

Portaferry Public Realm Scheme

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

Edition no: 11: 20/05/24

Welcome to the eleventh 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.



Year 6 pupils from St Mary's Primary School learning from the experts from Northstone Ltd. Perhaps some of these pupils will be involved in the next 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

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO PORTAFERRY PUBLIC REALM

Northstone Ltd staff held a successful educational event for pupils of St Mary's Primary School on the 23rd April. The Year 6 students walked from St Mary's Primary School to Market Square where Northstone staff greeted them and introduced the team.

The first part of the day was an introduction to the public realm project with an insight into how the works have been progressing and what is left to do. Northstone staff explained where the new paving had come from (Portugal) and that the project was centred around future community use and to create a safe, accessible, and attractive shared place for the fun and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

There was a great questions and answers session which led on to a safety talk expressing the dangers of construction sites and the need for personal protective equipment and visibility on site. This was followed by a discussion on sustainability within construction including what the industry is doing well and how it needs to improve.

Pupils then went out to Market Square where the children were all given a hard hat, hi-vis vest, safety glasses and gloves. They each laid a cobble within the Florentine pattern and with the help of one of Northstone's sub-contractors, they had the opportunity to mix up a batch of blacktop tarmacadam by substituting some of the main materials used with black dye, pva glue, stone, sand, and flour to give them an idea of how the product is made.

After lunch within Market Square, the children each received a Northstone goodie bag and made their way back up to the Primary School.

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CURRENT PLANNED WORKS

Now that the weather has greatly improved, Northstone Ltd are back in full swing with works around Portaferry. The team have continued with the paving works across the top of the village with the next milestone being to complete the cobble paving across the entrance of Eurospar and complete the last remaining paving works towards High Street. Works are near completion on a section of the Florentine pattern within the Square.

The civils crews have been concentrating their works at the ends of Castle Street and Ferry Street with the widening and upgrading of the footways and pedestrian crossings. By the end of May / early June they will be back in The Square completing the concreting works to the Square itself and carrying out the excavation and kerbing from the Rock Bakery to Meeting House Street.



A close up from the Florentine design in Market Square and completed works at the crossing at St. Coey's Oratory

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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,

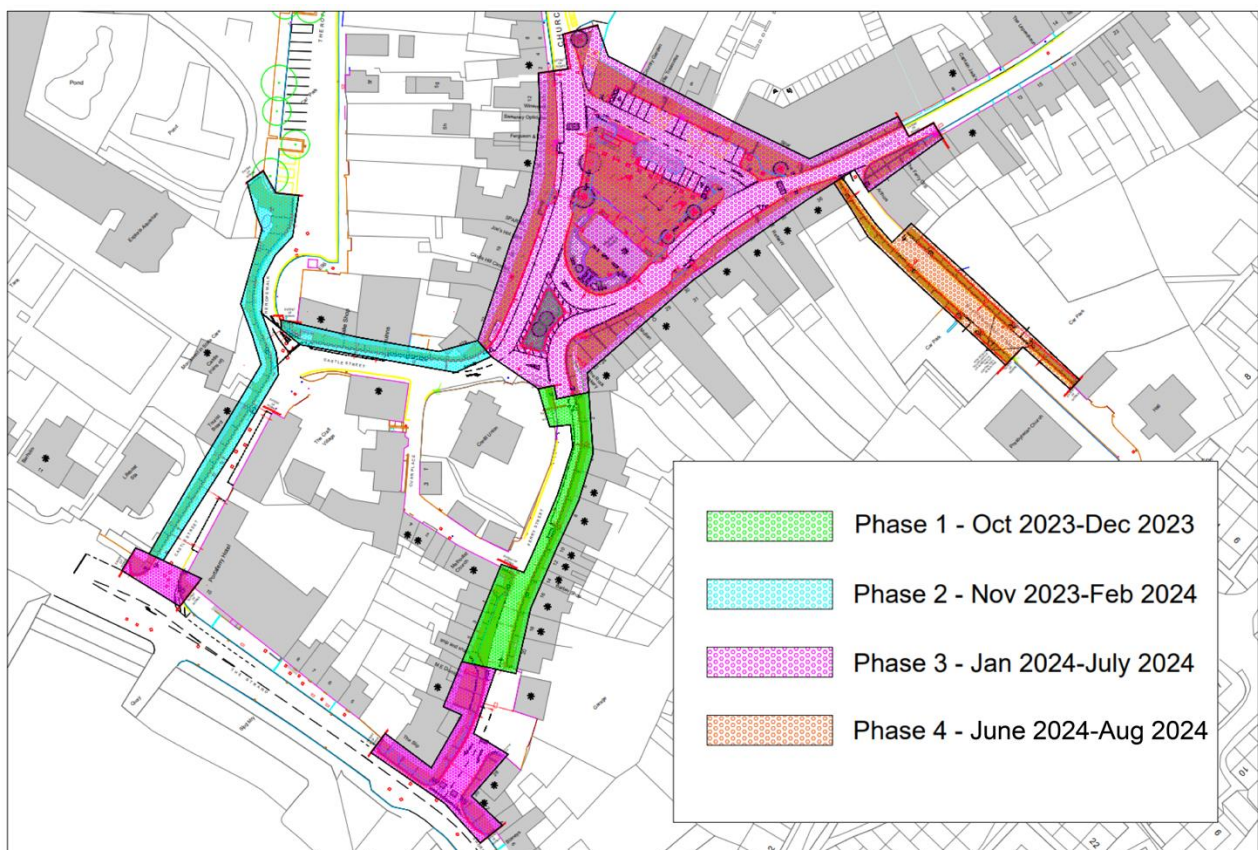
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/portaferrypublicrealm for regular updates on the planned works.

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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