

We're on the road to somewhere – in a 100mph bus or a driverless car?

There was a glimpse of where tomorrow's roads might lead in Milton Keynes at the Going Places Engagement Event, organised by Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership and the Fred Roche Foundation.

The city, already home to the 'driverless' car, could in a few years see: 100mph guided buses; car travel 'consumed' like music and movies; and a no-car culture among the under-40s.

They said the strategy is essential for Milton Keynes' growth within the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc, technologies like autonomous vehicles were already 'very real and relevant' and the traditional car-owning society could change with cars 'downloaded' as and when needed.

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Going Places Event Panel

The event at MK Gallery in January was chaired by MK BLP Board member Ruby Parmar of PwC. It began with Milton Keynes Council's Steve Hayes, Duncan Sharkey and Geoff Snelson, giving an overview of issues surrounding Milton Keynes Council's newly published Draft Mobility Strategy 2018-2036 to a large audience of transport professionals and representatives of interest groups.

High fives! MK BAA 2018 is here

More entries, new categories, new headline sponsor and new judges – it's looking to be another great Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards!

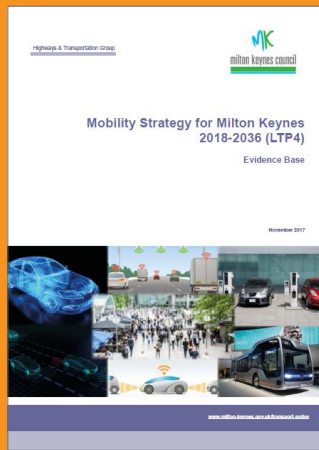
In its fifth year, the awards event on Thursday March 8 is likely to be another sell-out with many tables booked months ago. Presented by MK Business Leaders Partnership, MK BAA 2018 will again be compered by Gail Emms



MBE, Olympian and sporting ambassador. We also welcome as our guest speaker, The Right Honourable John Bercow MP for Buckingham and Speaker of the House of Commons

Philip Smith, chair MK Business Leaders, said: "MK BAA has gone from strength to strength with the support and involvement of our board and members. 2018, with its theme of International Trade, KPMG joining as a headline sponsor and a previous MK BAA winner joining the judging panel, reinforces our stated aim of continually evolving the awards. MK BAA is now rightly regarded as the biggest celebration of business achievement in the region."

The Oxford-MK-Cambridge arc could become as big an economy as Liverpool, and Milton Keynes' mobility advantage was that 'it can do things you just can't do in the centre of Oxford or Cambridge'. MK could support the 'Mobility as a Service' (MaaS) concept, and buses with a potential 100mph on closed routes - Advanced Very Rapid Transit - were a possibility.



for the future here, we will have something that could be exported around the world," he said.

Philip Smith, chair MK Business Leaders, said MK BLP was pleased to support an event which generated a stimulating debate around the very real issue of transport and mobility across Milton Keynes and the region. "It is a subject that is crucial to the sustainable growth of the city and one which MK Business Leaders continues to highlight", he said.

A small group of BLP/FRF members will finalise a response to the Council's Mobility Strategy which closed on 12th February.



An Advanced Very Rapid Transit system could be a future mobility solution for MK

A panel session followed with the council officers joined by architect David Lock, Rebecca Kurth chair of CMK Town Council and Pete Winkelman, Chairman MK Dons.

David Lock said the key to the success of polycentric cities like Milton Keynes are the corridors connecting those centres. Rebecca said the draft strategy made progress but there was little analysis of public transport. Pete Winkelman said what made Milton Keynes unique, including its transport system, was now adopted by cities internationally. "If we can get transport and mobility right

Meet...Manish Verma

Your name: Manish Verma MBA, ACA, ACMA

Your company/organisation: EAPT Solutions, Exordior and Urban Dhaba

Your role/title: Company Director

About you:

An Accountant and seasoned entrepreneur, I started my first venture after my MBA and have worked in CFO and CIO advisory business with many banks across the globe. Business today demands global vision, in-depth understanding of customers and suppliers, demonstrating thought leadership and a consultative partnership approach to offer the highest possible returns on investment. Our client service team create powerful business solutions for organisations around the world.

