

# ashton

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## Greater New Lodge Community Magazine

# Urban Development A Community Speaks Out

## Local Research Findings Made Public

### Public Meeting

On Wednesday February 20th the findings of a recent research survey of local residents into the impacts of nearby urban developments were presented at a public meeting in the Bunscoil Lancaster Street. The survey, commissioned by the Ashton Community Trust was delivered by Community Places who specialise in community planning issues. 13 local residents carried out the survey door to door after being put through training by Community Places.

### Negative Impacts

The research focused on residents living in the shadow of major construction sites including the new Ulster University Campus, its carpark and associated student accommodation tower blocks. Since these constructions began many residents have endured a range of negative effects including excessive noise both day and night, dust, air and light at night pollution, rodent infestation, parking difficulties as well as traffic and pedestrian accessibility problems.

### York Street Interchange

The same residents will also be directly impacted by the construction of the York Street Interchange which is planned to commence in the near future, bringing with it at least three

years of serious disruption. The area of highest impact includes approximately 400 homes, stretching from Henry Street to Frederick Street, along North Queen Street from Clifton Street to New Lodge Road and the Sailortown area. Against this backdrop of massive urban redevelopment the key purpose of the research study was;

- To get a clearly recorded understanding of resident's experiences, needs, issues and concerns
- Enable residents to bring forward their own ideas and solutions

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New UU Campus

# Ashton Community Bursaries



The 9th Annual Ashton Community Bursary Awards were held on Thursday the 13th December in the McSweeney Centre in Henry Place. The purpose of the scheme is to enable Ashton to provide financial assistance to other community groups in the area that are short of financial resources and that rely mainly on the commitment of volunteers. This year's awards ceremony saw 16 local groups receive bursary awards to assist with their work. In total over £6,000 in cheques was provided.

## Ashton Donates Over £50,000

Over £50,000 has now been donated to local groups by Ashton since the beginning of the awards scheme. John Fleming is a Director on the Board of Ashton,

"With this year's awards Ashton has now provided more than £50,000 in direct financial assistance to local community groups. However the Bursary Awards are more than just about providing some financial support. They are also about giving due recognition to the brilliant work of local volunteers who offer up their time on behalf of others. The volunteer spirit is clearly alive and well in the New Lodge and is the essence of

community development, long may it continue".  
List of Bursary Awardees 2019

- R.A.Y. Project- Tackling Awareness on Mental Health Issues TAMHI
- Star Senior Citizens Group
- Newington ABC 'Patsy Quinn' Gym
- Cancer Lifeline
- York Street Interchange Residents Group
- Jim O'Neill & Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band
- St Patrick's YMFC
- Patrick Pearse G.A.C.
- St Patrick's FC
- Greater New Lodge Safer Streets Committee
- New Lodge Housing Forum
- St Malachy's OB Youth Club - Mini Soccer Team
- St Patrick's Soup Kitchen
- KRONK Boxing Club
- New Lodge Memorial Garden
- Dockers ABC

## Community Contact Details

174 Trust .....	9074 7114
Ashton Centre .....	9074 2255
Bridge of Hope .....	9074 6737
Bridges Sewing Group .....	9074 2255
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain.....	9032 2409
Camberwell Fold.....	9096 0552
Cancer Lifeline.....	9035 1999
Carlisle Day Centre .....	9023 1227
Carrick Hill Community Centre .....	9023 1602
Clanmill Housing Association.....	9087 6000
Friends of St Joseph's Church Sailortown .....	terryblfst@gmail.com
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain.....	90749 688
Glenravel Local History Project .....	9032 2289
Holy Family Primary School.....	9035 1023
Holy Family Youth Centre.....	9087 5150

Indian Community Centre .....	9024 9746
KinderKids Day Care - Ashton .....	9074 2255
McSweeney Centre.....	9032 2289
Newington Credit Union.....	9035 1773
Newington Housing Association.....	90744055
New Lodge Arts .....	9074 2255
New Lodge Housing Forum.....	9074 2399
New Lodge Safer Streets .....	07564 938276
New Lodge Youth Centre .....	9075 1358
North Belfast Family Centre .....	9024 7580
North Belfast Mens Shed.....	9032 2289
North Queen St. Community Centre .....	9032 3945
Smile SureStart .....	9075 6654
St. Patrick's Primary School.....	9035 1206
Star Neighbourhood Centre.....	9074 0693
TAMHI .....	90 747437
Tar Isteach.....	90746665 / 90746664

## Research Findings Continued from page 1

- Encourage greater self-help, community activism and volunteering around these issues

### Dedicated Resources Needed to Help Residents

One of the key recommendations of the report was that the Department for Infrastructure who are responsible for the construction of the York Street Interchange should provide dedicated resources to the community sector to assist residents deal with the impacts and to deliver change 'with' rather than 'to and on' the community.

### Ashton Best Placed

The report advised that there should be; "A dedicated resource from the Department to the community sector to enable it to support effective engagement, communications and information sharing between the Contractor, Community and the Department. It is essential that both the Department and the Contractor listen to the concerns of local people in advance of works. Ashton Community Trust are best placed to support and co-ordinate this process as a trusted organisation with a detailed understanding of the wider North Belfast regeneration agenda".

