festival in October.

**FRINGEMK Volunteers Needed** – You are invited to join up to be part of Dr Ryan Pink and Artist Julie Freemans commissioned collaboration 'The Observatories' which will be on site and open to the public in Middleton Hall, thecentre:mk from 22/09/09 until 27/09/09. Pink and Freeman wish to invite a control group of persons to enter and experience their works daily, to make comment on the piece. The data collected will become part of a live debate to be held in Midsummer Place later this year. No 'experience' of arts or sciences are required, open to all, free of charge. To be a part of the observatories please email - [julie@translatingnature.org](mailto:julie@translatingnature.org) or send a message through [www.fringemk.com](http://www.fringemk.com)

For more information see: [FringeMK](#)

### **Discover Milton Keynes – 30 years of thecentre:mk - 26 August – 30 September**

An exhibition comprising photographs, memories and films to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shopping centre. For more information see: [Discover Milton Keynes](#) (open 10am – 6pm Monday – Saturday located at 672 Silbury Boulevard (on the outside of thecentre:mk by Burger King))

### **thecentre:mk Middleton Hall (by John Lewis)**

#### **Craft & Gift Fayre 10 – 13 September**

With 100 exhibitors see 1000's of handmade craft items and personalised gifts. For more information see: [thecentre:mk - Craft & Trade Fayre](#)

**Inside Ex 17 – 19 September** . If you're thinking of starting a business or looking for new opportunities take the time to speak to the experts. For more information see: [thecentre:mk - Inside Ex](#)

### **Midsummer Place Shopping Centre**

**Interactive Puppet Show - 13 September.** A strange creature will appear under the Oak Tree it will be nervous and lonely. Over the coming months it will need YOU the people of Milton Keynes to teach it about its new home. When it comes you will need to introduce him to Milton Keynes where should he visit, what will you tell him? Be there at 2pm to meet the new arrival.

### **Justin Lee Collins at Waterstones – 23 September**

Popular TV funny man Justin Lee Collins will be signing copies of his autobiography 'Good Times!' at Waterstone's Milton Keynes, Midsummer Place from 4.30pm - arrive early to avoid disappointment!

**Fashion Fortnight** is coming this October. Win a five star trip to Milan, get your hands on an exclusive discount card that gets you great offers at all participating stores in Midsummer Place – for two weeks only. Plus, the fashion show will be on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Milton Keynes Gallery**

#### **[Nasreen Mohamedi: Notes Reflections on Indian Modernism](#) 5 September – 15 November**

A major solo exhibition of work by Indian artist Nasreen Mohamedi. Her diary pages, drawings and photographs combine Western influences such as Paul Klee and Kasimir Malevich with Islamic architectural forms and a South Asian sensibility. For more information see: [Milton Keynes Gallery](#)  
New opening times for the Gallery: Tuesday – Friday 12pm till 8pm, Saturday 11am-8pm, Sunday 11am-5pm, closed Mondays.

### **Parks Trust Autumnal Programme**

For more information on what short courses are available for adults and what's events are on in the park visit: [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

### **Jury's Inn Hotel – Comedy Night and Dinner & Dance – 25 September**

Comedians Erich McElroy, Paddy Lennox and Matt Blaize take to the stage at the Jury's Inn Hotel, the bar opens at 7pm with dinner at 8pm. Tickets cost £25 to book ring 01908 843700.

### **Milton Keynes Theatre**

This month you can see [Duet for One](#) (08 – 12 Sep) starring Juliet Stevenson and Henry Goodman, [Rain Man](#) (14-19 Sep) Starring Neil Morrissey and a brand new musical – [The Stripper](#) (22 – 26 Sep) from Richard O'Brien and Richard Hartley the duo who wrote the [Rocky Horror Show](#) (coming to MK in October).

**Theatre 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations** - September ends with a week of birthday celebrations including [MK's Top Talent](#) (29 Sep – 02 Oct) which will see 40 local acts battle it out in the heats and all important final for a star role in this years pantomime [Cinderella](#). You can check out the finalists auditions by logging onto [www.heartmk.com](http://www.heartmk.com) and vote for your favourite. Culminating in a one

night only opportunity to join West End leading lady Louise Dearman and friends in an exclusive [Gala Concert](#) (4 Oct), bringing you songs from 10 years at the theatre, each ticket comes with free champagne and birthday cake. 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)

### **University Centre Milton Keynes**

During October paintings by Gino Ballantyne will be displayed in the ground floor exhibition area open to the public. For more information see: [UCMK](#)