Lately I saw a gap in the market for authentic Indian food in Milton Keynes and have opened a new restaurant, Urban Dhaba at The Food centre CMK, inspired by the roadside Dhaba's of India which sell wholesome fresh food often farmed behind the eatery.

I am a Parish Councillor, Governor for Giles Brook School and a Member of the Standards Committee in Milton Keynes Council.

Why is being a member of MK Business Leaders important?

It is important to be part of an organisation that assists in bringing the business community together and helps guide and build local businesses at strategic and operational level.

What do you bring to MK Business Leaders?

With experience of doing business in many big cities across the world, I can help members and local businesses define strategy to start and build businesses locally and internationally.

What challenges face the Milton Keynes business community?

Challenges come from the national and global economic downturn. Spending power for consumers has been going down locally, leading to small businesses being ever more challenged.



What makes Milton Keynes special for you?

Milton Keynes has shown steady growth even when the national and global economy has been down. I started my working life in Milton Keynes and have seen the city grow alongside my business. I personally would like to open many more businesses and provide services to local people.

Your tip for success in business and/or life?

A customer-focused approach for any business will never fail. You build your business slowly, but it will go a long way.

Mental Health Wellbeing in the Workplace guide is launched

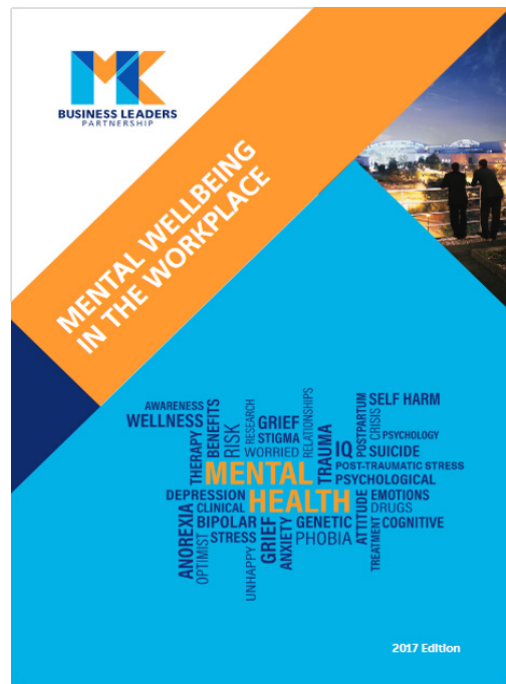
The MK Business Leaders Partnership Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace guide has been launched and has been well-received by an audience of local employers, HR and health professionals.

Philip Smith, chair MK BLP told a specially convened workplace wellbeing workshop that it is hoped the guide will help organisations take more responsibility for the mental health of their staff. Mental ill-health has a negative impact on individuals and businesses, he said, with 300,000 people leaving their jobs each year because of it. Mental ill-health costing the economy £70 billion annually and 15 million

days lost to stress, depression and anxiety.

The Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace guide, available to download from the MK Business Leaders website, explains the challenge businesses face and directs employers to where they can get support and guidance to help their staff. "It is particularly aimed at those smaller businesses in Milton Keynes who do not have the benefit of a large HR department," Philip said.

Opening the Well MK Mental Health Wellbeing in the Workplace event at Entrepreneurial Spark in CMK, Derys Pragnell, Head of Public



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Dr Philip Smith MK BLP with Professor
Chris Kemp

Every organisation should have the possibility of a terror attack included in its emergency planning – because anywhere can be a target, a leading public safety consultant told MK Business Leaders members.

Professor Chris Kemp, an expert in event and crowd management, delivered an unflinching wake-up call at the last Breakfast Briefing session of 2017.

Planning for a terror attack IS your business

Too few organisations include terror attacks in their continuity planning strategy and too many of those that do, do not rehearse them said Chris, CEO of the Mind Over Matter Consultancy. He outlined how the terrorist threat, now mainly from IS, has shifted from attacking police and military targets to civilians and our way of life.

