

Enhancing Biodiversity in Central Milton Keynes with Lavender Planting

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keynes
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

In October 2024, the Public Realm Team embarked on a significant initiative to enhance biodiversity and improve the visual appeal of Central Milton Keynes. The project involved the planting of 600 lavender plants across key locations, reinforcing MyMiltonKeynes BID's commitment to a greener, more sustainable urban environment.

Project Locations The designated planting areas included:

- Avebury/Saxon Gate underpass
- The beds running alongside the pathway along Saxon Gate to the Silbury/Grafton Gate underpass

By strategically selecting these high-footfall locations, the project aimed to maximize both environmental and aesthetic benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.





Why Lavender?

Lavender was chosen for its multiple advantages, including:

- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** Lavender attracts a wide range of pollinators, including bees and butterflies, which play a crucial role in sustaining local ecosystems.
- **Support for Declining Species:** Both Bee and Butterfly populations are in decline, and introducing pollinator-friendly plants like lavender can contribute to reversing this trend.
- **Aesthetic Appeal:** When in full bloom, lavender provides a vibrant splash of colour, enhancing the visual appeal of the urban landscape.
- **Aromatic Benefits:** The distinctive fragrance of lavender contributes to an improved sensory experience for pedestrians and visitors.

The introduction of 600 lavender plants is a step towards a more sustainable and ecologically friendly City Centre. By fostering pollinator populations and improving urban greenery, this initiative aligns with MyMK BID's long-term vision of creating a thriving, attractive, and environmentally responsible cityscape.

Looking ahead, the Public Realm Team will continue to explore opportunities for similar projects, ensuring that Central Milton Keynes remains a leader in urban sustainability and biodiversity enhancement.