



Streets Ahead Your focus on your town

Issue 4 / February 2009

Welcome to the town's magazine for businesses in Antrim, Crumlin and Randalstown. The aim of this magazine is to help keep the local business community fully informed about initiatives and projects taking place in the three main towns involving the Council and our partners.

Wastewater Information Session

If you have any questions you would like answered about Northern Ireland Water's wastewater project for Antrim town come along to:

**Clotworthy Arts Centre,
Randalstown Road, Antrim,
Thursday 12th February
from 12-1pm.**

As part of the Massereene Sewage Pumping Station project a new pumping station will be built next to Sixmilewater River.

Associated sewer upgrading work will affect Fountain Street, High Street, Church Street, Railway Street and Market Square. Work on the pumping station is scheduled to start in Spring 2009 and last approximately six months.

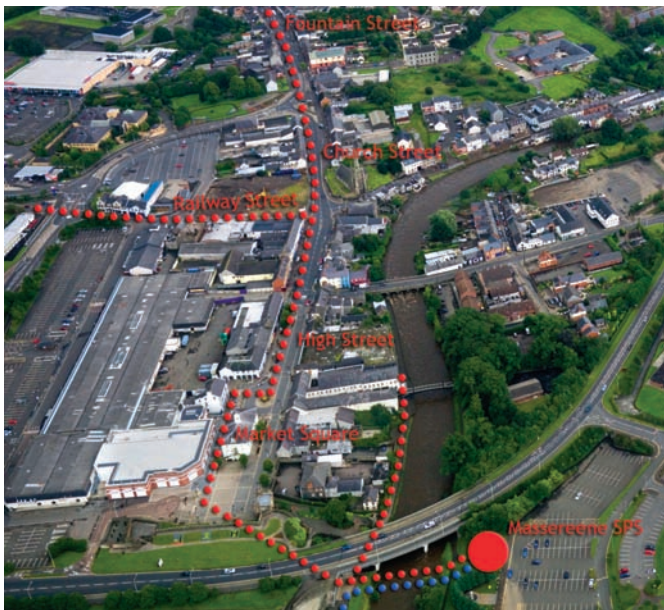
Randalstown Wastewater Project - Update

Randalstown Sewage Pumping Station scheme includes the construction of a new pumping station to transfer wastewater flows to Antrim for treatment. New sewers will also be laid along Main Street and New Street. NI Water will also replace existing

watermains and provide new connections to all properties. Scheduled to start on the 2 February 2009, work will take around four months to complete.

Crumlin Update

A further £3 million is being invested in upgrading the Aldergrove Trunk Sewer. The project, which is underway, will increase the system's capacity by upgrading the main sewers from the airport to the Massereene Pumping Station at the Antrim Forum, benefiting Crumlin, Killead and the wider Aldergrove area.



Grants available for landlords in Antrim Town Centre!

Antrim Borough Council is keen to identify local property owners who may be interested in taking advantage of grants that are available under a new town centre living initiative, known as Living Over the Shop (LOTS). The aim of LOTS is to encourage the development of private rented residential accommodation.

Karen Brown, the Council's Development Manager for Regeneration & Enterprise,

explains 'The Council is committed to the redevelopment of Antrim town and, in our Antrim Masterplan we identified residential opportunities as an innovative way to encourage regeneration and new investment potential.

Karen continues: "LOTS is managed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and offers property owners the chance to apply for grant assistance towards eligible costs.

The Housing Executive can offer grants of up to 75% to a maximum of £25,000 where one flat or house is created or £30,000 where there is more than one flat. The grant is primarily aimed at landlords, but may be available to owner-occupiers subject to meeting certain criteria. If you are interested in finding out more contact Karen Brown, Antrim Borough Council Tel: 9446 3113 Ext. 1344

Sign up to Antrim's Shopping Deals!

The Antrim Borough Shopping Deals scheme is back by popular demand proving that 'everyone loves a bargain'.

