



YOUR FOCUS ON...



# COUNCILEYE

SUMMER 2010



**IT'S ALL TAKING OFF IN  
ANTRIM BOROUGH THIS SUMMER**

# PIRATE BOAT RACE

Saturday 12th June 12 Noon - 5pm  
Antrim Lough Shore Park



Pirate Boat Challenge & 'It's a Knock Out'  
Pirate Treasure Hunt / Prizes for the Best Dressed Pirates!  
Petting Zoo / Childrens' Entertainment  
Search & Rescue Demonstrations





## > Message from the Mayor of Antrim



Once again, summer's here and the school holidays are just a few weeks away. This issue of Council Eye has a special pull-out section with lots of information about events to keep all the family entertained. I'm particularly looking forward to attending some of the events in our newest venue – or should that be oldest venue! The Old Courthouse Antrim, which was built in 1726, has recently been redeveloped and is now home to a multi-use auditorium and the Council's information services. I think it's wonderful that such a unique piece of our history has been preserved for future generations. You can read more about the Old Courthouse on page 5.

In early June, I'll be hosting one of the highlights of the Mayoral calendar – the Antrim Community Excellence Awards. This event gives me the opportunity to meet more of the very special people in our Borough.

As Mayor, one of the activities that gives me greatest pleasure is welcoming people to Antrim Civic Centre. Recently, I accompanied a group of children from my old school, Antrim Primary, on a tour of the building. They asked lots of questions and showed a keen interest in what the Council does. I'd like to thank them and everyone else that I've met during the past twelve months for making the role of Mayor so enjoyable.

I'd also like to thank the Elected Members of Antrim Borough Council for giving me the honour of serving as Mayor, and my wife and family for their unconditional support.

**Councillor Adrian Cochrane-Watson**

## > IT'S NOW EVEN EASIER TO CONTACT THE COUNCIL!

Want to get in contact with the Council quickly? Then why not send a text message.

This is a new service which will allow you to contact the Council when you are out and about with your mobile phone. If you come across some fly tipping at the side of the road or want to know why your bin hasn't been collected, then just send a text. It's a quick and easy way of you getting a message. The good news is the Council doesn't charge any extra for using this service. So, if your mobile phone tariff allows for free text messaging it won't cost a penny! If not, then only your standard text message charge will apply.

Just save the number **60777** into your mobile phone as the contact for the Council. Then when you want to send a message just text ABC plus your message e.g. enter **ABC 10 Any Street Antrim stray dog found** and send to 60777. All we ask is that you give us as much information as possible. Your message will be acknowledged by the Customer Service team and forwarded to the relevant department for action.

# Kids Give John Street Playground Seal of Approval

They helped design it, so it was right and fitting that local primary schoolchildren played a big part in officially opening John Street Play Area in Randalstown. Pupils from Mount St Michaels, Randalstown Central and Maine Integrated Primary Schools took centre stage at the ribbon cutting event alongside three gentlemen who have given many years of commitment to the people of Randalstown - Alderman Bobby Loughran and former Councillors Wilson Clyde and James Graham.

Costing £400,000, the playground has fully accessible equipment and safety surface and features a whopping 30 foot slide, swings, ladders, roundabouts, assault course and games area.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor of Antrim, Councillor Adrian Cochrane-Watson said, "The play area is designed to be used by children of all ages. So, I hope that over the summer months local families will come along and spend many happy hours enjoying this fantastic new play area."



## And There's More.....

Work is progressing well on Muckamore & Steeple Play Areas and they should be ready just in time for the school holidays!



# New Beginnings For a Very Old Place

**The historic Old Courthouse Antrim has been restored to its former glory and re-opened following an extensive £2m restoration programme. Set in Market Square against the backdrop of the Barbican Gate and re-built Castle Walls, it will provide residents and visitors with a modern facility housing an information centre with café, a multi-purpose auditorium for the performing arts and a venue for conferences, public meetings and lectures**

Built in 1726, the iconic landmark building is one of the oldest surviving public buildings of its type in Northern Ireland, a place where robbers and vagabonds got their comeuppance while traders in the Market Hall sold their wares. Although the exterior of the building has remained relatively untouched by the ravages of time, the painstaking restoration has revealed many of the original internal architectural features that lay hidden behind layers of paint and plaster.

## Multi-Purpose Auditorium

The multi-purpose auditorium at the Old Courthouse has state-of-the-art technical equipment and retractable seating creating an adaptable space capable of hosting Antrim Borough Council's year-round performing arts programme. In addition, it is available for hire for other activities such as conferences, public meetings and lectures.

## Cafe & Bar facilities

The beautiful historic surroundings make the Old Courthouse the perfect place to sit back, relax and watch the world go. A new bijou café provides tasty snacks throughout the day and a bar service before and after auditorium events and during intervals, as appropriate.

## Council Services

An important function of the Old Courthouse is the provision of visitor and information services alongside the box office for event bookings. Customer service staff are on hand for direct access to the full range of Council services and information.



## Visitor Information

In addition, we will provide:

- Local and regional tourist information
- Accommodation information
- Fishing licences and permits
- Souvenir and gift shop

## Office Services

Photocopying, faxing, laminating and internet access.

