

The following work has been carried out in January 2017 on behalf of MKCCM and CMK Town Council.

### Landscaping

Requests logged: 2

Resolved: 2

Outstanding: 0

#### **Types of job and locations**

The following jobs have been logged for inspection; these reports are low due to works being scheduled into the winter pruning schedule, October – March.

- Landscapes dead branches op Job Centre '2 years on.'
- Landscapes all pruned Witan Gate / Midsummer.



Above: Near Job Centre Midsummer.



Above: Midsummer / Witan Gate

### Rough sleepers

There are approximately 32 rough sleepers (this includes professional beggars) in Central Milton Keynes, the main areas being Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's Car Park has been much worse recently, with Anti – Social Behaviour in the car park, I have been working closely with management and the in house security teams to resolve this, the offenders have been spoken to and the issues have eased slightly. The Job Centre, the underpass nearest Jury's Inn, the Xscape complex, and centre:mk, Intu, and the Train Station surrounding areas. During January, I noticed a very large increase in rough sleepers and an increase in aggressive beggars, this is due to cold weather for this time of the year, and this is a pattern that normally occurs. Jointly working with the Police and premises' Security Officers, we have managed to move many of the beggars away to stop them intimidating the general public. Often within less than an hour of the reported issue, the offenders return and the whole process starts again.

The Winter Night Shelter started on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Buszy' Old Bus Station Elder Gate' this will be a check in point every evening and only 15 places are available throughout the time this operates during December until end of March 2017, this is an increasingly desperate situation for the sleepers who are unable to use this service if they don't meet the set criteria and legislation guidelines.

During January I have continued working closely with Tom Davis who has experience in youth work and projects like this, about the Bus Shelter project, the aim is to overcome the limited spaces at the Winter Night Shelter which is seasonal December to end of March, the bus shelter project will be a converted double decker run by volunteers at a set location, the bus will have a PO Box address so that the residents on the bus can apply for jobs, and outreach workers will visit the bus to help and support.

During January we have found out that Intu Shopping Centre will be headline sponsors supporting the project with many fund raising events will take place raising awareness and helping us reach a target of 30k to get the bus up and running, MKCCM and CMK Town Council fully support the potential of what could in theory end the issue of people sleeping on the streets of Milton Keynes. After Tom and I visited the project on the Isle of Wight, the first of its kind, and it works, we can't see any reason why it shouldn't be operational in Milton Keynes. The planned launch would be October 2017 in time to support the Winter Night Shelter, too view the project further please visit 'The Bus Shelter MK' Facebook page.

## **Highways and Maintenance**

Requests logged: 19

Resolved: 2

Outstanding: 17

- Porte-Cochere Barriers have been removed from Margaret Powell House.
- All path Station Square nearest Subway to Greggs for inspection still under review.
- DHL – Santander Midsummer all path for inspection still under review.
- Damaged road barriers in all Boulevards still an unsightly issue, still under review.
- Bus lane Station Square pot hole waiting repair, another inspection.
- Granite out of place Lloyds Court waiting repair.
- Damaged Porte-Cochere op Iceland boarded up but waiting full repair.
- Granite out of place Library waiting repair.
- Street Light defect rectified outside Jurys Inn.
- Granite rectified side of Saxon Court.
- Community Clean contractors continue with phase 2 of painting railings and barriers in all Boulevards, this time frame are over 35 week period, working in partnership with Ringway.
- Request has been made to remove the Bike Shed at door 9 near Burger King, this has become a Health & Safety issue with rough sleepers using this as a Den, and setting fires inside the shed area. After contacting the Police and Milton Keynes Council safety team we had a site visit and it is advised the shelter should be removed before a serious accident happens at this location. I will update further on this situation when more details are available.



Above: Community clean Saxon Gate.



Above: Damaged road Saxon Gate.

