

## Milton Keynes Regeneration No decisions made, no plans decided



### RegenerationMK, Milton Keynes Council's regeneration programme, wants to make a real difference to peoples lives by improving your homes and neighbourhoods

To make this possible, the Council is looking for a private sector partner to provide additional expertise and funding.

To this end since the summer of 2013, the Council has been working to identify the best organisation with whom to partner with for the next 15 years.

This partnership will:

- Deliver the Council's repairs and maintenance service to Council homes.
- Enable and deliver regeneration where it is needed the most, focusing on 7 priority areas.

But to reassure you **NO regeneration plans have been made** and **NO order of regeneration development has been decided** because we need to have detailed discussions with residents about how best to improve the places where they live.

The seven priority areas are as follows:  
(in alphabetical order, not in any order of priority)

1. Beanhill
2. Coffee Hall
3. Fullers Slade
4. Lakes Estate
5. Netherfield
6. North Bradville
7. Tinkers Bridge

To find out more about the regeneration programme see inside on **pages 6 and 7**.

### Contents

News and info from P8

Message from Cllr Hannah O'Neil P2

Summer Fun P4

Regeneration MK P6 & P7

Noticeboard P12

# Welcome by Cllr Hannah O'Neill

Deputy Leader & cabinet member for  
Housing and Regeneration  
Woughton Ward - Milton Keynes Council



I am delighted to welcome you to the Summer edition of MK@Home.

Since I last wrote in this publication we have experienced both local and general elections and I am pleased to say that I can continue to deliver our promise of providing more council homes.



In this edition (on the opposite page) we are announcing good news with the latest new council bungalows being built in time for tenants to move in this summer.

Let's hope this summer is a good one so we can all enjoy being more active and enjoy the health benefits that being more active brings (see P4).

This summer children are being invited to take part in a reading challenge so they can discover

the joy of reading and the many advantages this brings to their education. Have a look at page 4 to see how your child can get involved

I am committed to working with communities and to deliver regeneration, bringing positive change to people and places in need. Work is underway to select a partner to work with the Council to make improvements to Milton Keynes, initially focusing on 7 priority areas. I must stress, even though these areas have been identified, no decisions or plans for regeneration have been made. The process for this has not started.

As part of our regeneration programme, we wish everyone to get involved with us over the coming years about how we can together reshape these estates to bring real benefits to the whole community. There will be many opportunities to become involved. It is about partnership working with residents to bring about positive change.

Although I represent the Woughton and Fishermead Ward, please feel free to contact me about any housing issues that you feel strongly about.

I hope you enjoy this summer issue of MK@Home and welcome any comments or questions you may have by emailing [regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Best wishes,  
Hannah O'Neill.

## Work starts on building more council homes

**W**ork is well under way on 13 bungalows for older people with disabilities on three disused garage sites in West Bletchley with the first tenants due to move in over the coming weeks.

The dwellings - the first to completed in the early summer - are a mixture of one and two bedroom bungalows - all with car ports and gardens.



They follow on from the opening last September of similar bungalows at Briar Hill, Stacey Bushes, which were the first new council homes to be built in the borough since the mid-nineties.

One tenant was keen to highlight how moving into a new purpose built bungalow had transformed his life and what citizens moving into the new Bletchley bungalows can expect.

He said: "Before moving to Stacey Bushes, I lived in a house with some adaptations but moving to an individually tailored bungalow has considerably improved the quality of my life.

"At my previous house, my kitchen was bespoke to meet my specific needs. I am a little person and the council took a flexible, common sense approach to ensure that suitable adaptations for were made in my bungalow.

"These changes have meant I can live a normal life.

"All of these additional touches show just how much the council had thought about improving the lives of disabled people in their community.

"Since moving to Stacey Bushes a real sense of community spirit has developed, which has really improved all of our lives."

Cllr Hannah O'Neill, cabinet member responsible for Housing, said: "We firmly believe every citizen has the right to a suitable, accessible and affordable home.

