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MKCCM CITY CENTRE OPERATIONS UPDATE**Station Approach Re-Development Works**

As of the 08 November works moved to the second phase, the southern entrance/exit arm (nearest the shops) is now closed. All vehicles are required to use the Northern arm (nearest Phoenix House) to access the station. The temporary parking arrangements remain the same. This phase of works runs until December, further information on next stages will be circulated. Public information signage has now been put in place both internally and externally to promote the on going investment and provide practical details for users regarding parking, traffic management plan, closures and bus stop and cycle information.

Graffiti Removal

The Council's CMK Neighbourhood Team have recorded 14 reports of new graffiti in and around the station and former bus station/Buszy. This information has been past to the Council's graffiti team who commenced work on 07 November. Should you see any graffiti please report it to the Council's [Waste and Recycling Department](#).

Community Payback (Probation Service)

The community payback team have completed over 97.5 hours of work preparing and painting the railings, bollards and barriers, between Marlborough and Secklow Gates on Avebury Boulevard and are now over half way down Midsummer Boulevard. The following have been completed: bollards x 35, large railings x 8, shutters x 7, benches x 6 and bike stands x 36. The work completed is a vast improvement and it is well worth taking a look.

Highways

Since September 23 reports of highway damages have been received. 8 have been repaired, 6 logged with the council's operations team for future repair and the remainder are undergoing further investigation and audit. The Council's CMK Neighbourhood team have carried out one of their twice yearly highway safety inspections of the main carriageways in CMK. All pot holes and other defects such as dislodged kerb stones were identified with a total 64 defect's logged on the Council's system for repair. In October one of the 3 annual infrastructure safety inspections was carried out that concentrated on footways, identified 600 defects that have been reported. The repairs will be dealt with on a priority basis by the Council. As a result of the inspections the council's 'Seek and Find Team' have been working in CMK since 04 October repairing pot holes on the main carriageways and service roads.

Autumn Windfall Clearance

From the beginning of October the CMK street cleansing operatives have been removing fallen leaves from underpasses and steps. The large bags of leaves are then collected and taken to a farm in Haversham for composting. As of 31 October the crew of 4 men with two large mechanical sweepers are working for an extra hour daily starting around 6am. Between now and the new year they will work their way across the city centre starting at the shopping centres with problem areas receiving 2 to 3 visits during this period. Already 80 tonnes have been collected and recycled from CMK alone with 250 tonnes recycled Borough wide. The total is estimated to reach up to 700 tonnes beating last year's record figure of 420 tonnes.

Landscape

The low branches that were obstructing parking bays and street lights on North Row between Secklow Gate and North 14th Street have been removed. This work was done by MKC landscape operations on behalf of HCA. The sight line problems on Elder Gate caused by the relocation of the Station Square exit road have been addressed. The shrub bed was cut back by MKC and contractors from the Elder House management company. Thanks also to the contractors working on Station Square who moved part of their compound in front of the Bus Station to allow the works to

be carried out. A landscape crew have been in CMK since 17 October carrying out Winter bed work - cutting back and tidying the shrub beds. They will be in CMK until around the end of November. There have been trials, in conjunction with the Road Safety Department, of cutting back several raised quadrant beds in the parking areas to address sight line problems. It was agreed that it is not possible to cut the existing shrubs low enough to alleviate the sight line problems without ruining their appearance or even potentially killing the plants, therefore it was agreed with the Landscape Architects Department and the Technical Team that the best solution would be to dig up the plants from the problem beds and re-plant with suitable low growing shrubs. Quotes for the work have been received and funding is being sought from the road safety budget. 11 landscape enquiries have been reported in the last 2 months and 10 have been resolved. Overhanging vegetation and trees obstructing street lights make up the majority of these.

Midsummer Boulevard/Saxon Gate Underpass

Major clearing, pruning and replanting works commenced as of 07 November and will continue through to December, vastly improving this area of high footfall in the very centre of CMK.

Silbury Boulevard/Saxon Gate Underpass

Following on from the clearing and temporary planting carried out much earlier in the year, the second phase of landscape improvement works are due to start 21 November. 2 teams will commence to remove the conifers within 7 working days. A full planting scheme has been produced by the Council's landscape architecture team in partnership with interested stakeholders including the choice of replacement trees, these will be semi-mature hornbeams. Once in the remainder of the new planting including shrubs and plants already successfully used in CMK will be planted. These very central replanting works will be signed by new A1 outdoor display stands to inform the public of the works being done and who by. Should anyone want more information please contact 01908 398135.

