



Press Release

Friday 30th July 2010

For immediate release

The Buszy is open!

BBC's Jo Whiley joins young volunteers to officially open an uber-cool youth hub which is Milton Keynes biggest regeneration project in years.

Today saw the launch of 'The Buszy', an uber-exciting regeneration project that has seen a former Bus Station in Milton Keynes, transformed into a buzzing ultra modern youth and community hub.

Thanks to a £500,000 investment from SITA Trust and V, the national youth volunteering service, local community interest company, Make a Difference has given the space a much needed new lease of life and created a venue that will be the envy of other cities.

Jo Whiley will officially opened the Buszy at an event attended by the public of Milton Keynes festivities included a skate jam, street dance battle, graffiti sessions, DJ, film and 'trashion' sessions.

The Buszy, which is already world-renowned for its skate park, hosts a new state-of-the-art performance and gig venue, dance studio, recording and rehearsal studio, Milton Keynes' first independent boutique cinema, urban garden and café. Make a Difference have also made some improvements to the skatepark all of which have been designed through consultation with young volunteers from across Milton Keynes. The Buszy will be available for community use and also act as a base for the extraordinary young volunteers who have driven this project.

A spokesperson for the funders said: 'SITA Trust & v are delighted that the Buszy is regenerating this area of central Milton Keynes, turning a grotty disused bus station into a vibrant and thriving focal point on the gateway to the city's centre. The social action involved in the project will strengthen the role of young people in society and promote social enterprise as a very sustainable and ethical way to do business.'

Danny Quinn, Arts & Culture Manager for Make a Difference said, 'This is by far one of the most exciting things to happen to our city. Over the years we have engaged with thousands of young people in positive activities and regenerating the Bus Station into this exciting new venue is a fantastic opportunity for everyone. There is nothing else like it in the country. We are ecstatic to have secured this funding and look forward to sharing the space with the community of Milton Keynes. We were delighted to be joined by BBC's Jo Whiley at the celebration of its opening.'

For more information on activities taking place at The Buszy check out www.mad-uk.org

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Notes for editors:

The Buszy project aims:

- Regeneration of the former CMK Bus Station
- Inspiring young volunteers to inform and influence positive change in their communities
- Provides access to a diverse range of high quality opportunities across a wide variety of sectors.
- Celebrate their achievements and work with them to build a sustainable legacy of youth-led action within communities.



-  provides funding to enhance communities through the Landfill Communities Fund. To date more than 2000 projects have benefitted from over £74 million.
- **V** The National Young Volunteers Service aims to inspire a new generation of volunteers (aged 16-25) across England. It does this by creating a diverse range of volunteering opportunities to help young people take action to improve lives, communities and the planet.
- **v**'s Match Fund programme has so far raised over £52million from the private sector for youth volunteering. **v** has matched this, meaning there has been over £100million raised for youth volunteering. Another example of **v** building powerful partnerships between charities, business, young people and the community.

Press contacts:

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