## Trolleys & Litter & Bulky Waste

Requests logged: 33

Resolved: 33

Outstanding: 0

### Types of job and locations

- Trolleys collected across Central Milton Keynes.
- During January Serco beat sweepers have been weeding and sweeping paths as an additional clean of CMK, these areas are much improved.
- Rodents have been seen again around the Market and surrounding areas, these issues have been reported to the Pest Control Contractors who work in partnership with Milton Keynes Council, but the issues continue.
- Rodents are causing issues in surrounding bushes near Morrison's, this has been reported as this is on Milton Keynes Council land, but the issues continue.
- Rodents have been seen at Xscape hedges near Childs Way side of the complex. Pest Control is being looked at across the City as it is becoming more of a problem. Milton Keynes Council are looking at this problem, but this is a slow process and the problem continues.
- Continued problems of Fly-Tipping and waste being dumped at the following locations, South Row South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and the gardens between North 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, both locations I have identified and gained very good evidence, which has been passed to the Environmental Crime Unit at Milton Keynes Council for further action and possible prosecution.
- Black bags of waste have started to be a problem opposite Iceland again at the Recycling Bank. If I can obtain any evidence this will be submitted to the Enforcement Team.
- Rough Sleepers are still using most underpass locations as a public toilet which Serco cleaning teams have to clean up, this really is something Environmental Health Teams need to look at, rather than Serco Teams jet washing these areas out all the time.

## Butt bins

In January I have noticed an increase in people disposing of cigarette waste incorrectly. 1 fixed penalty notice has been issued in January 2017. If there are issues of cigarettes not being disposed of correctly in certain areas, it has been highlighted to building facilities managers who issue internal emails to their staff reminding of the need to use the bins provided.



Above: New butt bin outside Acorn House.



Above: Cigarette butts issues Midsummer.

## **Graffiti**

Requests logged: 69

Resolved: 69

Outstanding: 0

These jobs were logged at various dates during, January most of these are smaller tags normally, but lately larger tags have been visible. See pictures below. Some tags are marker pen sized. Please note a graffiti tag is the offender's personalised signature.



Above: Argos location.



Above: Buszy location.

## **Love Where You Live events**

The Love Where You Live events include litter picks, street furniture painting, weeding.

- Dates for 2017 will follow very soon; hopefully you can all join us in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

## **Engagement with residents**

- I continue to work with Hilarie Bowman on the launch of a Neighbourhood Watch schemes for Central Milton Keynes. We are working with a new Thames Valley Officer and we hope to launch this project at the end of April, we had a successful door knocking session on South Row we gained a coordinator and several residents joined the scheme.
- South & North Rows had been vastly improved after talking to residents about not putting waste out on the wrong days. South 9<sup>th</sup> Street- these issues have arisen again during January so more time is needed on these locations with more education.
- Residents working with us to improve the gardens in North 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Streets- possible gardening club and Neighbourhood Watch to develop from this work in spring 2017.
- Meeting with the Hub Management and security teams with the Police and residents- rough sleepers and begging issues have started in this location again, other areas have increased also, and this is an ongoing concern.
- Table Tennis is going well in the gardens and is well used, by visitors, residents, and local workers- second table went in the gardens second week in December, and during January the table is well used even in the cold weather.
- Issues in North 9-10 Streets the Police are dealing with these.
- Issues in North 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Streets with waste not being put into the bin storage areas. I have spoken to Milton Keynes Council Housing Teams and Enforcement Teams and have advised that all tenants should receive warning letters to stamp out this behaviour.
- Residents have reported sightline issues across CMK, and I have informed everyone that winter pruning starts soon. This will resolve these issues; areas have started to be much improved across CMK since these requests had been highlighted.
- Working closely with Peter Gladwin in North 14<sup>th</sup> Street to improve the look of the street, working with Serco closely.
- Residents in South Row near the approach to the Xscape underpass have been complaining about cyclists on the path passing these houses at speed. Signage is up in this location but is being ignored. I have passed this onto the Police to monitor.

## **Local issues outstanding**

- Broken railings outside CMK Library.
- 20 'day burning' street lights have been outstanding for months on Midsummer Boulevard near The Pinnacle.
- Bus lanes 'in and out' sections Midsummer Boulevard- urgent inspection was requested due to the condition of the whole road. MKC and Ringway Highways department will monitor the situation, this is, in my view, a major health & safety issue concerning buses, cars, and pedestrians using this area, large pot holes, cracked granite, and loose cobbles.
- Weeds everywhere, including all the central Islands in the all the Boulevards.
- Central road barriers in all Boulevards damaged and unsightly. Milton Keynes Council look at this as a non-safety issue and these barriers will remain like this for the foreseeable future.
- Damaged lampposts with remain on the streets with yellow tape attached to them, very unsightly and Milton Keynes Council unable to remove because of wiring issues into the pavement.