## Contact Details:

Old Courthouse, Market Square, Antrim BT41 4AW

Council Enquiries: 028 9446 3113

Event / Ticket Bookings: 028 9446 3113

Tourist Information: 028 9442 8331

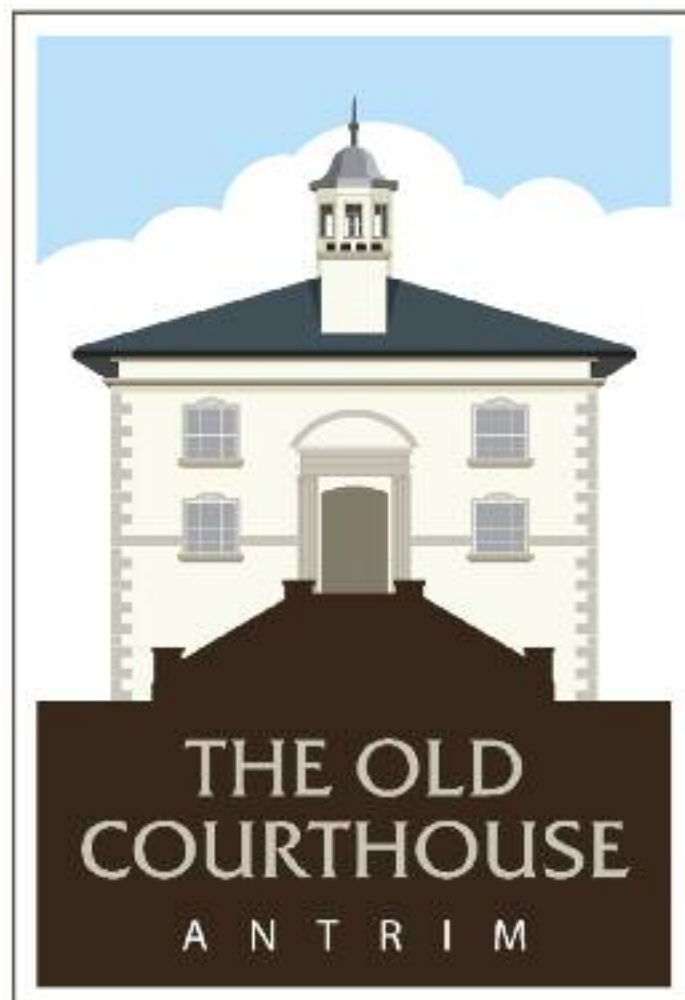
**Fax:** 028 9448 7844

**Text:** 60777 (start your message with ABC)

**Minicom:** 028 9448 1343

**E:** [Info@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:Info@antrim.gov.uk)

**W:** [www.antrim.gov.uk/oldcourthouse](http://www.antrim.gov.uk/oldcourthouse)



# Energy Counts!

Would you like to save up to £300 on your fuel bills?

Have you heard about Energy Performance Certificates but aren't sure what they are?

Then read on as Antrim Borough Council has the answers.

## Roof Insulation Fee Waived

Across the UK, up to £8bn of energy is wasted every year because of homes that are poorly insulated. On average, homes in Northern Ireland could save hundreds of pounds a year by insulating. Most people don't realise that you need building control approval to put extra thermal insulation in your roofspace, even if you are doing it yourself. However, the good news is that from April 2010, for one year, Antrim Borough Council, with government support, will not be charging a fee for these applications which are typically £60 based on an estimated cost of up to £2,000.

You must still make an application with Building Control even though you will not be charged because increasing your thermal insulation can cause problems if it is not done properly. We will help you make sure these problems are avoided.

## Another reason to insulate

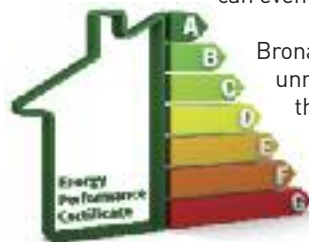
- A one-off Rates rebate is also available if you own and occupy your own home and install either loft or cavity wall insulation to the required standards.
- This reduction will apply in the year the work is carried out and you will need a completion certificate for the work from Building Control.
- The scheme is being jointly administered by Land and Property Services (LPS) and the Energy Savings Trust (EST). You can call the EST on freephone 0800 512 012 or visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

## Energy Performance Certificates

Are you selling or letting a house or have you recently built a new property? If so, did you know that legally, you must be able to produce an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

Bronagh Doonan, Assistant Director, Building Control with Antrim Borough Council explains, "The aim of the EPC legislation is to improve energy efficiency of buildings and to reduce carbon emissions. People buying cars like to find out how fuel efficient it is so why wouldn't they want to know how energy efficient a future home is. After all, they don't want to spend a fortune on insulating a house or on heating bills."

Bronagh continues, "EPCs give information on a building's energy efficiency in a sliding scale from 'A' (very efficient) to 'G' (least efficient). Every EPC also has a recommendations report showing how the rating could be improved, if necessary. Only qualified, accredited domestic energy assessors and qualified, certified home inspectors can produce EPCs for domestic properties. They analyse how homes are constructed, insulated, heated and ventilated, and the type of fuel being used. The certificate is valid for 10 years and can even boost the value of the property!"



Bronagh concludes, "While we don't want to impose unnecessary fines on those with responsibilities under this legislation, the potential exists for us to do just that. I would encourage everyone to make sure they have this certificate before they put a house up for sale or rent."

## ATTENTION ALL LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

With more and more people choosing to rent private accommodation, it is important for landlords to know their legal obligations so that their tenants can live in a safe environment.

Gareth Thompson, Environmental Health Officer with Antrim Borough Council, explains, "Under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006, and the Rent (NI) Order 1978, the Council has a responsibility to ensure that landlords meet the obligations of a private tenancy agreement. Here are just a few things that, by law, they must do."

- A **rent book** and tenancy statement must be provided to the tenant. The rent book must contain certain information, including the address of the landlord, the amount of rent and rates and when they are due and details of any other payment required e.g. charge for electricity. Failure to provide a tenant with a rent book can result in a fine of up to £1000.
- A **tenancy statement** must be provided within 28 days of commencement, otherwise a six month tenancy will be created giving the tenant the right to remain in the property until this

period expires. Default property repair obligations that the landlord must adhere to will also be created.

- A **Certificate of Fitness** for human habitation, costing £50, is required if a dwelling was built before 1945 and a tenant moved in after 1st April 2007, does not have a Regulated Rent Certificate issued within the past 10 years or did not have a renovation grant paid by the Housing Executive within the past 10 years or did not have a HMO grant paid within the past 10 years.

Failure to obtain a certificate is an offence and can result in a fine. If the dwelling is deemed unfit, a notice of refusal will be issued, meaning that the rent for the property will be controlled by the Rent Officer for Northern Ireland until the works required to bring the property up to the fitness standard are carried out.

For further information on rent books, particulars of what is to be included in a tenancy statement or an application form for a property inspection, please contact Environmental Health Team  
☎ 028 9446 3113 E [info@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:info@antrim.gov.uk)

# Improving Partnership Support

Antrim Borough Council has taken the first pioneering steps towards merging Antrim District Policing Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership by introducing a Partnership Support Team. The aim of the new arrangements for supporting the two Partnerships is to provide a higher standard of customer service for members of the public who may have issues around community safety and local policing.

Alison Allen, the new Partnership Manager, explains, "Going forward there will be one point of contact for both Partnerships, with increased information sharing, more efficient use of resources and more combined community projects.

This ground-breaking method of administering the two partnerships puts Antrim in an extremely strong position in advance of the new Partnership arrangements due to come

into effect in May 2011. This new way of working is a real opportunity for Antrim to shine as an example of best practice in Partnership management.'

If you would like to contact the Partnership Team or members of the District Policing Partnership or Community Safety Partnership:

Write to Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim, BT41 2UB  
 ☎ 028 9446 3113  
 ✉ [partnershipsupport@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:partnershipsupport@antrim.gov.uk)

Antrim District Policing Partnership and Antrim Community Safety Partnership would like to encourage all members of the public to contact their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams if they have any issues/concerns about local policing.