CMK Street Works List

The weekly list shows all street works that may affect users of CMK. Milton Keynes Council oversees the works carried out and as part of our endeavours to keep CMK looking its best, please advise us or MKC of anything you see that is not as it should be i.e. unsafe work practices and ultimately that reinstatement is to an acceptable standard to keep our public realm looking good. Please email kay.greenhalgh@mkccm.org or Sheila Baker 252638 or email Sheila.baker@milton-keynes.gov.uk / streetworkscoordination@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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

Broadband Consultation

Super Fast Broadband for Milton Keynes & surrounding areas - Milton Keynes is a modern city that needs a state of the art super fast broadband network in order to ensure it stays ahead of the game when it comes to advances in technology for both business and residents. Part of the process of getting super fast broadband for all the areas of Milton Keynes is to collect information about the way broadband is currently used and its availability. The other part of the process is understanding why you want super fast broadband and your willingness to get it. This online survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete and will help them in their campaign to get fast broadband into every local area. **Take part in the survey by going to: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mylocalbroadband/** For more information email: MyLocalBroadband@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk

Future Libraries: Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes residents are being asked to take part in reshaping the library service. This follows on from this summers "Inviting Ideas" engagement when they asked you to submit your ideas about the

future of the service. Using these ideas and wider research they have now produced a detailed review report entitled "Future Libraries-Milton Keynes". The consultation is seeking views on the review findings and the proposed delivery plan for the future financial sustainability of the library service. **Consultation Period:** 19/10/2011 - 12/01/2012

For more information: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkccconsultationdetails/?ConsultationID=181>

Houses in Multiple Occupation Consultation October 2011 Summary:

The Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document: Draft for Consultation (October 2011) provides guidance which will be a material consideration in assessing planning applications affecting the change of use from a C3 dwelling house to a C4 House in Multiple Occupation. The draft SPD covers issues related to noise, parking, bin storage, drying areas, and character and concentration. The consultation is seeking views and suggested changes, from anyone with an interest, on the SPD and/or the supporting documents. The draft SPD may be amended prior to adoption, to take into account issues raised during the consultation period. **Consultation Period:** 24/10/2011 - 13/01/2012

For more information: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkccconsultationdetails/?ConsultationID=182>

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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. Events for 2012 are now being listed, so if you have confirmed or even provisional dates please let me know.

thecentre:mk Middleton Hall

An Olde English Christmas – 18 November – 02 January

Visit the traditional Dickensian setting in Middleton Hall. On the 18 November at 4:30pm Santa arrives in a festive parade opening the grotto and train. After Santa's parade, go to Queen's Court for the opening of the outdoor ice rink around the Christmas tree at 7:30pm. Bookings for the grotto, train and ice rink are now open go to: [thecentremk](#)

The Wishing Pool - By throwing your spare coins into the wishing pool and making a special wish, you'll be helping Milton Keynes Play Association. As a local charity, their team delivers over 400 play sessions across MK, with around 12,500 children and their families, in 50 localities. This year the charity celebrate their 40th anniversary and take the place as a beneficiary of the wishing pool to raise money to fund a local project to build a new adventure playground for the children of Milton Keynes.

Midsummer Place

Children in Need

A team of fundraisers will be bathing in beans at Midsummer Place Shopping Centre this Friday 18 November to raise money for Children in Need. Fit4less gym colleagues will fill a bath with approximately 120 tins of beans needed for the culinary challenge. Gym manager, Jason Lombard-Jordan has been nominated by staff to sit in the bathtub for six hours starting at 11am. For What's On in Midsummer Place see: [Midsummer Place](#)

Xscape

Xscape has been transformed into a wonderful winter Wonderland and Christmas Extravaganza with festive fun for everyone. Throughout the festive period children can ride the free Santa Express train, located by the Log Cabin in the Xscape mall. Children can also meet Santa for free in the log cabin and tell him what they want for Christmas. There will also be loads of free family entertainment and art and craft workshops all Christmas long. Entertainment will run each weekend till Christmas and daily from 12 December. After Christmas the Express train and art and craft sessions will continue to run without Santa until 08 January. Go on line to play Toss the Turkey game, see if you can win prizes. For more information on venues and activities see: [XSCAPE](#)

Theatre District

On Sunday 27 November The Theatre District is celebrating switching on its Festive lights with a family fun event. The main entertainment will begin around 4.30pm, with music provided by MK Brass and MK Rock Choir singing, loads of entertainment including MK Parkour (free Runners), Daniel Cutter professional freestyle footballer and more crazy mascot fun, even Father Christmas has given

up a few hours out of his busy schedule to join them! The benefiting charity is AYME - Association of Young People with ME - a small National charity based in Milton Keynes. Everything will be free at the event, including children's fun fair rides, but donations for the charity are encouraged. Refreshments and mulled wine will be available free of charge and many of the Theatre District tenants have kindly donated prizes for the AYME charity tombola, so you could win yourself a free meal! Kids eat free at Bella Italia, Pizza Hut, Slug & Lettuce and Red Hot World Buffet when an adult pays full price on the Theatre District on Sunday 27th November. For more information about the charity AYME or to find out about ME and support available, have a look at their website - www.ayme.org.uk For more information on venues see: [Theatre District](#)

MK Gallery Exhibitions

Anna Barriball: Exhibition and In Conversation

Thursday 17 November at 6.30pm hear Anna Barriball talk about her work and current exhibition. Free admission. The exhibition (until 27 November) brings together drawing, video, photography and sculpture made over the last decade.