"These 13 bungalows are another step to delivering our commitment to a vibrant social and affordable housing market here in Milton Keynes."

The bungalows are being built at three former garage sites in Neath Crescent (four homes), St Georges Road (four homes) and Whiteley Crescent (five homes).

The bungalows are being built in partnership with City Renovations after this company successfully won the contract tender last year.



## Get moving this summer!

Now summer's here, getting physically active is easier than ever.

- 150 minutes of weekly moderate intensity activity (raising your heart rate while still able to talk) like fast walking/cycling.
- 75 minutes of vigorous activity such as running, tennis or 5-a-side football.
- Break up the time you spend sitting down & stationary.
- Prioritise everyday physical tasks like hoovering, washing the car or walking the dog.
- Get beneficial bursts of physical activity is easier than you think.
- Park further away.
- Swap the short journeys like the school run for a walk or cycle
- Get off the bus or train a stop early.
- Take the stairs.

By taking these simple steps you can benefit from improved wellbeing and fitness as well as maintaining a healthy heart.

To find out more go to

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment)  
[www.nhs.uk/livewell/fitness/pages/fitnesshome.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/fitness/pages/fitnesshome.aspx)  
[www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)



## Volunteers needed for Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge

**M**ilton Keynes Libraries are looking for volunteers aged 13 - 25 to get involved with the Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge 2015.

Young people who have a passion for reading and who enjoy meeting new people are encouraged to sign up. Schools and colleges in Milton Keynes are also encouraged to promote this volunteering opportunity to their students.

During the summer holidays, Milton Keynes Libraries can be particularly busy and last year 45 volunteers and over 2,900 children took part.

This year's theme of Record Breakers will inspire children in Milton Keynes to learn about and celebrate achievements and personal bests, collecting stickers along the way.

Volunteers will act as reading role models for the children, sign them up to the challenge, track their progress, hand out incentives, help them find their next book and most importantly, speak with them about what they have been reading.

Paul Sanders, assistant director, Community Facilities, said: "It is an opportunity to encourage reading during the long summer break from school and we are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children and who want to make a difference in their community."

One previous participant, Max, said, "I really enjoyed helping young readers in Bletchley Library and the experience helped me in my UCAS and job applications".

If you or a young person you know would like to get involved, sign up by Monday 29 June 2015, online at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/src](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/src) or for more information, ask in any library.

# Helping the over 50's restart their careers



A job club to help unemployed over 50 year olds restart their careers has been launched.

The job club provides a welcoming and reassuring place for people to find their feet, get on career related training and help find a new job.

Over a cup of coffee in an informal atmosphere advisers can offer focussed and tailored advice and support to help you have best possible chance of returning to work or finding a new career

This new job club is run from the Job Centre Plus offices in Central Milton Keynes every Tuesday from 1.00pm until 3.00pm and is part of the wider Neighbourhood Employment Programme (NEP).

This service for older job hunters will run in addition to the current over 50's job club run in

partnership with AGE:UK at Peartree Bridge Centre every Wednesday from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

A council spokesman said: "Being unemployed at this time in a person's career can often be a bewildering experience.

"Many are out of touch with the job market and may not have written a CV or prepared for a job interview for many years.

"This club run by the Council and Job Centre Plus can offer practical employment advice and create the right environment to help older job hunters restart their careers."

The Neighbourhood Employment Programme run by Milton Keynes Council has targeted job clubs in more than 22 areas in Milton Keynes with the aim of helping local residents to achieve their full potential and find a job.

For a list of all Neighbourhood Employment job clubs visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/nep](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/nep)

You can also email [nep@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:nep@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

For further information please telephone **01908 252323**.



## Find out more about RegenerationMK



**R**egenerationMK, Milton Keynes Council's Regeneration Programme, is focused on People, Place and Prosperity. It has a vision of a Milton Keynes where people are

empowered to take ownership of their future, people's surroundings make their lives better, and barriers are removed between people and jobs, and ambitions can be realised.