## Antrim Sector

Townparks South and Greystone Estate including areas bordering Greystone Rd	Constable McDowell	07825 399585
Parkhall, Townparks North, Steeple Estate, Oriel Rd, Menin Rd, Station Rd, Birchill Meadows, Millhouse and Castle Road	Constable Barr	07500 080735
Springfarm, Parklands, Massereene Gardens, Carnbeg, Bush Manor, Niblock Oaks	Constable Cameron	07584 281927
Stiles, Rathenraw, The Folly and Rathenraw Industrial Estate	Constable Lally	07717 844926
Ballycraigy, Newpark and developments along Belfast Road	Constable McWilliams	07500 080734
Templepatrick, Parkgate, Dunadry, Tardree	Constable McClurg	07765 404220
Antrim Town Centre, Junction 1, Dublin Road Estate and Fairfields	Constable Neill	07500 080736

## Randalstown & Toome Sector

All Randalstown areas to the left of the Portglenone Road	Constable Duffy	07500 080733
All Randalstown areas to the right of the Portglenone Road	Constable McFarland	07500 080730
Toomebridge Area	Constable Carson	07500 080732

## Crumlin Sector

All areas of Crumlin south of the Mill Road to the Junction with Main Street	Constable Gill	07500 080728
All of rural Crumlin to include the Diamond, Nutts Corner, Killead and Ballydonaghy	Constable Hughes	07500 080725
All areas to the north of Crumlin to include Laurelvale, Hartwood, Cidercourt, Beeches and Maple	Constable Hamilton	07500 080725

**In the event of an emergency please dial 999**

**For non-emergencies and general enquiries dial 0845 600 8000**

**Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**

# It Pays To GROW In Rural Antrim

**GROW South Antrim has now awarded over £1.4million to projects and authorised payments of almost £184,000 - £116,971 to benefit successful projects in Antrim Borough.**

The first grant payment of £46,589 was made to Randalstown-based plastic reprocessing company, Emerald Isle Reprocessing Ltd, which was awarded the funding to purchase a robotic feeder for their recycling line. This new machine will increase the capacity of the business by automating the reprocessing line, which can now run for twice as long, improving productivity and efficiency. The funding will enable Emerald Isle Reprocessing to expand the services they offer, creating employment opportunities within the rural area.

Roy Livingston, Director of Emerald Isle Reprocessing Ltd, highlighted how important the grant was to his business, "The funding from GROW South Antrim will allow my business to expand to meet increasing customer demand. Without the funding it would have been difficult to invest in such a large piece of machinery, but the grant came at the right time for me to develop the reprocessing side of the business and the business is looking towards a bright future."

The next round of applications to GROW is open until 14 June for farmers, rural businesses and rural tourism. To find out more about what's eligible, visit the GROW website [www.growsouthantrim.com](http://www.growsouthantrim.com) or contact the GROW office ☎ 028 9448 1311.

## Next Funding Calls

GROW will reopen for applications under the following themes in 2010:

<b>Farm Diversification</b>	17 May-14 June
<b>Business Creation &amp; Development</b>	17 May-14 June
<b>Rural Tourism</b>	17 May-14 June
<b>Basic Services</b>	November
<b>Rural Heritage</b>	November
<b>Village Renewal Phase II</b>	Please contact the GROW office



*From left: Malcolm Beatty, DARD Director of Rural Payment & Inspections Division, Cllr Janet Crilly, Chair of GROW Joint Council Committee, Roy Livingston, Managing Director of Emerald Isle Reprocessing, Cllr Vera McWilliam, Chair of GROW Local Action Group, John Thompson, Ulster Farmer's Union and David McCammick, Chief Executive of Antrim Borough Council.*

# Positive About Peace

Antrim, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus Borough Councils have formed a partnership (CAN) and developed an action plan for work across their three areas to tackle sectarianism and racism. The projects and initiatives in the action plan are being financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the Peace III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Alison Keenan, Peace III Programme Co-ordinator for the CAN Partnership, says "The Peace III Programme is an opportunity for communities in the Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey borough areas to build positive relations, address challenges and develop a confident and peaceful future, unhindered by sectarianism or racism."

Organisations supported include Randalstown Arches, Antrim District LOL, and Community Conventions as well as Antrim Borough Council.

Further information on local projects and on programmes operating across the Partnership area is available on [www.newtownabbey.gov.uk/community/peace3.asp](http://www.newtownabbey.gov.uk/community/peace3.asp) or contact the Partnership directly at [PeaceIIIinfo@newtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:PeaceIIIinfo@newtownabbey.gov.uk)



# SUMMER EVENTS

IN THE BOROUGH OF ANTRIM - 2010



# Calendar of Events

## Tardree Trail Race & Kids Fun Run

**Tardree Forest, Antrim**  
**Saturday 29th May 2010, 12noon**  
5k trail race and 2k fun run for all the family.

For further information contact Elaine Upton:

☎ 028 9446 3113

E elaine.upton@antrim.gov.uk



**London Classic Theatre Company presents:**  
**The Caretaker, by Harold Pinter \***

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
**Wednesday 2nd June at 7.30pm**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 concession**  
Suitable for 14 years +



**Sticky Fingers Early Years Arts Presents: Down in the Garden \***

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
**Friday 4th June at 10am & 11.45pm**  
**Tickets: £6 / £4 concession**  
School's show for 3 - 6 year olds featuring story, music and song.



## Pirate Boat Race

**Lough Shore Park, Antrim**  
**Saturday 12th June 12 Noon - 5pm**  
Shiver Me Timbers! Antrim Lough Shore Park will be awash with pirates. In aid of Lough Neagh Rescue.

For further information on the event contact Karen Steele:

☎ 028 9446 3113 EXT 1376

E karen.steele@antrim.gov.uk

W www.antrim.gov.uk/pirates



**Torpedo Tern Day at the Pirate Boat Race**

**Lough Shore Park, Antrim**  
**Saturday 12th June, 12 Noon - 5pm**  
Watch the Lough Neagh Common Terns up close.

**NI & Ulster Senior Track & Field Championship And Commonwealth Trials**

**Antrim Stadium**  
**Saturday 12th June 2010**  
For more information contact:  
Athletics Northern Ireland  
☎ 028 9060 2707  
W www.niathletics.org



**The Lyric Theatre (in partnership with the Ulster Bank) presents**  
**The Miser by Moliere \***

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
**Saturday 12th June at 7.30pm**  
**Tickets: £12 / £10 concession**  
A classic comedy, featuring Rab C. Nesbitt star Andy Gray in the title role.

