

Renewing the Routes bulletin

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Crumlin Road

Carlisle Circus sculpture - Pharus

A unique public art piece symbolising the rich industrial heritage of North Belfast is due to be erected at Carlisle Circus shortly.

Carlisle Circus is located at the bottom of the Antrim Road and Crumlin Road and provides a gateway to North Belfast. The area is known to experience civil unrest and community strife and has suffered as a result of sectarian violence. It has therefore been identified as a key location for a piece of public art that would provide a focus for the local communities in North Belfast.

The sculpture, named 'Pharus', represents the flax mills that operated around North Belfast in bygone years. It was designed and partly fabricated by Scottish artist Iain McColl. He was chosen from a shortlist of artists by a selection panel that comprised stakeholders from all sides of the community together with representatives of relevant statutory bodies. An intensive period of consultation was undertaken consisting of various workshops and exhibitions in a bid to gain agreement on an art piece that each community could claim ownership of.

The sculpture will consist of an eight sided column to reflect the Belfast Mill Chimney Stacks. Mounted upon the 'chimney' is a Gondola which will house flames that convey a beacon of hope. The design will allow for wind generated movement of the flames which will be uplit by solar powered LED lighting.

A landmark success!

St. Mary's Church of Ireland, a landmark building of significant architectural merit situated along Crumlin Road, has recently

benefited from a substantial landscaping and refurbishment scheme.

The memorial garden has been landscaped, boundary railings and gates refurbished and a new feature notice board has been erected.

The Church has a prominent roadside frontage presence and the boundary treatment has had a very positive visual impact on this stretch of the Crumlin Road.

The memorial Garden has been transformed into a high quality landscaped area consisting of a mixture of granite paving, shrubbery and trees which provides a focal area within the grounds of the Church. The newly erected robust church notice board and restored railings strongly enhance the impressive new memorial garden.

The project has been highly commended by the Rector of the Church, Rev. Canon Walker who has arranged a service to mark the official opening of the memorial garden. This will take place on Sunday, 14 September 2008.



St. Mary's Church after the refurbishment work

Falls Road

Falls Road clean-up

The Falls Road is to benefit from intensive clean-up efforts for the next six months.

The 'Renewing the Routes Programme' is working in partnership with the council's Cleansing Team on this key arterial route to deliver a pilot scheme of high-impact graffiti removal. The area runs from Divis Street to Andersonstown and includes the lower Springfield Road.

The team will carry out an intensive cleanse of the road on a daily basis offering a more concentrated and rigorous service which began in June.

The Falls Road suffers from extensive graffiti and illegal fly-posting and several hotspots have been identified on the route for targeted action. These include Riverdale shops and Busy Bee in Andersonstown and most street corners on the Falls Road.

The team are adopting a zero tolerance approach to graffiti and fly posting in these areas of both publicly and privately owned property. A disclaimer or public indemnity form is required from owners of defaced properties prior to work being carried out.

Within days of work starting on the road the secretary of Riverdale Residents Group, Maureen McKearney congratulated the Renewing the Routes Cleansing Team on the immediate visual impact of the graffiti removal in Andersonstown. She said: "I'd like to thank everyone for all their hard work and effort, as a resident I assure you we appreciate this very much. I noticed the difference immediately at the Riverdale Surgery. Great work!"



Graffiti on Riverdale Surgery

Shops on Falls Road get a facelift



This August sees the launch of a major commercial improvement scheme on the Falls Road to the tune of £350,000.

This will target 50 well known West Belfast businesses in the lower Falls area with a further £840,000 planned for mid Falls and Andersonstown.

This project is part of the Renewing the Routes Programme and will kick start the £1.81million investment proposed for the Falls Road, lower Springfield Road and Andersonstown under the Integrated Development Funds.

The work will build upon the successes of the previous scheme in 2004 which was carried out on businesses opposite Dunville Park. The project aims to enhance the shopping experience and bring back the vibrant and bustling atmosphere on the busy Falls Road.

The shop improvements will focus on the face of the road and the properties will be chosen on a block by block basis. The improvements will be offered to shops or businesses where deemed necessary by the Belfast City Council appointed architect and consultants.

Planning for the project has already received an overwhelming positive response from the traders after initial consultation to gauge interest. It is anticipated construction work will begin on site in August 2008 with the further phases of construction scheduled on a quarterly basis for other parts of the road.

Shankill Road

Shankill Shops set for beauty treatment



Our next phase of regeneration has already begun on the Shankill Road, with over £700,000 investment planned over the coming year.

The Shankill arterial route runs from Peter's Hill to Woodvale Park.