We are faced with a number of significant challenges; poverty, unemployment, low skills and poor housing. In response to this RegenerationMK is already working to support residents gain new skills and get employment through the Neighbourhood Employment Programme (page 5), and supporting residents to contribute to their community (page 11). We are now working to establish a partnership which will enable us to deliver the housing regeneration that's needed.

The timetable for this is highlighted below, together with answers to some of the questions already received by the team. This is early days. **NO plans have been made and NO order of regeneration development has been decided.**

### How to find out more and keep in touch

There are many ways you can find our more and keep in touch with us:

Website: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/regeneration](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/regeneration)

Twitter: [@MKCRegeneration](https://twitter.com/MKCRegeneration)

Facebook: [RegenerationMK](https://www.facebook.com/RegenerationMK)

Email: [regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Tel: **01908 252320**

### Timetable for RegenerationMK

<b>13 July 2015:</b>	The Council's cabinet to approve recommendation for a Regeneration partner
<b>September 2015:</b>	New partner announced to work with Milton Keynes Council on repairs and maintenance service to Council homes and regeneration
<b>January 2016:</b>	New partner will start to take over the repairs and maintenance service of council homes replacing Mitie – due to change over by end of March
<b>Spring 2017:</b>	Aim to announce the first areas for regeneration
<b>2017-2018:</b>	Community engagement will begin with residents in the first priority area, providing lots of opportunities for residents to inform and shape the future plans for their neighbourhood
<b>2019:</b>	Regeneration work starts on site in the first priority area
<b>2018- 2019:</b>	Community engagement will begin with local people in the second priority area, providing lots of opportunities for residents to inform and shape the future plans for their neighbourhood
<b>2020:</b>	Regeneration work starts on site in the second priority area

This is a suggested timetable to give a sense of the timescales involved. We appreciate every area will be different and every community and local residents also. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved and help shape your neighbourhood.

## Frequently Asked Questions about regeneration



### **Where is the RegenerationMK (RMK) Partnership going to start the regeneration activity?**

The partnership will deliver a 15 year programme that will regenerate 7 estates and these are (in alphabetical order) Beanhill, Coffee Hall, Fullers Slade, Lakes Estate, Netherfield, North Bradville and Tinkers Bridge.

### **When will the order of priority for the 7 areas be known?**

We do not know what order the estates will be worked on, nor do we know what regeneration will look like on each estate because the process has not started. Once the decision has been made to appoint a partner, there will be around 6-12 months where the RMK Partnership will undertake a review of the council's housing and decide whether regeneration activity is necessary. This will inform which area will be looked at first. It is hoped to announce this by spring 2017. If your area is first, there will be at least a year of consultation with the local community before any works begin.

### **Will local people be consulted?**

We want to go much further than just consultation. When the programme starts on each area it will be community led, this means we will make sure that there are extensive opportunities for everyone in the area to inform and influence the plans for their neighbourhood.

### **Is it going to look at whole estates or just Council houses?**

This is dependent on the regeneration plan for each area. These plans will be developed with communities and will need to balance social,

economic and environmental goals against what is affordable.

### **Will some houses be knocked down?**

Yes. There may be some houses that will be replaced with new homes but where this will be and when this will happen has not been decided. Residents will be kept informed and, where appropriate, fully involved in the decision making.

### **If my home was to be replaced, where will I move to?**

For any regeneration plans, there will be extensive conversations over a long length of time, at least a year, with you and your community. We will work with you and be sensitive to your needs and if the regeneration plan that is agreed means that your home is one of the houses to be replaced, we will work very closely with you to make any move as stress free as possible and to provide you with the choice of staying in the same area or moving elsewhere. The aim within the programme is for residents to only move once.

### **Can I move back to my same street?**

If the regeneration plan is to re-develop your area, your neighbourhood could look very different to what it looks like now. The partner will have done large scale regeneration projects in other parts of the country and there will be opportunity for you to see examples of this and get involved in the development stages.