The security and intelligence services worked hard to stop attacks, he said and the police can respond to an incident within minutes. Public information campaigns like Run, Hide, Tell and See it, Say it, Sorted - for suspicious packages, were making us more vigilant.

“But as business people we also need to look at our own businesses,” he said. That meant a response commensurate to the threat, training staff to be vigilant and identifying escape routes and secure places. Getting all staff

on board with a business continuity management plan was key, along with regularly rehearsing a terrorist attack as part of that plan.

"We must train people about the threat and how to deal with it," Chris said. "We need to be aware that if an event happens in or near your building, what is your contingency plan? Is there a back entrance/exit, can you get people to a place of safety?" Some people might think terror will not visit them but everyone is a target, Chris said. "When terrorists attack they are making a point, a statement that anywhere can be attacked."

Thanking Chris, Philip Smith, chair MK Business Leaders, said his talk had been fascinating and also sobering. "Businesses must take whatever precautions they can to protect their staff and their customers."

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Health at Milton Keynes Council, said attitudes towards mental health at work were changing and employers should have a mental health at work plan in place and be equipped to spot the signs of mental ill-health.

Delphi Ellis of MIND-BLMK Services said that for too long admitting mental ill-health had been seen as a weakness and organisations should now create a space for mental health to be openly discussed in the workplace.

New members

A BIG WELCOME to these new members of MK Business Leaders Partnership:

Louise Owen of Bobcat Digital

Richard Bateman of Westfourstreet Design

Nick Lloyd of EMW Law

Will Cousins of David Lock Associates

Stephen Eames of Mazars

For your diary

2018 is shaping up as another great year of MK Business Leaders Events. From Breakfast Briefings to Quarterly Dinners, Business Leaders events are renowned for the quality of the guest speakers, the diverse subject matter, good food and great company.

If you have not yet attended a Business Leaders event, it is an integral part of your membership, please do come along and see what you are missing. Book your places early and, if you subsequently cannot attend PLEASE do let us know as soon as possible. If a senior colleague is able to attend in your place this is acceptable.

Quarterly Dinner

Jurys Inn, CMK

March 1

Speaker: Lord Bilamoria
'Brexit and All That'

MK BAA 2018 Awards Dinner

DoubleTree Hotel,

MK Stadium

March 8

Breakfast Briefing

MK Brasserie, MK College,
Bletchley

March 15

Speaker Anna Saunders
'Puzzle Centre – Autism'

Breakfast Briefing

MK Brasserie,

MK College,

Bletchley

April 17

Speaker Nigel Long
'Homelessness'

Business Leaders Needs YOU!

MK Business Leaders Partnership has great people among its members with ideas and views on business issues.

The MK BLP website and our social media output is inviting members to submit content, blogs, articles or comment pieces for use on the MK BLP website and social media and our newsletter Business Voice. All we ask is submissions are relevant to the business community in Milton Keynes and the aims of MK Business Leaders, though that doesn't mean issues raised can't be national or global ones.

Submissions can be made to: Gina Harper ginaharper14@gmail.com and for more information contact MK BLP chair Philip Smith phil@phsconsultancy.com



Directors of Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership

Dr Philip Smith MBE Chair

Nicholas Mann Interdirect

Dr Julie Mills Milton Keynes College

Jan Flawn CBE PJ Care

Jean Gowin dbfb Communications

Julia Upton MBE

Ruby Parmar PwC

Simon deMaid Howes Percival

We announce that Martin Banham-Hall is retiring from the MKBLP board of directors. We thank him for his service which goes back to the creation of the partnership in its current form.



Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership is an independent organisation, funded through member subscriptions, MKBLP works to identify and develop interests, specific to the business community in the City.

Registered office: Artemis House, 4 Bramley Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK1 1PT.
Company number: 06682673

Your contact details

Please remember to keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details, especially email address alterations. Please call 07411 146297 or email gina.harper@mkblp.co.uk