

Here we are again, with just over 6 weeks until Christmas and we're trialling a new style newsletter in response to comments received through the recent email evaluation. Thank you to those of you that responded.

If you are having any difficulties using the new Headline sections, please let us know.

Headlines

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MKCCM City Centre Operations Update

Roundabout Gets a New Look

The small roundabout between thecentre:mk and the point area on Midsummer Boulevard East received a complete makeover on 20 October by Ambius, the company that care for thecentre:mk plants and trees. They have very generously offered their expertise and resources free of charge in designing and planting a scheme using a variety of grasses in different sizes.

It is hoped that other areas in need of improvement may be able to benefit from partnership projects like this with commercial sponsors in the future. Central Milton Keynes is a wonderfully spacious and green city centre with around 10,000 trees and over 65, 000m² of shrubs (equivalent of 10 football pitches) to be cared for by the council. This comes at a high cost so any new ways of helping to enhance its attractiveness for both locals and visitors is welcomed.

Midsummer Boulevard Works

Following an MKCCM cross agency audit in September, the council have recently carried out £30,000 worth of maintenance and repair works on Midsummer Boulevard from Station Square to the Point including replacement of granite kerbstones and plinths, landscape works, underpass painting and lighting improvements, and column and bollard painting.

After8 Annual Forum

On November 3rd the first Annual Forum of the After8 Group 'Promoting and Improving Your Night time Experience' was held at the Garden Room in Milton Keynes Theatre, which reflected on the year's achievements, challenges and priorities. The After8 Communications Group reported the results of the research focus groups held during August to October which looked at 6 groups Culture, Families, Youth, Clubbers and Diners identifying what the priorities are for 2010. For further information on the After8 Group see: www.after8cmk.co.uk or to see the report on the research findings please contact Carmel on 01908 398124.

CCTV Coverage Enhanced

Work to cut back the tree foliage obscuring some of the CCTV cameras is due to be carried out in the next month by the council's contractors.

Landscaping Works

At the end of January the council will be pruning the Horse Chestnut trees along Saxon Gate. There will be some disruption to traffic due to closures of the outer lanes of both sides of the carriageway for approximately 2 days – details of exact dates and closures will be advised closer to the time. The winter pruning around CMK is currently underway.

Former Wyevale Site Maintenance

A litter pick, strim and spray of weeds was carried out by contractors for the owners of the site – the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) at the end of September.

Street Name Plates, Lighting and Granite Replacement

Some new street name plates have been ordered and should be erected in 6 to 8 weeks. A programme of repairs on the low level granite within the underpasses is expected to commence within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Lighting on Midsummer Boulevard has all been upgraded to white light which gives out a lot more light with reduced energy. The full lighting column replacement programme has been put on hold whilst a pilot is carried out behind Saxon Court with dimmer technology and white light with a view to achieving 70% energy savings. Once results have been substantiated it is hoped to resume a large column replacement programme based on "spend to save" principles, in and around CMK in the future.

Wayfinding and Signage

Following testing and user feedback on the first of the new wayfinding signs along Midsummer Boulevard, necessary corrections and adjustments to the information will be made in the next week. Work on the maps for the three larger signs is still underway.

Taxis

Improved Taxi Marshal Service at Xscape

A new contract was produced and put out to tender in late 2008 resulting in LeisureSec successfully taking over the contract and providing a much improved service. 27,900 taxis and 59,644 people were managed by the marshals in the last 12 months. With a Saturday night average of 256 taxis and 542 people.

Taxi Ranks

Due to the boulevard and gate design in CMK it is not possible to hail Hackney Carriages (black cabs) as you do in other cities therefore careful consideration is required as to the locations of the ranks that enable them to park and wait for fares. It is important that the public can easily find them and they are located close to appropriate venues. A lack of suitable ranks was identified and new ones have now been agreed, one is in operation now on Midsummer Boulevard by All Bar One and the Hub and another is due in January 2010 next to the Theatre District car park area on Avebury Boulevard. The other official taxi ranks in CMK are located at the Railway Station, outside McDonalds at thecentre:mk on Midsummer Boulevard East and at Xscape on the Avebury Boulevard side by KFC.