### **What about the elderly and vulnerable?**

We fully appreciate that everyone will have different requirements and needs.

Processes will be in place to identify these, and for those with particular needs, additional support packages will be available.

### **I am a Council tenant, what happens in the meantime?**

If you are a tenant of Milton Keynes Council we will continue to carry out repairs and maintenance to your home as normal.

# Be safe and get a HIV test

**Citizens are being urged to take precautions by getting tested for HIV to give them the best chance of treating the virus at an early stage.**

When diagnosed early, people living with HIV can live a long and healthy life, whilst reducing the risk of avoidable HIV transmission in the community.

In Milton Keynes it is recommended HIV testing should be expanded because there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of people diagnosed as HIV positive - above the threshold set out in UK National Guidelines for HIV Testing (2008).

In 2013, 480 adult residents (aged 15 years and older) in Milton Keynes received HIV-related care: 220 males and 260 females.

The good news is that advances in treatment have dramatically



improved the long term health outcomes for people diagnosed with HIV early and many people living with HIV now have a normal life expectancy.

If HIV is diagnosed late, however, the health outcome can be less optimistic.

Research shows that a quarter of deaths among HIV positive individuals in the UK are among those diagnosed too late for effective treatment.

**How can Milton Keynes citizens get an HIV test?**

#### **Family Doctor**

Your family doctor has a key role in increasing the early diagnosis of HIV so book a normal appointment to discuss the issue.

#### **Milton Keynes Hospital**

HIV testing can be undertaken at the GUM clinic, now in The Stratford Suite at Milton Keynes Hospital, in confidence and without a referral from your GP. Call 0300 303 8273.

#### **Brook**

If you are under 25, you can get tested at Brook Central, South Fifth Street on 01908 669215

#### **Community Testing**

Tests are also provided by voluntary groups, with services such as StaSS, who work with black and other minority ethnic groups and Q:Alliance who work with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities offer testing, especially during national campaigns such as National Testing week.

**Call STaSS on 01908 282185 or 07950 397475 and the Q: Alliance at [www.qalliance.org.uk](http://www.qalliance.org.uk)**



## Find out about our HENRY healthy living courses

Parents and carers are being invited to take part in training courses for HENRY - Healthy Exercise Nutrition for the Really Young - an anti-obesity programme run by the Public Health Team at Milton Keynes Council.

The programme aims to tackle obesity at its roots, when unhealthy lifestyle habits are learned and established within families between the ages of one and five.

There are various training options being offered both through a free online training course aimed at parents and carers and an eight week group parents'/ carers' programme.

1 in 4 children are already overweight by the time they start school, so school years intervention is very often too late.

By targeting key areas like parenting skills, eating patterns, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional well-being at a young age, the scheme aims to stem the causes of obesity.

An overview of this programme, endorsed by Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, can be found at [www.virtual-college.co.uk/products/childhood-obesity-henry.aspx](http://www.virtual-college.co.uk/products/childhood-obesity-henry.aspx)

**For more information on the HENRY programmes and for access to the free E-Learning courses, please contact Emma Bates of MK Council**

**Tel - 01908 253597**

**Email - [emma.bates@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:emma.bates@milton-keynes.gov.uk)**

# Don't risk your life by swimming in open waters

**D**o not put your life at risk by swimming in canals, lakes, quarry pools and open water is the message issued to residents and children in Milton Keynes.

Officers working for Milton Keynes Council are calling on all residents to heed the advice offered by the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) about the dangers of swimming in open waters.

While representatives from SaferMK, a partnership between Milton Keynes Council, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, NHS Milton Keynes CCG and Probation Partners, are warning people not to swim in open waters.

They are advising the only safe place to bathe is in supervised swimming pools and if you see someone putting themselves at risk in open water call Thames Valley Police on 101- it could save a life.