Community without Proximity: MK Gallery Project Space exhibition (building opposite the Gallery): **and closing event** (see below). An exhibition, exploring the roles of contemporary art and communities in new towns across the globe.

MK Gallery Events

Thursday Scratch Nights: Free, alternative, weekly events from local and national practitioners.

Performance / 3 November Evening exhibition and performance curated by *Occasionals*, **Dance / 10 November** Exploring, through dance, the issues people with neurological disorders have to face every day, **Sound Art / 17 November** An evening of sound art in collaboration with *The Agency Gallery*, **Sound Art / 24 November** *Entr'acte* presents an evening of live sound art.

Friday Film Nights: Presented in association with Independent Cinema MK. **4 November / 8 1/2 / Drama, fantasy, 11 November / Playtime / Comedy, 18 November / MK Film Network 25 November / Metropolis / Drama, Sci-Fi**

Saturday 26 November: Closing Event: Community without Proximity 2pm – 8pm / Free

An afternoon, of panel discussions, live performances and special video screenings. Full details at [here](#). Participants include David Lock, founder member of the MK Urban Studies Centre, Roman Vasseur, curator and Harlow New Town lead artist and Carry Gorney, who worked on a series of television programmes broadcast on MK Channel 40 from 1977 to 1979.

Saturday 26 November – Porte Cochere and Cave Launch Parties (see Out and About Section)

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.

MK Gallery Video Space: A new programme strand of artist's videos and film shown looped (first floor MK Gallery). Free. Plus special screenings on **19 & 20, 26 & 27 November** Pierre Huyghe's film *Streamside Day Follies*, tracing the formation of a burgeoning community hypothetically located in New York's Hudson Valley.

Parks Trust

Families can work together to make festive decorations. The Crafty Christmas event involves crafts, games and Christmassy fun at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes. The fun takes place on Tuesday 20 December, 10.30am-1pm at Campbell Park Pavilion in Campbell Park. A charge of £3/person will be made for materials. Booking is essential book [on-line](#) or call The Parks Trust on 01908 255379. For more information on what events are on in the park visit: www.theparkstrust.com

Milton Keynes Theatre

Aladdin comes to MK Theatre on 09 December until 15 January, starring pop and musical theatre star **Gareth Gates**, *Britain's Got Talent* finalist **Paul Burling** and West End leading lady **Nicola Brazil**.

With treasure filled adventure, **Aladdin** promises to be pure panto genie-us! 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)

Milton Keynes City Orchestra

For more information see: www.mkco.org or contact the MKCO Box Office on 01908 558311.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Red Bull Racing Day – 10 December 12pm till 3pm

Milton Keynes will host a huge celebratory event on Saturday 10 December 2011 following another Championship winning season for city-based Formula One stars Red Bull Racing. The event will include a demonstration of Red Bull Racing's Formula One car, which will be in action along the full length of Midsummer Boulevard between thecentre:mk shopping centre and MK Rail Station. As well

as having this season's F1 car in action, numerous attractions, exhibitions and demonstrations are being planned to highlight some of the event sponsors, and the excitement and technology behind Formula One. The show car will be driven at race speed for several circuits of Midsummer Boulevard between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. More information will follow....

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OUT AND ABOUT IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Christmas Opening times

From 01 December every Monday to Friday thecentre:mk and Midsummer Place will be open until 9pm, on Saturday's closing at 7pm. Sunday's will open between 11am and 5pm.

'Am I Safe' Campaign

In the run up to the festive season, more and more of us will be relying on a taxi or Private Hire vehicle to get us home after an evening out. The '[Am I Safe?](#)' web application brings safety and accountability to those using or operating a hired vehicle on a journey home by allowing you as passengers to check the validity of a taxi or private hire vehicle before you open the car door. What's more; Am I Safe is completely FREE to use! In short you put the registration plate number of a taxi in your smart phone via the Am I Safe web-app. This not only tells you that it is or not a registered taxi but also gives a geographic 'footprint' of the where the check was done and notifies family or friends of the passenger's location at the time. You can access the web application via any mobile smartphone by visiting www.amisafe.co.uk

Design Your MK: Porte Cochere Project on Midsummer Boulevard – Launch Party

Throughout September and October this year MK Gallery invited primary and secondary school children to create exciting, colourful designs, for the Porte Cocheres in Central MK. Over two hundred entries were received, and from these, four winning artwork designs have been chosen to be painted onto four Porte Cocheres near MK Gallery in Midsummer Boulevard. They will remain in place until early Summer 2012. Join MK Gallery for the Launch Party on Saturday 26 November at 3pm. Free. [Find out more about the project](#)

Cave - New public artwork in Campbell Park – Launch Event

Saturday 26 November, at 4pm, free admission. (Wear suitable footwear!)