### **Business Excellence Awards and Annual Dinner – 01 October**

Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce are hosting the Awards and Dinner event at Stadium:mk starting at 6:45pm. Guest speaker for the evening is Jo Salter, Britain's first female fighter pilot. For more information see [MK Chamber: Business Excellence Awards & Annual Dinner](#) or to book call 01908 246799 or email: [theevents@mk-chamber.co.uk](mailto:theevents@mk-chamber.co.uk)

**Freetannia needs you!** The world's newest micro nation is relocating to Milton Keynes. Why not stop by for a fondant fancy and a bit of cross-border natter. Freetannia offers modern outdoor life in glorious Technicolor. His Freetannic Majesty King Richard 'Dickie' Frobisher the First has set up a special assisted passage scheme to help you. To sign up come along to the immigration office on Friday 16 or Saturday 17 October. In the mean time take the opportunity to meet our Freetannia cultural attaches as they visit Milton Keynes over the next few weeks. For more information see: [Freetania Milton Keynes](#)

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

### **Milton Keynes Council – Staff update**

David Hill started in July as the new Chief Executive taking over from Kate Page; with the following new Assistant Directors in the Environment Directorate now also in post: Mike Brown - Environmental Services; Phil Windsor - Regulatory Services; Alex Constantinides - Transport, and Nick Fenwick - Planning.

### **What do MK Gateways Say About The City? 14 September 4pm – 7:30pm**

Jointly organised by MKCVO (Council for Voluntary Organisations) and MKELP (Milton Keynes Economy & Learning Partnership) you are invited to share views and discuss transport in Milton Keynes and work with others helping to inform the debate on the quality and standard of our stations. These are really important places and what messages do they send out? The session includes a sandwich tea and the ear of decision makers. For more information and to book your place contact Claire or Sheila on 01908 661623.

### **Milton Keynes Partnership Committee (MKPC) Meeting – 15 September**

The next meeting of MKPC is due to take place on 15 September in room 306/307 of the HCA Offices on Midsummer Boulevard. For more information on the agenda and associated papers see: [Milton Keynes Partnership Committee Meeting](#)

**Free Growth Bus Tours.** The next bus tours are scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October, to book a place and learn more about the growth of the city call 01908 253535 or book a place online: [Milton Keynes Council - Growth Bus Tours](#).

### **Travel Planning Workshop – 23 September 8am – 11am**

MK Chamber is running a free workshop with local consultants ITP, looking at how travel planning can help businesses in CMK. To be held at Deloitte LLP, The Pinnacle:MK, 150 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1FD. For more information see [Travel Planning Workshop](#) or email [theevents@mk-chamber.co.uk](mailto:theevents@mk-chamber.co.uk) or call 01908 259000 to book your place.

### **Community Crime Fighters Awards**

The Community Crime Fighters Awards recognise and thank people who have either directly stood up to anti-social behaviour or neighbourhood crime or who have supported others who have needed their help. The closing date for the awards is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Winners will be invited to a celebration event in London in December. Nominate online via: [www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk/awards](http://www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk/awards) or by filling in a nomination booklet, which can be requested by calling the Community Crime Fighters Award Helpline on 0800 600 444 or by emailing: [communitycrimefightersawards@bss.org](mailto:communitycrimefightersawards@bss.org)

### **Free Peak Travel for 60+ and Disabled Persons**

On Monday 6th July 2009 Milton Keynes Council discontinued the charge of the 35p flat fare for holders of concessionary bus passes when travelling before 9:30am during the week within Milton Keynes borough. Pass holders will be able to use their existing passes to benefit from the free peak time travel there is no need to obtain a new pass. If you have any questions contact the bus card section at the Council on 01908 252558 or for more information see: [Milton Keynes Council - Free Peak Travel](#)

**Thames Valley Police** are running a series of discussion surgeries until the end of September. You are invited to go along and talk about any issues or concerns that you have within Milton Keynes. For more information see: [Thames Valley Police Surgeries](#) or the posters on the Development Information Sites at thecentre:mk, Midsummer Place, Xscape and Milton Keynes Central Train Station.

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

Milton Keynes Partnership's inward investment division Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) reported another seven investment successes in August, contributing to a total of 30 so far this year. The August successes accounted for 111 new or safeguarded jobs, giving an overall total so far this year of 453 jobs.