Jurys Inn Turning Circle

An ongoing problem with Hackney Cabs and private hire vehicles using the turning circle to wait for fares has resulted in police involvement. It is illegal to use this area for anything other than dropping off and picking up of booked fares and doing so creates congestion that could lead to an accident. Several meetings have been held with all parties involved and alternatives agreed. Additional enforcement of illegally waiting and parked vehicles, including private vehicles on Witan Gate, will be carried out if the problem persists.

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CONSULTATIONS

Network Rail National Centre Planning Application – Public Forum

To be held on 18 November 2009 at 7pm at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices. Network Rail's design team will present their proposal to Councillors, Members of the Public and other interested parties. The public meeting is open to all this is not a forum to determine the application but an opportunity for the design team to explain their proposals and answer questions. From Wednesday 11 November the submitted plans, drawings and supporting documentation will be available to view electronically on the Council's public access system at the following address: [Planning Application 09/01941/FUL - Network Rail](#)

CMK Parking Changes Consultation

The consultation on changes to CMK parking scheduled for July 2010, closed on 26 October 2009. Over 2,600 responses have been received. A report will be presented to Cabinet on 22 December 2009 on the outcome of the consultation and recommendations. For information on what the proposals are see: [Milton Keynes Council Parking Changes Consultation](#).

Draft Milton Keynes Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update 2009

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2008 for Milton Keynes has now been updated. The SHMA is an important document that seeks to identify the future housing requirements of new and existing households in Milton Keynes. It is an important part of the 'evidence base' for the Local Development Framework. Between January and March 2009 Opinion Research Services Ltd (ORS) carried out a survey by interviewing 800 households. ORS then updated the SHMA using data from this survey. For more information see: [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. We are also compiling the 2010 calendar if you would like to include your event please email me at carmel.blyth@mkccm.org. For more information see: [MKCCM: Events Calendar 2009](#)

FRINGEMK 2009

MK MIDNIGHT MOO PHOTO WALL UNVEILED IN MIDSUMMER PLACE

To celebrate the success of MK Midnight Moo, where over £100,000 was raised by 1,000 women walking 10 miles around Milton Keynes at night. A photo wall has been produced at the Fringe MK Project Space in Midsummer Place Shopping Centre. Last year's MK Midnight Moo participants have been sending in their photos and, with the help of Fringe MK and MK Arts 4 Health supplying artwork, the Field of Fame Photo Wall has been created and will be in place until 15 November. For more information see: [FringeMK](#)

Discover Milton Keynes

Winter Scenes in Milton Keynes - 20 November 2009 - 7 January 2010

The exhibition shows photos of winter scenes from the archives to the present day of Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas taken both at night and day. Contributors include numerous Milton Keynes Heritage Association members, Milton Keynes College, Destination Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes City Centre Management. 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)

The **Big Top Christmas show** is now open in Middleton Hall and will run until 3 January, featuring Santa's Circus train ride, a traditional carousel and a nativity scene. Santa's Big Top Grotto will open when Santa arrives at the Grotto with a parade through the centre on Monday 16 November. "Santa At thecentre:mk" face book will be running a special face book application allowing you to send letters to Santa and an online game with a £500 gift card as a reward.

The National Clown Association will be in Middleton Hall on 19 of November judging the National Clown Awards. Some of thecentre:mk staff are being sent to 'clown school' so they can tour the malls performing for children and giving out balloon animals throughout December. There will be weekly Video Blogs from Santa and his Elves throughout the show. For more information see: [thecentre:mk - Inside Ex](#)

City Square – Festive Food Market

In the first week of December visit the festive food market and enjoy roast turkey rolls, German sausages and more... also returning is the Christmas tree market, offering real tree's for sale.

Midsummer Place Shopping Centre

At Waterstone's see Popular BBC Radio 2 DJ Ken Bruce on Thursday 12th November from 6.30pm for the launch of his autobiography; 'Tracks of my Years.'