Work is nearly complete on Cave, a new public artwork for Campbell Park in Milton Keynes, commissioned by MK Gallery in collaboration with The Parks Trust from internationally acclaimed artists Heather and Ivan Morison. The artwork is formed from three concrete panels and will nestle into the hillside of the park near the Belvedere), providing visitors with a resting place that offers a panoramic view over the countryside.

Win a brand new Volkswagen Golf and support local Charities and Community groups for just a £1!

The MK Community Foundation's annual Community Car Raffle is running now, right outside of Next near Middleton Hall until 01 January 2012, so make sure you stop by to buy a ticket for your chance to win! The raffle has been generously supported by Volkswagen Group UK Ltd and thecentre:mk since 1989 and has raised £920,000. For more information visit: www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk

Invest Milton Keynes

A reminder that Invest Milton Keynes (IMK), the inward investment team for the city, is now part of the Economic Development section in Milton Keynes Council's Planning, Economy and Development Group. IMK will continue to work with other economic development partners to position Milton Keynes as a great place to do business, to bring companies to the city and to support their development here. IMK aims to help create employment opportunities for the city's residents and to ensure that jobs are retained in Milton Keynes. The team therefore has a key role to play in the delivery of the Milton Keynes Economic Development Strategy. IMK can be contacted, as usual, on +44 (0)1908 200800. For more information see: www.investmiltonkeynes.com or www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-business

Thames Valley Police

Thames Valley Police are currently running a 'Lock it and Light it' campaign where they are reminding people of the importance of leaving suitable lighting on in their homes during the darker evenings. When the clocks go back there is a rise in the number of burglaries due to people not considering that they often return back to their homes after work and their houses are in complete darkness.

The new Thames Valley Police non emergency number 101 went live on 14 November. This will replace the 0845 8 505505 number, however both will be running side by side until March 2012. 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

Christmas Parking Arrangements

There are 21,000 publicly available parking spaces in Central Milton Keynes. Click here to see a parking map [CMK Parking Map](#) . Over the busy Christmas period, spaces are more likely to be available from Witan Gate to the Station. It is less than 10 minutes walk from the Station to the shopping area and there are over 40 buses every hour, with a special return fare available of £2 per person. Alternatively, you may wish to use the permanent Park and Ride location just off junction 14. Parking is free of charge and there are 3 buses per hour, every 20 minutes until 6.30pm (Monday to Friday) and 5.30pm on Saturday costing £2 per person for a return journey. Evening and Sunday buses are less frequent so for full details of the timetable go to http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/transport/documents/300_City%281%29.pdf Please note that new permit restrictions have been introduced to the residential estates surrounding CMK which prevent anyone without a valid resident parking permit (or visitor permit) leaving their vehicle in these areas.

Fancy Half Price Petrol? And Cheap Christmas Presents Too?

It's that time of year again. Parties, expensive presents and high credit card bills. Petrol and parking needn't be added to that long list of purchases... or at least not so often. For £30 per year, car sharers gain access to thousands of car parking spaces free of charge. Sign up now at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkparking. But there's more! MKC Car Share members now have exclusive access to myLogBuy.com, which gives great discounts at over 1,000 shops and online stores throughout the UK. Here you can save money on everything from holidays to fashion, leisure time and DIY. There's a mobile app so you can find deals quickly, easily and on the go. Discounted gift cards for large retailers and TopDeal vouchers (like Groupon) will soon be available. Access can only be guaranteed for a limited period so don't delay... to obtain the unique car share activation code, please drop an email to jemma.drought@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

There are now 6 charging points electronically live in CMK. 150 points in total will be installed across the borough 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 (which gives you free parking and electricity) and acquire an RFID access card, or to see where the charge posts are located visit 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](#)

Station Approach Development

Work to replace and reconfigure the highway at the Station approach and Elder Gate is planned to take place from 22 August 2011 until February 2012.

Phase 1A from November to 21 December:

Will see all traffic, except buses using the northern entrance arm to access the station. The arm will operate a two way system but channel 3 and channel 4 will operate a one way gyratory system, with designated parking/waiting areas which will be marked and signed.

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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

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