## Biodiversity Forum

**Antrim Library**  
**Tuesday 15th June, 6pm**  
Celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 by attending a discussion about species and habitat action plans. Further Information contact Ruth Wilson:  
☎ 028 9224 3113 ext 1371

**Susannah Dewrixon presents**  
**Fever - The Peggy Lee Story \***

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
**Thursday 17th June at 7.30pm**  
**Tickets: £10 / £8 concession**  
Susannah DeWrixon and her band Trio Con Brio bring to life the rags and riches tale of Peggy Lee.



**Randalstown Arches Community Festival**

**Saturday 19th June -**  
**Saturday 26th June**  
Randalstown will be buzzing with activities throughout the week  
For further information contact David Boyle:  
☎ 028 9447 8471  
W www.randalstownarches.com

**Hot House Flowers \***

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
**Saturday 19th June at 8pm**  
**Tickets: £15 / £12 concession**  
One of Ireland's best love bands perform old favourites and songs from their new album 'Into Your Heart'.



# Calendar of Events

## Discovering Dragonflies and Damselflies'

**Thursday 24th June, 7pm  
Canal Walk, Toomebridge**

For further information contact  
Susan Lynn:  
☎ 028 9185 2817



## Archaeology Days on Ram's Island, Lough Neagh

**Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th June  
12 noon.**

## Ram's Island Heritage Weekend

**Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th July  
12 noon.**

## European Heritage Open Days

**Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th September  
12 noon**

Sail away and enjoy a picnic on Ram's Island. Boat leaves from Sandy Bay Marina near Crumlin. Pre-booking essential for above events. Boat trips available on other Saturdays during June, July & August.

For further information:

☎ 028 9054 3030 (for archaeology days)

07715 368050 (for regular trips and Heritage Days)

E michael@ramsland.org

W www.ramsland.org

## Antrim Boat Club Regatta

**Saturday 26th June 12 noon – 4pm**

The annual Antrim Boat Club Regatta in Antrim Bay. Any sailing boat or yacht from any club can enter.

For further information contact:

T Brady ☎ 9058 8288

Colin Grattan ☎ 9083 9740



## Irish Game Fair & Country Lifestyle Festival

**Saturday 26th &  
Sunday 27th June**

**Shanes Castle, Antrim 10am – 6pm**

The Fair is Ireland's premier country sports and lifestyle event.

For further information contact Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd:

☎ 028 4483 9167

W www.irishgamefair.com

E irishgamefair@btinternet.com



## Summer Bands Concerts

**Antrim Lough Shore Park  
Selected Sundays in July &  
August 3.30pm**

The cream of Northern Irish Brass and Silver Bands returns to Antrim's Lough Shore Park. For further information contact Antrim Borough Council:

☎028 9446 3113.



## Exploring the Belfast Hills

**Meet at Lough Shore Park Car Park  
Thursday 1st July**

**(Bus departs 6.45pm, Walk 7.15pm)**

4 mile guided walk with breath-taking views across Belfast City and beyond.

Booking is essential

For more information contact

Elaine Upton:

☎ 028 9446 3113 EXT 1004

E elaine.upton@antrim.gov.uk



## Active Antrim Escapades

**Antrim Forum**

**Every Tuesday, Wednesday  
& Thursday**

**From 27th July – 12th August**

A challenging and exciting 3 week summer programme for young people aged 5 -14.

For more information contact

Neil McCullough:

☎ 028 9446 3113 EXT 1345

E neil.mccullough@antrim.gov.uk

## Madd Enterprises Ltd present \*

**All Ages Gig – Featuring The Wonder Villains And Sethway**

**Old Courthouse Antrim**

**Saturday 31st July**

**from 2pm – 4pm, Tickets: £3**

A special gig for those aged 13+



## Antrim Boys Youth Golf Open

**Allen Park & Massereene Golf Club**

**Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd August 2010**

Unique 36-Hole, 2 day competition for male golfers aged 21 or under.

For more information contact

Allen Park Reception:

☎ 028 9442 9001

E allenpark@antrim.gov.uk

Massereene Golf Club

☎ 028 9442 8096

E info@massereene.com

W www.massereene.com



# Calendar of Events

## Old Courthouse Cine-Club presents The Hurt Locker \*

**Old Courthouse Antrim**  
Thursday 12th August at 7.30pm,  
Tickets: £5

A screening of the Oscar winning Iraq drama. In association with Filmbank. Certificate 15



## Stride Out To Shanes

**Meet at Antrim Castle Gardens  
Car Park**  
Saturday 14th August 2010, 12 Noon  
8 mile guided walk through Shane's  
Castle Estate

Booking essential.  
For more information contact  
Elaine Upton:  
☎ 028 9446 3113 EXT 1004  
E elaine.upton@antrim.gov.uk

## Toddaleap.com Ulster Rally

**Market Square  
(Starting point)**  
**Junction One  
(Service Park & Finish)**  
Friday 20th & Saturday 21st August

One of the highlights of the motorsport calendar in Northern Ireland. For further information contact:  
Ulster Rally  
[www.ulsterrally.com](http://www.ulsterrally.com)



## 2010 International Sheep Dog Trials, Massereene Farms

**Thursday 16th -  
Saturday 18th September**

Top sheepdog event of the year with teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Among the competitors will be past World and Supreme Champions.

Eric Barfoot  
☎ 8674 8439  
M 07803 974375



## Antrim Walk

**Antrim Stadium**  
Saturday 18th September 2010  
Support the new Macmillan Palliative Care Unit in Antrim. Suitable for all abilities, 10 mile or 6 mile walk.

For more information contact  
Macmillan Cancer Support:  
☎ 028 9070 8616  
W [www.macmillan.org.uk.walking](http://www.macmillan.org.uk.walking)

# Community Events

Date / Time	Venue / Information	Contact Information
Friday 4th June / 6pm - 10pm	Templepatrick Primary School / Summer Fete	Clive Thompson T: 07737094380
Saturday 12th June / 10am - 1pm 3pm - 6pm 12noon - 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greystone Primary School / Family Fun Day</li> <li>Neillsbrook Community Centre / Family Fun Day</li> <li>Parkhall Community Centre / Family Fun Day &amp; BBQ</li> </ul>	Heather McKay T: 07762958767 Sammy Bell T: 07709105347 John Smyth T: 02894462100
Saturday 19th June / 12noon - 5pm	Antrim Forum / Eye Feel Good - Family Fun Day	Richard Fee T: 07877857220
Friday 2nd July / 6pm - 11pm	Caddy Hall, Randalstown / Family Fun Day & BBQ	Brian Johnston T: 07761206875
Saturday 3rd July / 1pm - 5pm	Neillsbrook Community Centre / Family Fun Day	Brian Johnston T: 07761206875
Monday 5th July	Kids Kabin, Parkhall Shopping Centre	Danielle Cahill T: 028 9446 9221
Sunday 11th July / 12noon - 5pm	Dublin Road Green / Family Fun Day	Stewart Moore T: 07782142345
Monday 12th July / 12noon - 4pm	Market Square, Antrim / Family Fun Day	Greig McAfee T: 028 9447 9222
Friday 30th July / 10am - 4pm	Rathenraw Community Centre / Family Fun Day	Sharon Brash T: 028 9446 8399
Saturday 21st August / 12noon - 4pm	Parkhall Community Centre / Family Fun Day & BBQ	Leeann Sanders T: 028 9448 8388
Saturday 28th August / 12noon - 4pm	Parkhall Shopping Centre / Family Fun Day	Adrian Watson T: 07843211488
Saturday 25th September	St James GAC Grounds, Crumlin / Carnival Day	Aiden O'Callaghan T: 028 9445 9854