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](#)

Invitation to View Workshop Participant's Artwork Friday 13 November 2009, 6.30 - 8pm

The Project Space at Milton Keynes Gallery are holding an informal, early evening preview of artwork created by parents and children from the local community who participated in workshops held at Milton Keynes Gallery during October. Complimentary soft drinks will be available and friends, family and colleagues are also welcome. 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

Milton Keynes Community Foundation Annual Community Car Raffle 6 Nov – 3 January 2010.

Raising funds for local community groups and charities - tickets to win a brand new VW Polo are available for just £1 at the site of the car in front of Marks & Spencers in thecentre:mk. The car has been donated by Volkswagen Group UK Ltd and the selling space has been donated for the event by thecentre:mk. Almost 100 local charities and community groups will be volunteering their time to sell tickets and in doing so they will receive a 50% share of the sales, the remainder will go the Foundation's grant-making programme. For further details please contact the Community Foundation on 01908 690276.

Milton Keynes Theatre

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

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OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Christmas Light Switch On

The cast of MK Theatres pantomime Cinderella will be switching on the Christmas lights at Xscape on 20 November 7pm till 9pm and at Midsummer Place on 28 November at 11am till 4pm.

Christmas Opening Times

From November 30 every Monday to Wednesday thecentre:mk and Midsummer Place will be open until 8pm while Thursday and Friday it will close at 9pm and 7pm on Saturdays. On Sundays it will open between 11am and 5pm. From 14 December it will be open until 9pm every Monday to Friday.

Xscape - late night shopping will start from the 26 November with all retailers open until 9 pm also available is a free gift wrapping available those nights and a man crèche will be run by the Moon Under Water – so you can go along, drop off your man and shop in peace!

Business Opportunity to have a Flag at Station Square

Flag poles in station square are available to be leased to businesses at a monthly rate of approx £80 plus flag production cost of approx £200. If anyone interested contact Tom Brockway at MKC on 01908 252236 or email Thomas.brockway@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Milton Keynes Council

MKC have distributed updated organisational charts giving an overview and breakdown of the re-structured corporate directorates including Children & Young Services, Finance Risk Management, Strategy and Partnerships, Community Well Being, and Environment. To view these documents please see: www.mkccm.co.uk/documentLibrary/Documents/default.asp

thecentre:mk - Public Art Re-sited

thecentre:mk recently re-sited several pieces of public art within its building after agreeing a Public Art Action plan with Milton Keynes Council. So far this year the centre has spent just under £75,000 on the relocation, refurbishment and storage of public art. The most recent activity has been the relocation of the three Philomena Davidson statues Flying Carpet, Dream Flight and High Flyer all created in 1989. These were originally situated in Queens Court and have been re-sited in Silbury

Arcade. The artist advised on and approved the new locations for the three figures and visited the centre in early September to see her work in its new location.

Thames Valley Police

Operation Breaker: Residents told to Lock It Light it – Milton Keynes

SaferMK is advising residents to 'Lock it Light it' as part of a campaign to prevent house burglary during the dark winter nights. For more information see: [Thames Valley Police](#)

Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) At October 31 Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) had registered a total of 50 investment successes (new arrivals or expansions) for the city. October's successes included companies from Austria and Taiwan. Cumulative enquiries are almost 2% above last year's October figure. This year's investment successes have so far created 257 jobs and safeguarded 386 jobs. For more information see: www.investmiltonkeynes.com

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ROAD WORKS & PARKING CHANGES

Christmas Parking Arrangements for Central Milton Keynes

Shoppers

Additional Christmas shopper parking will be available at the Station from £3 per day. A **free** Christmas shuttle bus will operate on Saturdays (between 8am and 8pm) and Sundays (between 10am and 6pm) between 28 November and 20 December to transport shoppers to and from the main shopping area. Pick up points are

- Silbury Boulevard near Elder Gate (near the Hockey Stadium)
- Midsummer Boulevard stop H3

Look out for the 'Shopper Hopper' signs showing pick up and drop off points. Christmas shoppers are also recommended to use the Theatre multi-storey car park located on Marlborough Gate, open 7am until midnight. From 20p per hour/£1.50 all day.

Employees

Some arrangements have been made to offer discounted employee parking throughout December at certain areas in CMK. To find out details of the arrangement, or if you are eligible, please speak to Shopping Centre Management on 01908 678641.

