

Street Warden Report June 2015

The following work has been carried out in June 2015 on behalf of MKCCM & CMK Town Council.

Landscaping

Requests logged: 2

Resolved: 0

Outstanding: 2

Types of job and locations

- Over hanging bushes encroaching parking bays on North Row (rear of Civic Offices). Reported 3 June 2015. Picture below.

Please note some types of landscaping jobs cannot be cleared due to bird nesting season (continuing information from the last Street Warden report). The following update has been given by a senior Milton Keynes Council landscaping officer. If bird nests are not present in an area, works will commence after inspection. Trees can be cut back if they are hanging over pathways, but if they are not, they must be left as they are to ensure the safety of birds that are nesting in the trees. These jobs will be revisited as part of the winter pruning programme.



Above: Overhanging bushes near North Row.

Rough sleepers

There are approximately 20 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 June, I have noticed an increase in rough sleepers. This could be due to the continuing warmer weather. I can report that no further progress has been made on the P3 'People, Potential, Possibilities' project case workers at this stage. I am awaiting on further information from Safer MK. 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: 7

Resolved: 2

Outstanding: 5

Types of job and locations

- Two damaged salt bins on North Row. Reported 3 June 2015. Awaiting replacement.

- 21 loose and rocking pavement slabs on Silbury Boulevard near Marks and Spencer. Reported 5 June 2015. MKC state these are below the minimum intervention level for repair.
- Yellow lines in need of re-lining on North 12th Street. Reported 11 June 2015. MKC unable to confirm when this will be done.
- Faded 'give way' markings around Lloyds Court. Reported 11 June 2015. MKC unable to confirm when this will be done.
- Six granite frontages in underpasses missing and damaged. Reported 23 June 2015. MKC are unable to replace due to budget issues. An alternative solution has been requested as it appears unsightly. Pictures below.
- Damaged lamppost replaced in South Row within two hours after a car hit it. Reported 13 June 2015. Pictures below.
- Granite slab in the road on South Row was made safe within 30 minutes. Reported 24 June 2015.



Above: Damaged lamp post on South Row; replacement lamp post; missing granite frontages on underpass which cannot be replaced due to budget issues.

Littering (including shopping trolleys)

Requests logged: 28
 Resolved: 28
 Outstanding: 0

Types of job and locations

- 26 trolleys reported and collected throughout June 2015.
- 2 littering requests in June 2015. One smashed bottle outside Acorn House. One dog waste on path near Intu Milton Keynes.

Butt bins

On joining MKCCM a key priority of the Street Warden has been to deliver a more durable cigarette butt bin which would replace the current, less hardwearing 'butt' bins installed in the past five years by

MKCCM. This need was identified due to a large amount of cigarette waste around Central Milton Keynes, particularly outside offices and retail areas.

Following a successful trial period earlier this year, a new stronger butt bin holding 550 cigarettes has now been installed in over 50 locations around Central Milton Keynes. A picture can be found below. Bins were ordered by stakeholders including centre:mk, intu Milton Keynes, Santander, MK Community Foundation, MK Council and CBRE. Waste will be dealt with by the team at Serco. Further orders will be made as required by members and stakeholders and sponsorship opportunities will be sought to release funds to develop the project further.



Above: One of the new cigarette butt bins installed around Central Milton Keynes.

Graffiti

Requests logged: 106

Resolved: 106

Outstanding: 0

These jobs were logged at various dates across June 2015. Most of these are small tags across the city, in underpasses. Some are marker pen sized. Please note a graffiti writer's tag is his or her personalised signature.

Types of job and locations

- Tags reported on underpasses at Station Square near Elder Gate, and Campbell Park. At Campbell Park a successful arrest was made when I caught an offender in action. Charges have been made by Thames Valley Police and the offender is paying to clean up the mess for the criminal damage to the granite.

Business engagement

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

- Network Rail – ongoing 'Operation Chromium' issues with youths driving at speed around car park directly outside The Quadrant.
- Thames Valley Police – monthly JATAC joint tasking meeting
- Serco – involved in project work and quick clearance of problem areas, and installation of butt bins

Planned Spring Clean projects in the coming months include litter picks, cleaning street name plates, repainting bollards, bike stands, railings and benches. The next Spring Clean is planned for Tuesday 14 July. Further events include Friday 7 August (McDonalds led 24 hour litter pick), Tuesday 15 September and a Rugby World Cup themed clean up on Wednesday 12 October. All will be held from 12:00 – 2:00pm to coincide with work place lunch breaks.

Enforcement

Six fixed penalty notice were issued in June. Five are fully paid and one remains outstanding and will go to court for prosecution. If payment is made within 14 days, the fee is reduced to £50. There have been no re-offenders to date, and the message continues to spread to the public.

Fly tipping issues in the Campbell Park area have been cleared by Serco and no further action was taken.

Engagement with residents

Residents at North 9th and North 10th Street arranged clearance of some fly tipping on Silbury Boulevard. A successful prosecution has come from this investigation by MKC's Enforcement Officers.

Residents at Campbell Park have reported an improvement in fly-tipping and the pest control officer has reduced the issues of rodents at the bin areas.

The last resident's forum for Central Milton Keynes was held on Thursday 18 June. This was well attended and the group talked over issues of parking during the Rugby World Cup, the Business Neighbourhood Plan referendum, and a representative from MKC gave a presentation on regeneration. The group is already growing in numbers following the first meeting, and it is hoped there will be twenty people at the next meeting.

After involvement with months of planning the event, The Fred Roche Garden Midsummer Picnic was held on Friday 19th June. Over 200 people visited the event with the business community and residents enjoying the live music, food, drinks and games on a lovely sunny evening.



Above: Fred Roche Gardens Midsummer Picnic event held on Friday 19 June.

Local issues outstanding

Broken railings outside CMK Library are ongoing.