

Portaferry Public Realm Scheme

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

Edition no: 12: 21/06/24

Welcome to the twelfth 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 Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Alistair Cathcart, visits Portaferry Men's Shed where the group have constructed a play train for the local youth club using wood recycled from the Portaferry Public Realm Scheme.

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

Portaferry Public Realm Scheme

Portaferry Men's Shed - Recycling Wooden Crates from the Public Realm Scheme

Following an approach from members of Portaferry Men's Shed, Northstone Ltd agreed to handover the many wooden crates that the paving materials are delivered to the site compound in. The members of the men's shed strip these crates down and use the wood to make a variety of different items such as flower planters, wishing wells, signs and bird boxes. They also made the rather impressive Ballyphilip train (pictured on the front of this newsletter) for the local youth club to enjoy. Not only has this helped to keep costs down for the shed, it has also enabled them to construct items in line with their ethos of using reclaimed wood, materials and imagination to help cut down on waste and help the environment. The men's shed would like to pass on their thanks to Northstone Ltd for enabling them to re-purpose these crates.

Portaferry Men's Shed is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10am-2pm & Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm-9pm. They are located on the premises of St Patrick's Community Centre, Portaferry. New members are always welcome!

Email: mensshedportaferry@gmail.com

Tel: 028 4272 8731



Portaferry Men's Shed members along with the Mayor and representatives of the Department for Communities, Northstone Ltd and Ards and North Down Borough Council pictured with some of the many items they have manufactured with the recycled wooden crates.

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CURRENT PLANNED WORKS

Work is continuing within the Square and the paving is coming together well.

The Northstone Ltd team have completed the kerbing and cobbles sets along the Rope Walk and the area has received its 1st layer of Asphaltic Concrete (Bitmac) and footways will be open again very shortly. The contractor will have to return to install new bollards in this area before topping out the footways.

Works have begun on the last street within the Square which is now paved, and works will continue on this section after the summer break.

The contractor has received some queries as to why small areas have not been fully completed before moving on to the next area. The main reason for this is due to the replacement of the street lighting. They have been waiting on the delivery of the new poles which has had a 24-week lead in from time of order and these are now on site with the aim to erect before the end of June.

This will require further excavation to ensure the cable is installed within the pole correctly. The switch over process can be quite lengthy to ensure all approvals and agreements are in place before commencement. The old existing poles cannot be removed until the new lighting is fully operational and commissioned and at that point, the final surfacing will take place.

With the works closing for the summer break from the 5th July until the 22nd July, although works will not be fully completed within the Square before this break, Northstone Ltd will be putting measures in place to ensure they will be able to remove all of the barriers from the area and thus enabling the smooth running and serviceability of the Square for the Gala Festival. Hopefully the Gala will be another success and it will be a flavour of what's to come when the Square is completed and is utilised fully by the community.

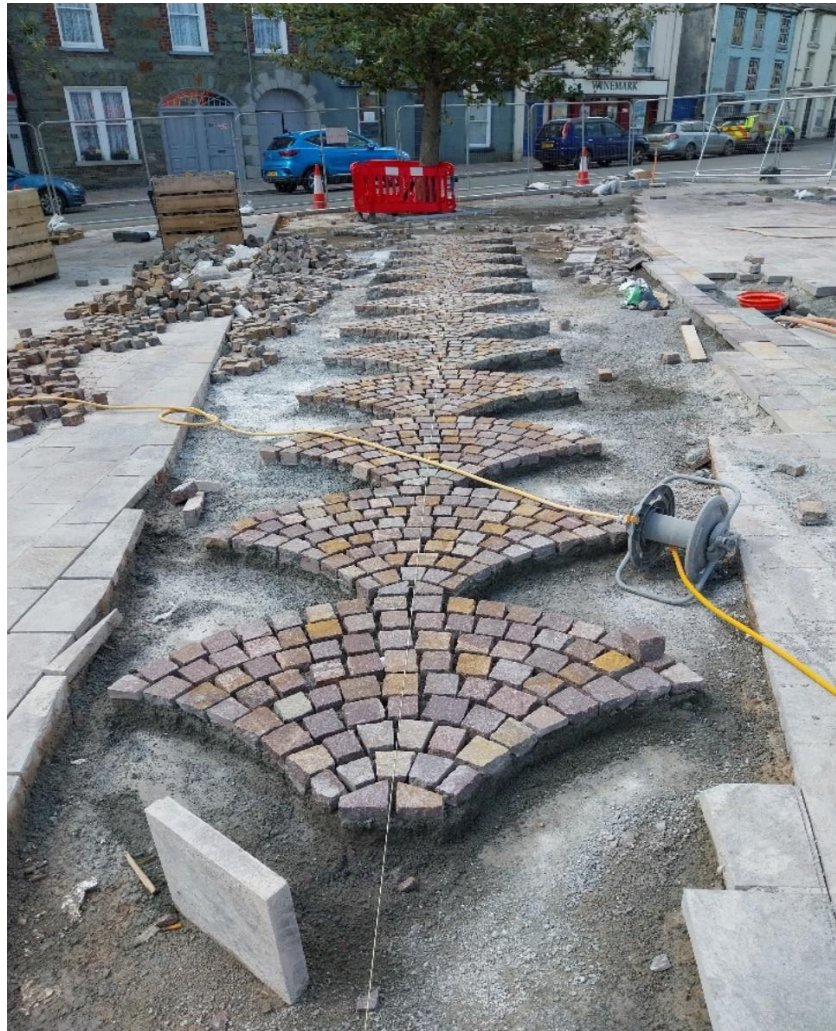
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July Closure Period (05/07/2024 – 22/07/2024)