\* For further information contact: The Old Courthouse, Market Square, Antrim, BT41 4AW

Booking Line: 028 9446 3113 / Online Booking: [www.antrim.gov.uk/oldcourthouse](http://www.antrim.gov.uk/oldcourthouse) Bookings open on Monday 10 May at 9.30am

# All This Right On Your Doorstep!

**The new Visitor and Accommodation guide for the Borough of Antrim proves that there has never been a better time to holiday at home!**

Bernie McCann, Customer Service Advisor at Antrim Information Centre explains, "More and more people are choosing to spend their holiday time at home or enjoy a 'staycation'. It's a chance to spend time at home with family and friends, enjoying your local area."

Bernie continues, "It has always been a well known fact that Antrim has plenty to offer. So, now is the time to find out for yourself, with the help of this guide, of course, and it certainly shows that you will never be short of something to do. Why not book into one of the high quality hotels, guest houses and B&Bs which are in abundance throughout the Borough. Many have won awards and have been featured on the small screen. Retail therapy isn't going to be a problem when you have Junction One, Castle Mall and the many small independent speciality shops dotted throughout the area. Visit many of the historical and heritage sites and learn about the rich tapestry of history which has shaped the Borough. For the sporting enthusiasts we have three fantastic golf courses or for a bit of fun golfing try Pirate Adventure golf at Junction Jacks. The newly opened Old Courthouse in the centre of Antrim has a packed programme of entertainment for all ages and tastes."

Bernie concludes, "Of course, this really is just a very small sample of what you can do in Antrim but I'm not going to give it all away. You'll just have to have a 'staycation' in Antrim and find out for yourself!"

For a copy of the Visitor and Accommodation Guide or for further information contact Courthouse Information Centre.  
☎ 028 9448 3113



*Allen park*

## NEW MEMBERS SPECIAL OFFER

**£50 off your joining fee when you become  
a member of Allen Park**

**Green Fees Summer Special  
9 Holes £5**

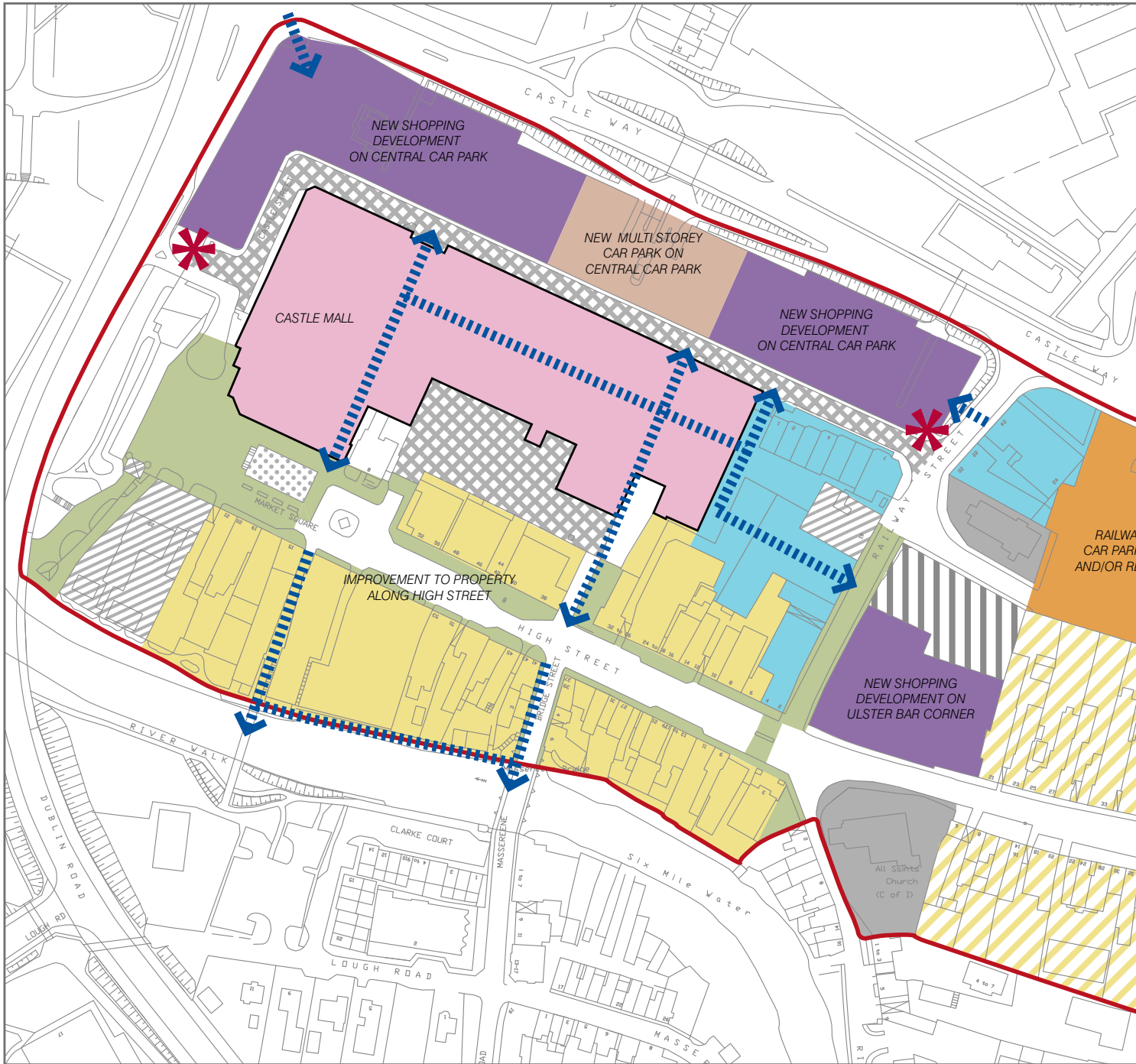
Offer valid Monday - Thursday before 10am, between 12 - 2pm and after 6pm