Karen Brown, the Council's Development Manager for Regeneration & Enterprise, "The response to the Council's shopping deals scheme last year was overwhelming. By using the vouchers shoppers benefit from impressive savings and attractive offers while at the same time supporting local businesses." A new Shopping Deals Booklet will be produced by the Council for businesses from April-June 2009. The booklet will be distributed to up to 25,000 households in the Borough and neighboring towns, including local accommodation providers, Junction One International Outlet Centre, local attractions and networked Tourist Information Centres in NI."



If you would like to take part in the scheme please contact Karen Brown
Tel: 028 9446 3113 Ext. 1344

Need help transforming your business?

Antrim Borough Council through the Antrim Masterplan Steering Group is championing a range of initiatives to support the development and growth of the independent retail sector in the Borough.

One such initiative is a Retail Revival event which is an opportunity for owners and managers of independent stores in Antrim, Crumlin and Randalstown to discuss new and exciting ideas to help transform their businesses. The event will take the form of a seminar led by experts in the field of merchandising, store layout and captivating window concepts. Following the seminar there may be an opportunity for further one-to-one business mentoring and practical training.

Karen Brown, Antrim Borough Council's Development Manager (Regeneration & Enterprise) explains "Retail guru Mary Portas who appears as 'Mary Queen of Shops' on BBC 2 says: "Window displays are retailers most economical form of advertising: they bring glamour, fun, theatre and art to the streets, while visibly expressing the shops image and aspirations."

GROW

GROW South Antrim (Generating Rural Opportunities Within South Antrim) has been set up to manage and deliver funding under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 across rural South Antrim.

Vera McWilliam, Chairperson of GROW South Antrim Local Action Group comments, "The Rural Development Programme is an excellent opportunity for rural communities and enterprises across South Antrim to improve, expand or diversify. GROW is currently open for Expressions of Interest. So, we would encourage anyone who has a development idea to get in touch with us."

Karen continues: 'I urge retail businesses in Antrim, Crumlin and Randalstown to take advantage of this unique opportunity and find out how to 'wow' your customers with the 'showbiz' approach to the retailing experience! But, places are limited to 20 participants so I strongly recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.'

Date Monday 2nd March 2009

Time 5.30pm

(Refreshments will be provided)

Venue Antrim Civic Centre

Cost FREE

Contact Karen Brown

Tel: 028 9446 3113 Ext. 1344 or

Email: karen.brown@antrim.gov.uk



Visit: www.createretailing.com

Funding of up to £50,000 will be available to set-up, expand or diversify small businesses with less than 10 employees.

To be eligible for funding, projects must be based in a rural area, which includes Crumlin and rural areas outside the town centres of Antrim and Randalstown. Please note, however, that not all businesses are eligible for support, for example conventional retail and distribution services are not eligible.

For further information on eligible areas and projects, please contact Emma or Sara in GROW South Antrim on
Tel: 028 9446 3113

First Randalstown Masterplan Project

Visitors to Randalstown will be well informed about places of interest, thanks to Antrim Borough Council's Masterplan for Randalstown.

Karen Brown, Development Manager Regeneration & Enterprise with the Council, explains, "Three new interpretation panels have been installed and two existing panels updated. They are located outside the former Moores building, at the River Maine look-out area and beside the library in New Street. The panels tell the story of some of Randalstown's famous landmarks and the different plants and wildlife that can be found in the River Maine. We are very

grateful for the help and support given by Randalstown Historical Society and also ARCHES Association in their production."

Karen continues, "The panels were installed as part of the Council's continuing commitment to driving the Randalstown Masterplan forward, in partnership with community and statutory bodies. The panels should demonstrate to local residents the Council's commitment to using the Masterplan to make a real and tangible difference to Randalstown."



Jim Rankin, Randalstown Historical Society; David Boyle, ARCHES and Karen Brown, Antrim Borough Council.