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

### **Stadium:MK**

Official opened on Wednesday 09 September is the new Doubletree Hotel, part of the Hilton Group at Stadium MK. The hotel consists of 127 rooms with 27 meeting spaces and a ball room as well as a Pitchside restaurant and Red Hot bar. For more information see: [Doubletree Hotel Stadium MK](#)  
The first phase of the Ring of Steel at Stadium:MK will be installed ready for the Leeds match on Saturday 26 September with the remainder to follow. For details see: [Ring Of Steel MK](#)

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

**Cresswell Lane (the small access road to the Multi Storey Car Park between the Ramada Encore Hotel and CBX 2).** From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and possibly part of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September there will be traffic lights at the Cresswell Lane junction for the installation of a manhole. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September from approx. 7pm to 9pm at the latest, preparation work for the ramp will take place. During this time the Lane and Car Park will be closed as well as on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September whilst works to construct the ramp take place during daylight hours.

### **Jury's Inn Turning Circle Repair Works 21 September – 04 October**

Following the completion of the Cresswell Lane works, work will commence on 21<sup>st</sup> September on repairs to the turning circle directly in front of Jury's Inn Hotel. Road closures adjacent to the area will be in place until the works are completed (estimated around 04<sup>th</sup> October). Temporary disabled and pick up/drop off bays will be in place during this period.

### **Footbridge Closures Fishermead and Xscape**

Both these footbridges carry redway links between Fishermead and "Xscape". Works will be completed on the first bridge before works on the second bridge are started. Work will start on the Pencarrow Place footbridge first on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 for no longer than four weeks unless unforeseen circumstances or inclement weather occurs. The footbridge and associated redways will remain fully closed for that period. Work on the Porthleven footbridge will then follow approximately on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and should be completed by no later than Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Alternative pedestrian routes will be signposted.

### **Milton Keynes Council (MKC) Statement about Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) Targets**

Following recent media coverage concerning some Local Authorities (based in London) setting targets for the number of PCN's issued each year. See the statement issued by [Milton Keynes Council](#)

**Pay by Phone Parking** is available across CMK on all red premium and blue long stay bays. Nearly 2,000 people have signed up since the launch on 5<sup>th</sup> May and are enjoying the benefits of paying for topping up parking by phone or by text. If you haven't registered yet call 01908 918918 or go to [www.verrus.com](http://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](#). 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.

### **New Taxi Rank on Midsummer Boulevard**

A new Hackney Carriage (Black Cab) rank on Midsummer Boulevard near All Bar One and CBX2 is now in operation. Please note that the turning circle in front of the Jury's Inn Hotel is no longer to be used by the taxis to wait for fares, only designated ranks are legally allowed for this purpose. Taxi ranks are also located at the Xscape (by KFC), the railway station and at thecentre:mk outside Macdonald's. New ranks due to be in use in the next few months will be at the front of Mark's & Spencers and at the back of the Theatre District on Avebury Boulevard. Due to CMK's unique boulevards and gate design it is illegal to hail a hackney cab, ranks must be used and remember that if using a private hire vehicle they must be pre-booked, otherwise they are not insured.

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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](#)

### **Xscape Expansion**

Milton Keynes Council Development Control Committee is due to consider the planning application on 14 September. For more information on what the application consists of please see: [MKCCM Xscape Application](#)

### **Pinnacle:MK (Midsummer Boulevard Office Development)**

The office building located on Midsummer Boulevard has been developed by Hampton Brook and was completed in July this year. During May business advisory firm Deloitte moved in, with Denton Wilde Sapte now underway with fitting out and due to move in in December 2009. It is anticipated that around 2,000 employees will work in the building. For more information and to see the new 3D animated Walk Through go to: [PinnacleMK.com - 3D Animated Flythrough](#)

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

The three remaining town houses in Field Court are now sold and also 12 x 2 bed apartments in Bronze Court with a further 7 town houses being released. You can visit the sales office between 10am and 5:30pm for details, now released for sale. For more information see: [George Wimpey / MKCCM: Campbell Square](#)

**Queen's Court Re-development** – On Monday 07 September the crane arrived to begin the lifting and construction of the crane within Queen's Court, yes it took three - a small one to build the larger crane that lifted the components of the third crane over thecentre:mk into Queen's Court. For more information on the development please see: [thecentre:mk Queens Court Redevelopment](#)

**Leisure Plaza** - Currently home to Planet Ice and Megabowl, the site will be developed by Abbeygate Developments, for more information see: [Leisure Plaza](#)

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### **Infrastructure Projects in Milton Keynes**

**J14 Coachway** – work has begun on the construction of the building which is anticipated to be completed Spring 2010.

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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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