## **Dangers of open water include:**

- The depth of the water - this changes and is unpredictable.
- Strong currents can rapidly sweep people away.
- Submerged objects may not be visible.
- Obstacles or other people in the water.
- Lack of safety equipment and increased difficulty for rescue.



- The shock of cold water can make swimming difficult and increase the difficulty in getting out of the water.
- The height of the fall or jump.
- Uneven banks and river beds.

## **Don't swim at unsupervised sites.**

### **If someone is in difficulty in the water:**

1. Shout reassurance to them and shout for help and ensure the emergency services are on their way (call 999).
2. Without endangering yourself, see if you can reach out to them, extend your reach with a stick, pole, item of clothing, lie down or stay secure.

Alternatively throw something buoyant to them such as a ring buoy, part filled plastic container, ball or anything that will float.

3. Keep your eye on them all the time and shout reassurance urging them to propel themselves to safety.

Another health risk of swimming in open waters is posed by blue green algae that can thrive during the summer months.

The council is monitoring its growth but swimmers face getting skin rashes and suffering from nausea, vomiting, stomach pains, fever and headaches.

Occasionally they can cause more serious illness such as liver and brain damage. The algae can pose a particularly health risk to pets such as dogs.

Also citizens are warned that open water contaminated with the urine of certain animals, including cattle, pigs, dogs, and rats can cause Weil's disease.

# Clean bill of health for all council gas heating systems

**T**enants are being thanked for helping housing officers carry out essential gas safety checks in council homes.

Derek Beaumont, partnering manager for MKC, said: "We wish to show appreciation to all of our tenants for allowing us entry to their homes to complete this service. When tenants respond promptly to appointment requests, we are able to carry out the safety checks before the due date.

"This means we know that all of our homes are safe and free from any issues that may arise from gas appliances. In recent months there have only been one or two over-due checks and we have managed to complete these within a week or so.

"This is a fantastic result. But it's an on-going task so we are asking tenants for their continued co-operation in this important work"



Every year contractors Wheldons and Milton Keynes Council officers contact tenants to arrange an appointment for the annual safety check to keep them safe from the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning due to faulty gas systems.

If the time and date is not convenient Wheldons are happy to re-schedule an appointment to suit. You can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide but it can kill without warning within a matter of hours, so it is a statutory requirement that a safety check is carried out at least once a year.

As well as being a condition of a tenancy, it is important that tenants continue to allow Wheldons access to carry out the safety check – it could save your life and those of your loved ones.

Any faults with your gas central heating and hot water system should be reported to the council's housing repair team on

## **Housing Repairs Service Centre**

9:00am - 5:15pm Monday to Friday

0800 035 4466

[mkcrepairs@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mkcrepairs@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## **Outside of office hours**

Telephone 01908 692882

Minicom service

01908 252779

**Gas leaks:** If you smell gas or fumes and suspect a gas leak:

- Do turn off the gas supply at the meter.
- Do ventilate the building by opening doors and windows.
- Do turn off anything electrical.
- Do call the emergency gas service on the free phone number: TRANSCO 0800 111 999.
- Don't smoke.

## Get involved in your community

If you're interested in what your Residents Association is doing in your area, have lots of ideas about new improvements and would like to join in with what's going on now and in the future, you can contact your Residents Association direct, via phone or email:

Area	Name of Chair	Telephone	email
Bradville	Tony Pierson	01908 311628	toninapub@yahoo.com
Beanhill	Sue Smith	01908 476043	sussmi9@aol.com
Central Housing	Bob Stones	0743 5467771	robertstones@hotmail.co.uk
Coffee Hall	Nick Scott	01908 606559	nick72uk@aol.com
Conniburrow		01908 670937	ccaoffice@btinternet.com
Fenny Stratford	Rosemary Smith	01908 477095	rosemarysmith@uwclub.net
Fishermead	Terry Baines	01908 730314	fishermeadra@yahoo.co.uk
Lakes	Jeanette Marling	01908 648910	jeanettemarling@talktalk.net
Leon	Ron Haine	01908 641430	ronhaine@live.co.uk
Loughton	Rob Wills	01908 664946	rob.wills.63@gmail.com
Moor Park	Manuel Medina	01908 411956	manuelmedina@live.com
Netherfield	Eamonn Bobey	01908 676320	Janettebobey19@aol.com
Oldbrook	Les Burgess	0791 215 0472	mr_burgess62@yahoo.co.uk
Stantonbury	Grahame Davison	01908 320072	RAFShome@outlook.com
The Mill	George Bennett	01908 270512	benny.bennett@hotmail.co.uk
Tinkers Bridge	John Orr	07565 922368	goldcastleservices@hotmail.co.uk
Warren Bank	Judith Williams		jpw7@outlook.com
Water Eaton	Peter Kuling		peterkuling62099@btinternet.com



Get involved in your Housing Service by coming along to one of our **Housing Services Forums** at the Civic offices. We talk about different housing issues, with different Housing teams. You can tell us what you think, and you can find out information that you want to know.

**Thursday, 6 August – 7:30-9pm**

**Thursday, 5 November – 7:30-9pm**

### **Tenant Scrutiny Panel:**

If you want to look even closer at our services and help us improve them, then you can apply to join our Tenant Scrutiny Panel. The panel has 8 members, but has space for 2 more to join. They carry out independent reviews each year on different parts of the Housing Service, giving our Managers ideas for improvement.

**For more information contact the chair, Janette Bobey on 01908 676320**

## Mayor in flag-raising salute to our Armed Forces

The Mayor of Milton Keynes Cllr Keith McLean will start Armed Forces Week with a flag-raising ceremony outside Milton Keynes Council's Civic Offices this month.

The Mayor will formally raise the flag on Monday, 22 June to coincide with other similar ceremonies being held by local authorities around the country. The public are welcome to attend. The flag will be kept flying until Sunday, 28 June.

All local authorities are invited to fly the Armed Forces Day flag - due to be held on Saturday, 27 June 2015 - to show support for servicemen and women and for the wider Armed Forces community of families, veterans and cadets.

Mayor Keith McLean said: "Showing support for the Armed Forces provides a much valued morale boost for the troops and their families.

"They continue to protect and keep the peace across the world so that we can all feel safe and secure in our homes and that is why it is only right for us to salute their efforts in this way."

For more information visit: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/armed-forces-support](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/armed-forces-support) or [www.armedforcesday.org.uk/](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/) Armed Forces Day (#SaluteOurForces)

## Our Telephone Numbers - your cut-out and keep reminder

Repairs Service Centre 0800 035 4466 or  
01908 254466  
[mkrepairs@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mkrepairs@milton-keynes.gov.uk)  
Out of hours emergency repairs 01908 692882

Wheldon (Gas Repairs) 0800 294 6262 or  
01908 211559

MK Housing Service 01908 252937  
[mkhousingservice@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mkhousingservice@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Resident Involvement Team 01908 253756  
[get.involved@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:get.involved@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Home Ownership Team 01908 253067  
[home.ownership@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:home.ownership@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Milton Keynes Council web site  
[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing)

Comments, Compliments & Complaints  
01908 253817  
[housing.complaints@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:housing.complaints@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

RegenerationMK 01908 252320  
[regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

### Other useful telephone numbers

MK Act (domestic violence) 0844 375 4307

Milton Keynes Mediation Service 01908 200828  
(community problems e.g. noise, neighbour disputes)

Citizens Advice Bureau 01908 604475

Shelter (Housing Advice) 0344 515 1876

NHS Direct 0845 46 47

Thames Valley Police 101

Childline 0800 1111

Housing Benefit 01908 253100

Milton Keynes Centre for Integrated Living (MKCIL) -

Disability Information Service 01908 231344



Available in audio, large print,  
braille and other languages

**01908 252937**

**Milton Keynes Council**  
**Housing and Community**  
Civic Offices 1 Saxon Gate East  
Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ  
T 01908 252937