

Monthly Street Warden Report March 2015

The following work has been carried out in March on behalf of MKCCM and CMK Town Council.

Landscaping

Requests logged: 15

Resolved: 5

Outstanding: 10

Types of job and locations

- Sight lines – Five sets of bushes pruned at Bankfield Roundabout, Avebury Boulevard. These were identified on the night time audit, reported on 05/03/15 and rectified on 16/03/15.
- Ten trees for inspection on North 14th Street which appear 'dead and unsightly'. Reported 30/03/15, pending action.

Rough sleepers

There are approximately six rough sleepers in CMK, the main areas being CMK Rail Station, The Point, Marks and Spencer and an underpass near Jury's Inn. During area patrols in March I have noticed an increase in rough sleepers. This could be due to the slightly warmer weather. At the last JATAC meeting on 25/03/15 it was announced that P3 will be working closely with the rough sleepers to help reduce the issues on the streets of Milton Keynes due to a feeling of intimidation on the general public's part. Local business groups and members of the public are advised not to hand cash or food to rough sleepers as it encourages the situation.

Groups have started to gather again at Lloyds Court in relation to drinking and begging. Thames Valley Police are aware of this and as this is a drinking control zone, the Police do move these people on and take the drinks from them when they can. If I see anything, I report it to the local Police Community Support Officer to take action.

Highways and Maintenance

Requests logged: 35

Resolved: 16

Outstanding: 19

Types of job and locations

- Five street lights fixed at Bankfield Roundabout on Avebury Boulevard. Reported 02/03/15, resolved 03/03/15.
- One bollard fixed at Bankfield Roundabout on Avebury Boulevard, fixed within three days. See pictures over the page.
- 27 lights reported out near Intu and the side of Xscape. Nine resolved, 18 pending.
- Large pot hole on Witan Gate, seven weeks to resolve. See pictures over the page.
- Large pothole awaiting urgent action at Secklow/Silbury Boulevard traffic lights. Reported late February, awaiting resolution.
- A salt bin on North Row which was set on fire, needs replacing. Awaiting resolution. See pictures over the page.

During April 2015 an audit of pot holes in Central Milton Keynes will be carried out with issues highlighted to Milton Keynes Council for resolution.



Left: Broken bollard at Bankfield Roundabout. Second left: Bollard fixed at Bankfield Roundabout. Third left: Potholes and misplaced paving at Witan Gate near Law Courts. Right: Replaced paving and filled potholes at Witan Gate, near Law Courts.



Above: Salt bin on North Row in need of replacement following arson.

Littering (including shopping trolleys)

Requests logged: 17
 Resolved: 17
 Outstanding: 0

Types of job and locations

- Fourteen trolleys reported during March, all collected.
- Litter pick requests in Midsummer Boulevard near John Lewis, North 14th street, and continued litter outside McDonald's on Midsummer Boulevard (see picture below). I am arranging a fixed penalty operation with the Environmental Crime Unit at Milton Keynes Council for second week in April. Education and engaging with the public in this location has not worked as yet. Serco and McDonald's clean up daily but the public don't use the bins.
- A new strong style cigarette bin has been successful during a trial period during March. This bin holds 550 cigarettes. This will reduce butt ends on the floor when more are installed around the city. See picture below.
- Serco are installing new 90 litre bins and these will replace every third bin on a lamppost. These bins are also bird proof to prevent more litter being pulled from the bin. This is a five year project. See picture below.
- I have arranged for some of the bins at Station Square to be relocated making it easier for businesses to use them. This has already eased littering issues.

- Fly tipping issues around North 9th Street have returned. See before and after pictures over the page.



Left: New bins. Centre: Litter at McDonalds. Right: Trial butt bin.



Above left: Fly tipping on North 9th Street. Above right: Waste cleared on North 9th Street within half an hour. This sort of job is removed quickly to avoid possible arson action.

Graffiti

Requests logged: 50

Resolved: 48

Outstanding: 2

Most of these are small tags across the city, on bus shelters, in underpasses, on bollards and on bike shelters at the station.

Types of job and locations

- Six tags at the station. Reported 17/03/15, rectified 20/03/15.
- Two tags on bridge at North Row. Reported 17/03/15, rectified 24/03/15. See picture below.
- Six tags at the bus shelter on Silbury Boulevard. Reported 18/03/15, rectified 18/03/15.



Left: North Row graffiti before.

Right: North Row after graffiti has been removed.

Business engagement

I have met with the following groups to set up projects around improving areas of Central Milton Keynes, and encouraging their workers to take part in projects near the location of their work place.

- McDonalds
- Xscape
- Milton Keynes Council
- Network Rail
- Santander
- Cotswold Outdoor Shop regarding criminal damage issue. See pictures below.
- Thames valley police
- Safer MK
- P3 Rough Sleepers
- Learn Direct
- centre:mk
- Serco

Planned projects from March 2015 - September 2015 include litter picks, cleaning street name plates, repainting bollards, bike stands, railings and benches. Dates set are Thursday 23 April, Thursday 21 May, Friday 21 August and a Rugby World Cup themed clean up on Wednesday 12 October, between 12:30 – 2:00pm to coincide with work place lunch breaks.



Above left: Criminal damage to posts near Cotswold.

Above right: Fixed posts.

Enforcement

Five fixed penalty notices have been issued in March 2015 on Midsummer and Silbury Boulevard, and at the train station. If payment is made within 14 days, the fee is reduced to £50. There have been no re-offenders to date, and the message seems to be spreading to the public.

Fly tipping issues in the Campbell Park area have been passed to Milton Keynes Council Environmental Crime Unit for further investigations and enforcement action. See pictures below.



Above left and right: Fly tipping issues in Campbell Park areas.

Engagement with residents

I attended the CMK Residents Association on 31st March. This was well attended by residents. Bob Stones is moving forward with the garden project to improve the area with the support of Learn Direct. Three workers attend the project daily until it has been completed. This was shortlisted by Gardeners World to be supported and featured on the BBC TV show but was not selected.

Planning has been undertaken with Hilarie Bowman in relation to setting up a resident forum for Central Milton Keynes. The first meeting took place on Thursday 26 March at Acorn House and was very well attended. The next meeting is planned for Thursday 18 June.

Local issues outstanding

- Broken railings outside CMK Library ongoing.
- Butt Bin Project. Target completion date of April 2015 on target.
- Recycling Bank on Upper 12th Street. MKC to install CCTV camera due to the ongoing fly tipping issues in this high footfall area. Serco currently clean it but this needs enforcement action, or the bins need replacing or removing if they are not being used correctly, this issue is with the Enforcement Team MKC.