Please present this advertisement at Reception to get your special rates

**Valid 1 June - 31 August 2010**

*Terms & Conditions apply*

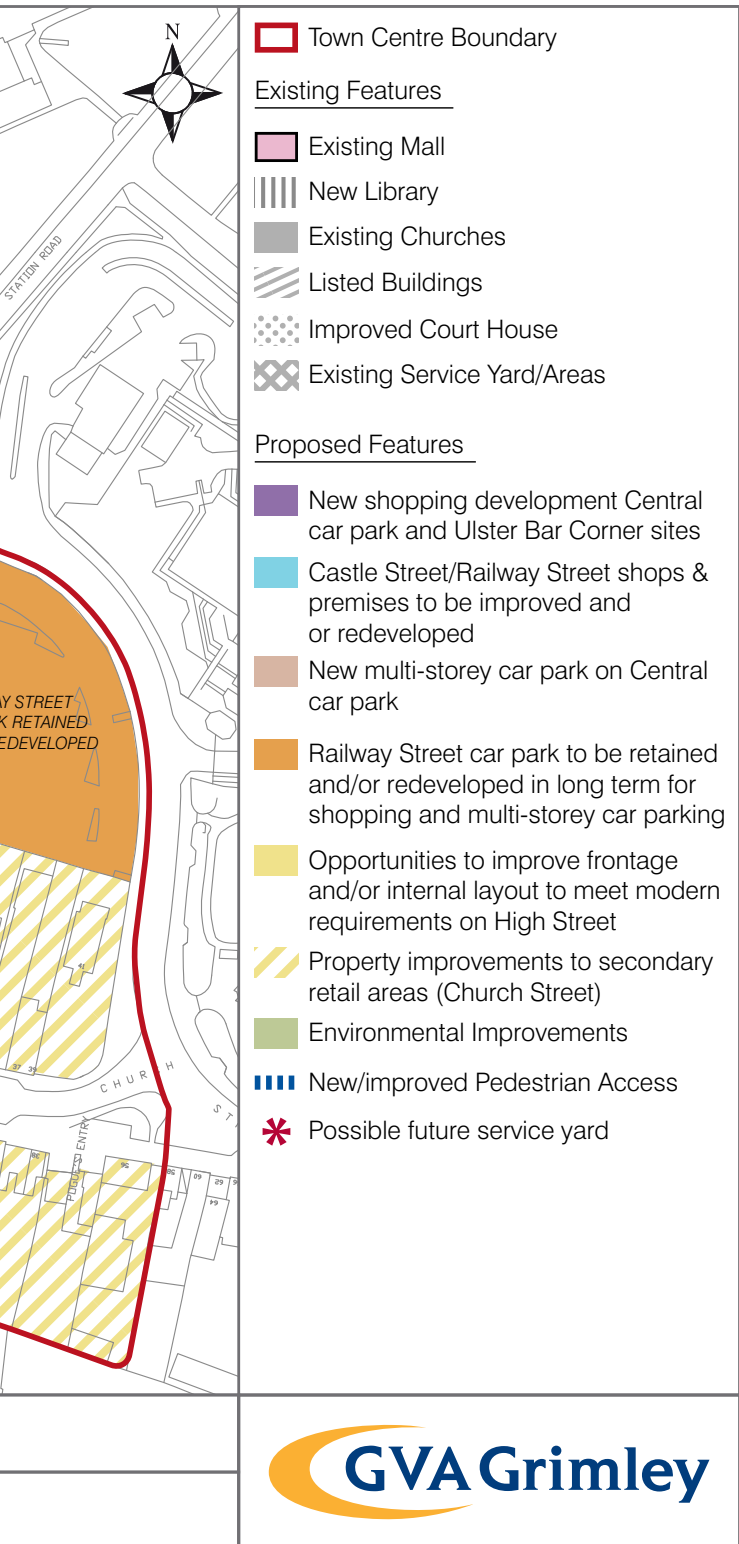
# Antrim Town Centre Masterplan Gathers Pace



## Antrim Town Centre Masterplan and Delivery Strategy

### Key Proposals





**Improvements to Antrim town centre continue to progress, with the Department of Social Development building upon the work already undertaken through Antrim Borough Council's Masterplan.**

Following a recent public consultation exercise, a number of key issues were highlighted and now form the basis for developing a preferred option for Antrim town centre.

**Key issues arising from public consultations:**

- It is important that the design of the new building respects the character of existing buildings and that High Street is included within any proposals, to ensure the Masterplan is a fully integrated strategy for Antrim.
- There is strong support for the development of a larger, more attractive and enclosed shopping centre development.
- Improvement to the appearance of Castle Mall is considered to be a priority. This includes providing better access into the Mall from High Street and Railway Street.
- Central car park and the Ulster Bar Corner site are seen as the starting points in the town centre for more shops.
- The pricing of car parking is considered to be important. Any new car parking provision should be reasonably priced to encourage shoppers into the town.
- There was general agreement that Railway Street should be retained for car parking with scope for further expansion of parking provision on this site in the future.
- There was support for continuing to explore the potential for opening up the riverside area to the High Street – with a square / open area.
- Environmental improvements and property improvements are supported on Railway Street, High Street and Church Street.

Karen Brown, the Council's Development Manager for Enterprise & Regeneration, comments, "GVA Grimley Limited has been commissioned by the Department for Social Development to prepare a further Masterplan and Delivery Strategy for Antrim town centre. Emerging proposals address the key issues raised in the public consultation process feature a new shopping development providing a series of ground floor shops on Central car park. Additional retail development would also be provided on the Ulster Bar site which will provide a major anchor to the new development. This option would provide up to 14,000 m2 of new retail floor space."

For further information on the Antrim town Masterplan contact  
 Karen Brown  
 ☎ 028 9446 3113  
 E karen.brown@antrim.gov.uk



# International Biodiversity 2010

Did you know 2010 is the International Year for Biodiversity? Ruth Wilson, Biodiversity Officer, explains, "This year is your chance to learn more about the rich tapestry of life around you, discover why it's important for a healthy environment and get involved in monitoring and conserving your local wildlife." Ruth continues, "Biodiversity enriches our lives in so many ways and we often take it for granted. It has shaped our culture, our traditions and societies. Should the current loss of biodiversity continue, we will not only be poorer, in every sense of the word, but our very existence will be threatened."

