

Portaferry Public Realm Scheme

Project Start Date: October 2023
Project Completion Date: Summer 2024
Project Value: £2M

Edition no: 13: 11/07/24

Welcome to the thirteenth newsletter for the Portaferry Public Realm Scheme. Newsletters will be issued monthly as works progress to keep residents and businesses updated on progress and future work schedules. You can register to receive these newsletters by emailing 'SUBSCRIBE' to portaferrypublicrealm@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk. Alternatively, printed newsletters will be delivered to Exploris, Portaferry Library and Portaferry Post Office and can be picked up from there by anyone interested in the scheme who does not have access to email.



The Square is now open (temporarily) for the Portaferry Gala Festival!

For further information visit: ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/portaferrypublicrealm
email: portaferrypr@northstone-ni.com or telephone: 07385 029 472
24 Hour Contact No: 028 9039 4419

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Portaferry Gala Week (13/07/2024 – 19/07/2024)

Portaferry Gala Festival is taking place from the 13th July to the 19th July and the Square is now open to help facilitate these festivities. You will see that there has been some temporary surfacing laid into areas where the paving is not yet finished. This temporary surfacing will be excavated when Northstone Ltd start works again after the July break and these areas will be paved.

The full festival programme can be found at www.portaferrygala.com

July Closure Period (05/07/2024 – 22/07/2024)

Works have now closed from Friday 5th July for the summer break and will be starting up again on Monday 22nd July.

Please note: During this break, the contractor, Northstone Ltd will be contactable should there be any issues by using the 24 hour contact number (028 9039 4419) or by emailing portaferrypr@northstone-ni.com. These will be checked intermittently throughout the break.



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CURRENT PLANNED WORKS

Now that the summer break has arrived and the upcoming local festivities about to take place at the Gala Festival, Northstone Ltd have cleared the Square and surrounding areas to open as much access as possible to let the events take place.

When Northstone return to the site on the 22nd July, the first port of call will be to excavate the temporary surfacing to allow the paving squads to complete the Porphyry paving and Florentine cobbles in the Square.

The Civils crew will then continue with the excavation, kerbing, and concrete foundation of the footways in front of the Post Office toward the Old Rock Bakery.

Northstone Ltd would again like to thank the local residents and business community who have been extremely understanding of the disruption as they continue to do their best with what is a challenging project.

Schedule of Works

Some changes have been made to the work plan and dates so please see revised work plan phases below. These changes are following consultation with DfI, and work is now to be carried out to the footpath outside the Credit Union to improve pedestrian accessibility.

Phase 1 – Trial holes and Ferry Street **Oct 2023-Dec 2023**

Phase 2 – Castle Street **Nov 2023 – Feb 2024**

Phase 3 – Market Square and Junctions of Ferry St/The Strand & Castle St/The Strand **Jan 2024 – Aug 2024**

Phase 4 – Meetinghouse Street **July 2024 - Aug 2024**

Phase 5 – Credit Union footpath and scheme conclusion **Sept 2024**

Keep an eye on the future newsletters and the website, www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/portaferrypublicrealm for regular updates on the planned works.

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Scheme works

Widening of footpaths / Better pedestrian connectivity / Improved street lighting / Resurfacing footpaths with sustainable materials / The incorporation of street furniture / Planting / Re-designing the car park within Market Square to create a usable civic space

Scope of scheme

Market Square / Castle Street / Ferry Street / High Street / Meeting House Street.

The Scheme Contractor, Northstone Ltd, will liaise with all of the residents and businesses within the scope of the scheme to try and reduce disruption during the period of works. Those traders and residents directly affected will be contacted by the contractor prior to works commencing.

Contractor Contact Details

Northstone's Public Liaison Officer will be contactable on **07385029472** for any day-to-day queries about the works or particular requirements for access.

For out of hours contact, there is a 24hr contractor's contact number for Northstone: **02890394419**

Alternatively, there is a dedicated contractor's email address portaferrypr@northstone-ni.com where Northstone will endeavour to answer any queries or address any issues.



This project will greatly improve the village of Portaferry, enhancing the pavements and Market Square which will have long term benefits for residents and businesses. While we will endeavour to cause as little disruption as possible during our works, short delays and minor inconvenience are unavoidable and we would like to thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation throughout our works.

The scheme is funded under the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (SSRP) with a contribution from Ards and North Down Borough Council. The SSRP is a collaborative approach, with contributions from the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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