Minor Changes to CMK Parking Scheme

The following minor changes will occur in CMK on 16th November 2009

- Creation of additional 16 parking spaces in old loading bay and pick up point under Secklow Bridge
- Conversion of 40 car share spaces on North Eighth Street to shared use car share and pay and display on weekends only (they will remain exclusively for car share permit holders Mon-Fri)
- Conversion of 40 standard rate spaces to premium rate on North Tenth Street and North Twelfth Street (in order to create higher turnover)

The above changes will be done on an experimental basis and monitored for a six month period.

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](#). 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.

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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](#)

Network Rail National Centre (on the Hockey Stadium Site)

Network Rail have submitted their outline planning application to Milton Keynes Council. To date 10 tenders have been received for the building contract. The announcement on the appointment is due out before Christmas. If the application is granted start on site will be in summer 2010 with staff moving in autumn 2012. Network Rail has already located 260 staff in an office at Milton Keynes Central Station and will house some 3,000 employees in the National Centre.

Buszy (Redevelopment of Shout Nightclub) receives half a million from SITA Trust and V

The former nightclub and bus station in Central Milton Keynes, is to be transformed into a youth hub complete with dance studio, world class skatepark and café space. Thanks to a half million pound grant from SITA Trust and V, the youth volunteering charity. Building work at 'The Buszy' started at the beginning of October, to transform the disused nightclub, the building will also house a health food and fairtrade café, meeting spaces and a gallery overlooking the skate park. To see further details of the project: http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/projects/the_buszy

thecentre:mk Queens Court

The crane arrived in Queens Court closely followed by key restaurant chains Cafe Rouge and Nando's becoming the first two retailers to occupy units in the new £10 million Destination Dining restaurant quarter at thecentre:mk. It is anticipated that they will start trading during 2010.

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INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN MILTON KEYNES

Coach Station J14 is underway

Late September saw the beginning of the steel frame to the coach station building being erected. A total of £2.6million is being spent on the redevelopment works with the new site due to open in spring 2010. Following the completion of the steel frame the glass walls will then be installed and the canopy assembled this month.

3 NEW ROUTES SPEARHEAD BUS SERVICE UPGRADE

Arriva/MK Metro are launching 3 new bus routes and upgrading 3 others from 26 October 2009. The new routes are:

Service X9 - This **NEW** Monday to Friday service will provide a faster link from Lavendon and Olney to Central Milton Keynes. The service will run every two hours off peak with additional journeys during the peak. When combined with service 1, 1B and 1C, there will be an hourly bus from Lavendon to Central Milton Keynes and two buses per hour from Olney. (X9 does not run via Newport Pagnell)

Service 25 - A **New** direct service from Newport Pagnell to Kingston, Open University and Hospital (missing out CMK).

Service 26 - A **New** direct service from Tattenhoe, Emerson Valley and Furzton to Station and CMK (missing out Hospital).

Other new or improved services are as follows:

Grant Palmer X34: Flitwick - Ampthill - Central Milton Keynes

This **NEW** Monday to Friday daytime service gives a fast direct link from Flitwick and Ampthill to Milton Keynes General Hospital (stops on Marlborough Street), Central Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes Central Station.

MK Metro 7A: Wolverton - Great Linford - Central Milton Keynes

This service is extended via the former route 9 to Furzton, West Bletchley and Bletchley. The Monday to Friday service on the Bletchley section is increased to every 20 minutes from every 30 minutes.

MK Metro 14: Deanshanger - Stony Stratford - Central Milton Keynes

Additional Monday to Friday journeys will operate between Stony Stratford and Central Milton Keynes to give a half hourly service during peak times.

Arriva 26: Tattenhoe - Furzton - Central Milton Keynes

This **NEW** Monday to Friday service will provide a faster link from Tattenhoe and Furzton to Central Milton Keynes and will run half hourly during the morning and afternoon peak period.

MK Metro 33: Northampton - Roade - Hanslope - Wolverton - Central Milton Keynes

Additional Monday to Friday journeys will run between Wolverton, Blue Bridge and Central Milton Keynes to give a half hourly service during peak times.

For more information visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/transport or <http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk>

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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.

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