

Street Warden Report April 2017

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

Landscaping

Requests logged: 8

Resolved: 8

Outstanding: 0

Types of job and locations

The following jobs have been carried out during April 2017.

- Landscapes pruning complete all Elder Gate.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Grafton Gate.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Witan Gate.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Saxon Gate.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Marlborough Gate / Campbell Park.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Boulevards / Underpass sections.
- Landscapes pruning complete all Gateways / Underpass sections.



Above: Market area.



Above: Witan Gate

Rough sleepers

There are approximately 35 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 April noticed big increase rough sleepers, but an increase in aggressive beggars, and even more tents than ever before, this is due to milder 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.

PSPO Public Space Protection Order, this will be looked at further at the end of May 2017, this legislation would help ease the current situation and people could be moved on from sleeping on the streets.

The bus arrived in CMK on the 21st April, and will be fully operational when the bust project group and the board of trustees can arrange for a permanent location for it to be parked and the project can commence once land ownership has been agreed.

Tents & Bedding and unsightly belongings, when you see these items in underpass sections or on the paths, I am unable to request the removal of these at the moment, even if items are unattended, because the situation is that these people need support and are at risk, and by taking items away is making their situation even worse, I do feel when the Bus project is fully operational this will ease the situation that you see at street level, when the homeless board the bus, and working in partnership with the Winter Night Shelter this will enable up to 32 people to gain help and support, further information will develop in May 2017.

Highways and Maintenance

Requests logged: 6

Resolved: 6

Outstanding: 0

- Damaged road barriers in all Boulevards still an unsightly issue, won't be removed.
- Damaged Porte-Cochere op Iceland boarded up but waiting full repair.
- 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.
- Porte-Cochere refurbishments continue in North Row.
- Another request for the whole bus lane both sides Midsummer Boulevard near the Point to be inspected again this road is in very poor condition and concerns me.
- Street column repaired Argos location.
- Path inspections Station Square pending for further works.
- Underpass sections all that lead to Station Square paths for inspection.
- All Underpass section Campbell Park entrance for inspection.
- Road surface for inspection again entrance Church Of The Cornerstone.



Above: Waiting repair near Jaipur.



Above: for another inspection near Xscape.

Trolleys & Litter & Bulky Waste

Requests logged: 19

Resolved: 19

Outstanding: 0

Types of job and locations

- Trolleys collected across Central Milton Keynes.
- During April Serco beat sweepers have been weeding and sweeping paths as an additional clean of CMK, these areas are much improved.
- Pest control issues at the rear of Greggs Bakers Elder Gate, large rodents in this location, this has been reported to MKC.
- North 12th & 13th still have issues with bulky waste which is cleaned daily, CCTV would be a great option to catch offenders, but this isn't available due to budget restraints.
- Serco continue to clean up the mess that rough sleepers leave in the landscaped areas, this additional work includes picking up lots of needles and human faeces, staff also face intimidation and threats within most of these underpasses.
- Six separate issues of Fly-Tipping with evidence have been removed from North & South Rows; this is with MKC Enforcement teams.
- The mirrors in the underpass Midsummer we are waiting for these to be cleaned, this is not the responsibility of Serco, this is down to the Arts Council to arrange these for cleaning, often this does not happen, and the location looks woeful, I have arranged for the Arts Council who don't clean it in line with the proposed agreement at the start of the project who will direct and make payment for Serco to actually put this on a street cleansing schedule so this isn't over seen in future. This area still isn't clean and I am working on getting this resolved this week ending 7th May.

Butt bins

In April I have noticed a decline in people disposing of cigarette waste incorrectly, some bins have been damaged by homeless & aggressive beggars, this situation is being monitored. No fixed penalty notices have been issued in April 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: Butt Bin Acorn House.



Above: Litter in Midsummer.

Graffiti

Requests logged: 49

Resolved: 49

Outstanding: 0

These jobs were logged at various dates during April 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: Campbell Park

Above: Argos location.

Love Where You Live events

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

- 20th April
- 25th May
- 22nd June
- 27th July (24 Hour event 10am until 10am the following day)
- 21st September
- 26th October
- 14th December (Santa Hat Special)

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 May and still no signage.
- 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 on an ongoing concern.
- Residents from Campbell Park and North 12th attended LWYL Love Where You Live.
- Residents in South Row near the approach to the Xscape underpass have been complaining again about cyclists on the path, I have again reported this to Thames Valley Police.
- Meetings with Bob Stones during the April period of increased litter issues in the play park, after further investigation this play area is only getting one litter pick per month as scheduled by Serco, an increased litter pick has been requested to ease this problem, at this popular site.
- LWYL Love Where You Live was well ended with 28 volunteers in attendance the group walked from McDonalds Midsummer to Hub and back collecting 25 bags of recyclables, the next event is on the 25th May at the frontage of Exchange House & CBX Midsummer more details to follow.
- Residents and business groups supported MKC & Serco & Ringway Highways in a spring clean of paths and landscapes at frontage of Intu Midsummer, this was well attended and we supported and attended this event on this occasion.

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 busses, cars, and pedestrians using this area, large pot holes, cracked granite, and loose cobbles, after further talks no repair is planned for this location it does concern me works will NOT be carried out.
- Weeds everywhere, including all the central Islands in the all the Boulevards, looking at removing these within LWYL Love Where You Live projects in 2017.
- 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.