Ruth concludes, "It's not too late to help. We are organising a programme of events throughout 2010 to celebrate and promote International Year of Biodiversity. You'll be able to learn about bird species such as Swifts and Terns, the importance of Dragonflies and marvel at moths with names and colours that will surprise you!" This is just a teaser of what will be taking place. A full list of activities can be found at: [www.antrim.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.antrim.gov.uk/biodiversity)

If you would like further information on how you can help our biodiversity contact Ruth Wilson:

☎ 028 9446 3113

E [ruth.wilson@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.wilson@antrim.gov.uk)



## Recycling – Thanks for Getting it Right

It's a well known fact that Antrim Borough continues to be one of the best recycling council areas in the UK and it's all thanks to YOU, our ratepayers. When wrong items are put into the recycling bin, it costs you and your community both environmentally and economically. The following guide should help you put the right items into your recycling bin and continue the great effort which already goes into recycling in the Borough.

A full list of what to recycle can be found at:

[www.antrim.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.antrim.gov.uk/recycle)

Alternatively, contact the Council's Customer Service Team

☎ 028 9446 3113 and they'll be happy to send you more information.



## Don't Delay Recycle Today

Recycling Hotline  
028 94463113

web address  
[www.antrim.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.antrim.gov.uk/recycle)

Please put these items in your blue bin for recycling

### YES PLEASE

						Greetings cards ✓
✓ empty aerosols	✓ cardboard dry & clean	✓ plastic bottles clean & squashed	✓ food and drinks cans dry & clean	✓ newspapers & magazines dry & clean	✓ telephone directories & catalogues	Paperback books/ Hardback books (without cover) ✓

### NO THANKS

					Shredded paper ✗
✗ mixed glass	✗ plastic bags	✗ wallpaper	✗ envelopes	✗ foil	Plastic cartons & trays ✗
					Take away pizza boxes ✗
					Polystyrene ✗

# Cooking Up A Storm!

**Seventeen pupils and their parents have completed a School's Cook-it programme, funded through the Antrim Locality Children and Young Person's Group.**

Fionnuala Close, Health and Well-being Manager with the Council, explains, "The School's Cook-it Programme took place in Parkhall College, Antrim, and St Benedict's, Randalstown, one evening a week for six weeks. The first year pupils and their parents were invited to attend the course which taught pupils how to cook everyday meals from basic ingredients. They also received information about nutrition, healthy eating and food hygiene in a fun, practical way."

Fionnuala continues, "This programme is one aspect of Antrim Borough Council's approach to improving the health and well-being of local people. It has been very successful in improving the knowledge and practical skills of the pupils and their parents and in helping them incorporate these changes into their family routine."



# Take the Heat Out of Winter Oil Bills

**Antrim Borough Council's Oil Savings Stamp Scheme is a brilliant way of taking the heat out of your winter fuel bills by budgeting for deliveries of home heating oil. So, we would like to remind residents to keep saving the stamps over the summer months.**

Fionnuala Close, Health and Well-being Manager says, "The Oil Stamp Saving Scheme is an effective way of helping residents budget for their home heating oil rather than having a huge bill to be paid all at once. During the summer, people can forget about the cooler temperatures of the winter and the high cost of fuel. The savings scheme is very simple, yet effective and I would encourage everyone to use it."

Fionnuala continues, "Residents simply pick up a savings card at any of the participating retail outlets and purchase stamps with their weekly shopping, at a cost of £5 each. Stamps are placed on the savings card and then used as payment or part payment of a fill of oil from any of the participating oil companies. It couldn't be easier. So, please, think about saving for your oil now to help reduce the cost during the cold winter months."

For a full list of participating retailers contact Simon McPolin

☎ 028 9446 3113 ext 1011

✉ [simon.mcpolin@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:simon.mcpolin@antrim.gov.uk)



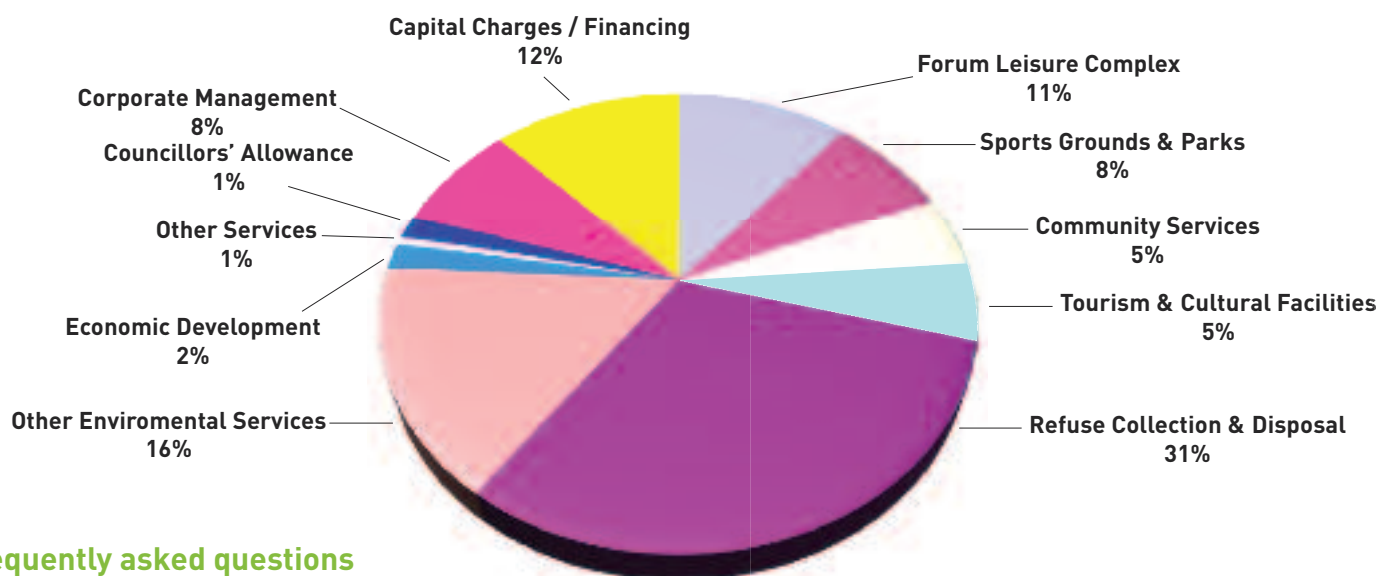
# Your Rates Explained

From April 2010 to March 2011, the Rates bills in the Antrim Borough Council area will increase by 2.58%, which is an average of £1.73 per month.

During the next twelve months, the Council will spend £20.7m providing services to the residents of the Borough. We are committed to ensuring that front line services are delivered to the highest standard. In addition, more than £13m will be invested in projects that our Ratepayers have identified as priorities. We have highlighted some of these projects in this issue of Council Eye. On page 5, you can see the pleasure local children in Randalstown are taking in their wonderful new play area and soon children in the Muckamore and Steeple areas will be enjoying a similar experience when their play areas open.