This latest substantial programme follows similar successful work on the lower Shankill and Woodvale Road. Following consultation, Belfast City Council is targeting £500,000 of Integrated Development Fund monies at existing shop premises to boost the Shankill as a key shopping route in the city.

Builders are currently tackling a block of shops at the junction with Lanark Way, gradually moving towards the city centre at a rate of 20 shops per three month period. The project aims to improve the look of the road by supporting existing businesses and buildings. Typical work is cosmetic and includes signs, lights and painting to brighten up the road.

Shop improvements focus on the road frontage and are managed by Belfast City Council on a block-by-block basis. Each trader will be given an opportunity to benefit from the scheme over the coming months via letter and on site visits from Council officers. Work is offered where deemed necessary by Council architects and traders. No grant application is required and the work is not means tested.

Belfast City Council also works alongside partners NI Housing Executive and Belfast Regeneration Office to address gap sites and dereliction on a wider basis.

Belfast City Council has also successfully secured NIHE 'Living Over the Shops' grants as a pilot scheme for the Shankill Road, which will dovetail with ongoing commercial improvement.

Celebrating 100 years on Shankill Road

The Renewing the Routes programme is also delivering £200,000 of improvements to key public buildings and sites of interest on Shankill Road. Lead projects are a lighting scheme at Woodvale Methodist Church and impressive boundary improvements at West Belfast Orange Hall.

A key building on the road and in a prominent corner position, West Belfast Orange Hall is home to the No. 9 District Orange Lodge, which celebrates its 110 year anniversary this year.

New bespoke galvanised railings reflecting the heritage of the Orange Order have been erected at the Hall. Cleansing of the exterior wall has taken place and a final high quality granite finish has led to the restoration of the West Belfast Orange Hall entrance to its former glory.

This project forms part of a drive to improve several key buildings, and regeneration is already planned for Woodvale Presbyterian Church and Shankill Rest Garden, set for delivery over the next year.



Workmen at West Belfast Orange Hall

Upper Springfield Road

A route with a view



Springfield Viewpoint Launch

Upper Springfield boasts some of the best views over Belfast and beyond. An innovative viewing area has now been unveiled showcasing the area's unique position - nestled between the Black Mountain and the city.

Launched in May, with our partners Groundwork NI, Upper Springfield Arts Project and the Terry Enright Foundation, the Viewpoint is found at the entrance to Turf Lodge, at Monagh Road. The boards point out key places of interest visible on the skylines.

The Council was also joined at the launch by interested groups such as NI Tourist Board, Belfast Hills Partnership and Irish language organisation Forbairt Feirste.

The community partners attracted extra funding and enthusiasm for the initiative, engaging artist Michael Baker and 12 young people to add a personal touch. Locally inspired art plaques are now embedded at the Viewpoint highlighting some of the West's landmarks such as Bog Meadows and Black Mountain's Hatchet Field.

Landscapers Groundwork NI also contributed by bringing both projects together at the site through their 'Greencare' scheme.

This project was part of a pilot programme of arterial route regeneration targeted at Upper Springfield which also included cosmetic improvements to shops.

As one of the pilot arterial routes, Upper Springfield Road helped to form the bedrock of Belfast's arterial route regeneration. The Viewpoint and a shop improvement scheme helped inspire the current wider programme.

Next stop for Springfield

Following the success of the pilot schemes, Belfast City Council's 'Renewing the Routes' project has now secured a further £415,000 from the Integrated Development Fund for the Upper Springfield.

Ground work, consultation and planning on major local priorities under the pilot scheme have now reached fruition in a series of further physical projects in 2008.

Investment of over £100,000 has already begun through delivery of the Junction Improvement Project. This is a major facelift at the key hub of activity in at Whiterock Road and Springfield Road. This project aims to make the area more pedestrian-friendly and attractive for shoppers and residents. The worn and pot-holed tarmac will be replaced and traffic management systems will be reinforced.

The Upper Springfield Renewing the Routes team delivers physical improvements in consultation with local groups such as Neighbourhood Renewal and the Resident's Associations to improve the appearance of areas in line with local concerns such as traffic and anti-social behaviour. Belfast City Council has worked closely with DRD Roads Service and other relevant agencies and landowners to deliver practical improvement schemes that can be maintained in the future.

Further Renewing the Routes projects due to start later in the year include: the redesign of the green space opposite Owenvale at Springhill Park - in partnership with Groundwork NI; public art projects with Sliabh Dubh residents and Upper Springfield Arts; and more cosmetic improvements to shops on the main road.



Springfield Junction project during construction

For more information contact the Renewing the Routes team - 028 90320202