Works will be closing on 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.



The impressive Florentine design in Market Square taking shape

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Schedule of Works

The below schedule of works gives an idea of the proposed plan and dates of works in each area however please note that this is subject to change as the works progress. Keep an eye on the future newsletters and the website,

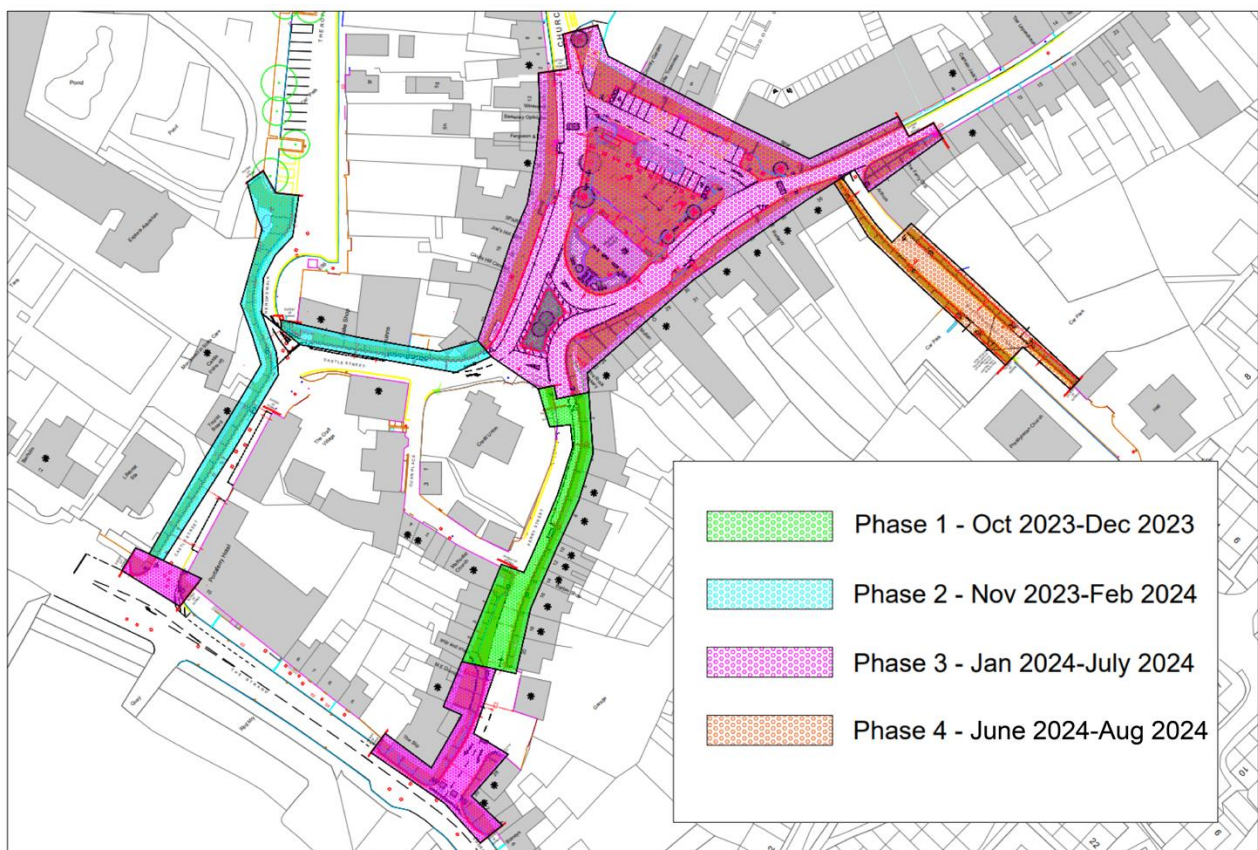
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/portaferrypublicrealm for regular updates on the planned works.

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 – July 2024**

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



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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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Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
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North Down
Borough Council