In recent days, the Old Courthouse Antrim opened its doors following a major restoration project. In the course of the coming year, the very popular Caribbean Suite in Antrim Forum will undergo refurbishment and remodelling, providing users with a bright, modern facility. Work has already begun in Antrim Castle Gardens and they are destined to become one of Northern Ireland's foremost visitor attractions. Within the Gardens, Clotworthy House will be adapted as a new Garden Heritage Centre surrounded by a series of new green spaces including community and competition gardens.

## HOW RATES ARE SPENT 2010 - 2011



## Frequently asked questions about the Rates

### What are the Rates?

The Rates are a property tax that provides the funding needed to improve and finance public services.

### Who sets the Rates?

Your Rates bill is divided into two sections, the **District Rate**, set by the local council and the **Regional Rate** (set by Central Government). The District Rate is based on the estimated cost of providing services. The Regional Rate is set by central government. The **Regional Rate** is the same for every Ratepayer throughout Northern Ireland and the monies raised go to central Government. For the financial year 2010/11 the **District Rate is (0.003585p) 49.8%** and the **Regional Rate (0.003608p) 50.2%** of the total Rates bill.

### Domestic Rating System

In April 2007, a new domestic rating system was introduced which calculates the rates bill using the **\*Capital Value** of the property. This makes it easier to see and understand how the Rates bill is worked out.

### EXAMPLE:

#### TOTAL RATES = DISTRICT RATE + REGIONAL RATE

If the **\*Capital Value** of the property is £100,000, the **District Rate** portion of the Rates bill (set by Antrim Borough Council) is:

**£100,000 x 0.003585p = £358.50**

the **Regional Rate** portion of the Rates bill (set by Central Government) is:

**£100,000 x 0.003608p = £360.80**

**TOTAL RATES** on a property with a Capital Value of £100,000 is:  
**£358.50 + £360.80 = £719.30**

**\*Capital Value** was the amount which the property could reasonably have sold for on the open market on 1 January 2005.

### District & Regional Rates



### Need financial help?

If you are a home-owner on low income, or a pensioner over 70 years of age and living alone you may be entitled to Housing Benefit help towards meeting the cost of your Rates. For advice and information contact the Freephone Helpline: 0800 587 7477 or contact RCA, Housing Benefit on 9025 2525. For information on the Lone Pensioner Scheme: 08448 920 902.

# Antrim Borough Council - Your Council

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 [www.antrim.gov.uk](http://www.antrim.gov.uk)

# > Contact Council

**Chief Executive: David McCammick**

Director of Corporate Services: Catherine McFarland  
Director of Development & Leisure: Geraldine Girvan

## Antrim Borough Council

Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way,  
Antrim, BT41 2UB  
☎: 9446 3113 F: 9448 1324 W: www.antrim.gov.uk  
Text: 60777 (start your message with ABC)  
Minicom: 028 9448 1343

## Antrim Forum

Lough Road  
Antrim  
BT41 4DQ  
☎: 9446 4131 F: 9446 2968 E: forum@antrim.gov.uk

## Allen Park

Castle Road  
Antrim  
BT41 4NA  
T/F: 9442 9001 E: allenpark@antrim.gov.uk

## Old Courthouse

Market Square  
Antrim  
BT41 4AW  
☎: 9446 3113 E: info@antrim.gov.uk

## Community Centres

### Crumlin Community Centre

2a Main Street, Crumlin BT29 4UP  
☎: 9445 2733

### Greystone Community Centre

30 Ballycraig Road, Antrim, BT41 1PW  
☎: 9446 8175

### Muckamore/Ballycraig Community Centre

4 Ballycraig Road, Antrim BT41 4PH  
☎: 9446 3208

### Neillsbrook Community Centre

7 Neillsbrook Road, Randalstown BT41 3AE  
☎: 9447 2595

### Parkhall Community Centre

100 Seacash Drive, Antrim BT41 BB  
☎: 9446 2519

### Rathenraw Community Centre

25 Ballygore Road, Antrim, BT41 2RN  
☎: 9446 0781

### Stiles Community Centre

11 Fountain Hill, Antrim BT41 1LZ  
☎: 9446 7862

## Household Recycling Centres

### Antrim

Newpark, Orchard Way  
Greystone Road

☎: 9442 8107

### Randalstown

Clonkeen Road  
off Church Road

☎: 9447 3813

### Crumlin

Railway Yard,  
off Main Street

☎: 9442 3640

## Opening Times

8am to 9pm - Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm - Saturday  
**Closed all day Sunday**

8am to 9pm - Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm - Saturday  
**Closed all day Sunday**

8am to 9pm - Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm - Saturday  
**Closed all day Sunday**

## Useful Numbers

Listed below are other numbers which we think you might find useful.

<b>Education</b>	Education & Library Board	☎: 028 2565 3333
<b>Electoral Office</b>	Information Line	☎: 028 9044 6688
<b>Fallen trees</b>	DRD Roads Service	☎: 028 9442 6500
<b>Flooding</b>	Flooding Incident Line	☎: 0300 2000 100
<b>Graffiti</b>	Housing Executive property - NIHE Private housing - owner Council owned property - Council	☎: 028 9442 8142 ☎: 028 9446 3113 ☎: 028 9025 1555
<b>Land Registry</b>		
<b>Libraries</b>	Education & Library Board	☎: 028 2565 3333
<b>Ordnance Survey</b>	Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland	☎: 028 9025 5755
<b>Planning</b>	DOE Planning Service	☎: 028 2565 3333
<b>Public Housing</b>	Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Housing allocation, grass cutting in estates)	☎: 028 9442 8142
<b>Rates Collection</b>	DFP Rates Collection Agency	☎: 028 2566 4700
<b>River Pollution</b>	DARD	☎: 0800 807060
<b>Roads</b>	DRD Roads Service (road gritting, grass cutting on verges)	☎: 028 9442 6500
<b>Street Lighting</b>	DRD Roads Service	☎: 028 7034 1300
<b>Water Pollution</b>	DRD Water Service	☎: 08457 440088
<b>Water Service</b>	DRD Water Service	☎: 08457 440088



Council Eye is being delivered by Royal Mail to the postcode areas of BT39, BT29 and BT41 to cover the Antrim Borough Council area. A number of homes and businesses bordering these postcodes fall within neighbouring council areas. If you are a resident or business in a neighbouring council area, we hope you read the magazine and attend some of the events in our Summer Festival in June. No part of this magazine should be reproduced without prior consent of Antrim Borough Council. All enquiries should be forwarded to the Editor, Elish Martin ☎: 9446 3113

**ANYONE HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THIS NEWSLETTER DUE TO DISABILITY OR A LANGUAGE BARRIER SHOULD CONTACT THE EDITOR, ELISH MARTIN ☎: 9446 3113**