### Statutory Authorities Must Listen

Paul O'Neill of Ashton who helped organise the research said, "These projects are bringing huge physical and social challenge and change, yet none of the agencies directly responsible have conducted any serious analysis into the needs of the nearby community. This is despite being strongly advised at a very early stage to effectively engage residents and prepare a properly resourced strategy to protect their basic social, physical, environmental, health and well-being needs. This advice was not heeded and it has been left to Ashton to take the initiative. Having completed the research we now hope to use the findings to persuade those in positions of statutory authority to listen closely to what people are saying and respond more positively, including providing residents with special support measures".

### Poorest Communities Neglected

Mark Hackett is an architect and urban designer with Ashton, "During the conflict whole neighbourhoods were cut off from

the City Centre and from economic development and inward investment. This was driven by security related considerations, facilitated by skewed planning policy. Although the context has changed, a similar pattern of flawed planning continues to the present day, whereby the needs of the poorest communities are neglected thus deepening their disconnection and exclusion".

### Reduce the Negatives

Mark continued, "It is obviously too late to reverse the physical projects already underway but it is never too late to start listening with sincerity to what local people are saying. For people to have trust they must be treated with respect and planners can achieve this by showing that they take neighbourhood needs and input seriously. It is quite clear from this research that residents are asking for an accountable, dedicated community support structure that can facilitate effective engagement and communications and help organise positive actions to reduce the negative impacts. Such a structure would need resourced for the duration and in the aftermath of these works. This is the least that can be expected if the community is to have any faith in the statutory planning process".

### Summary of Research Findings/Recommendations Page 12



Part of the local research team James (Cecil) Sloane, Bridget Coogan, Geraldine Russell with Paul O'Neill Ashton

## Community Family Support Programme

The Community Family Support Programme is a training and employability project aimed at those families who are not currently engaged in training, employment or education and who have family support needs. The project is part of a city-wide consortium and aims to work with 45 families living in North Belfast per year. Employment and training support can include CV completion, job searching and interview preparation. Through Family Support interventions the project aims to reduce barriers that may prevent a family from moving forward, these may include stress management, behaviour support, budgeting and reducing social isolation.

The existing participants recently completed a food values course in partnership with Supporting Families North Belfast where participants had the opportunity to cook healthy meals for the whole family and engage in yoga classes for relaxation, de-stressing and healthy lifestyle choices. Some of the families are also availing of work sampling through Ashton Community Trust to move them closer to employment in the

near future.

The programme is coming to the end of its first year and it has been very successful with many positive outcomes for the families involved with the project. Participants have been supported with gaining employment, entering training to meet their goals and a range of family support issues.

Should any family wish to avail of this service please contact Kris Morrison on 02890 742255 or email kris.morrison@ashtoncentre.com



## Another Belfast Works Success Story

Donna joined the Belfast Works project through the Ashton Community Trust in May 2018, initially looking for a training course to enhance her chances of finding employment. Donna had previously worked in the Care Sector but due to the death of her husband and having to look after five children, could no longer fulfil her post.

In the summer of 2018, Belfast Works had a HGV Academy on offer and Donna decided to apply as she had a passion for driving and felt it was a career path she would like to follow. She attended the Open Day which led to an interview and was successful on gaining a place on the Academy.

Donna successfully completed the training academy, often having to juggle the pressures of being a single mother her youngest child being only 5 at the time. Donna had a few setbacks whilst on the academy but with the help of her Belfast Works mentor and the Employer Liaison team she was able to complete and pass all aspects of the HGV Class 2 lorry licence. Donna is now going forward for interviews with employers for lorry driver positions.

Donna said she would encourage anyone who is interested in the HGV Academy or any other training or employment opportunities to get in contact with Belfast Works.

For further information on the Belfast Works project, please contact one of our mentors on (028) 90742255



## Belfast City Council Bulky Waste Collection

If you want to dispose of a large item, such as a sofa, cooker, bed or mattress, you can request a free bulky waste collection from us.

### Yes

Furniture (must be dry and covered)  
Mattresses (must be dry and covered)  
Carpet (must be dry and covered)  
Electrical appliances e.g. TV  
White goods e.g. fridges, washing machines and cookers

### No

Bagged household waste  
Builders rubble, plaster board, bricks or soil  
Tyres and car parts  
Cardboard and packaging  
Batteries and fluorescent tubes  
Paint, pesticides and oil  
Garden waste or garden furniture  
Bathroom suites, kitchen units, radiators, doors and sheds

## Call 028 9027 0230

## Report Rat And Noise Problems In Your Area!

In recent times residents around the general New Lodge have been reporting to community workers a noticeable upsurge in rats moving about the area and increased noise levels, sometimes at night. When demolition of old buildings and major construction works begin it can frequently disturb rats that may already be present in that location and obviously with building works noise levels will inevitably intensify. As residents will know major demolition and construction works are currently happening all around us particularly in the York Street/University area, we have also had housing works ongoing in the Long Streets.

If you need to report on these issues confidentially contact the following;

### Belfast City Council Pest Control

This pest control service can help you get rid of rats, mice, fleas, flies, bedbugs and cockroaches. The service is available to domestic householders living within the Belfast City Council area. To book an inspection or for more information call 028 9027

0431 or email [pestcontrol@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:pestcontrol@belfastcity.gov.uk). They will need your name, address and contact details, or, if you live in rented accommodation, the contact details of your landlord or housing agency.

### Belfast City Council Noise Control

People can call (028 9037 3006) or email ([envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk)). After 8pm at night, to get someone out while noise is actually happening so it can be monitored.

Noise is restricted between 7am and 7pm, with more stringent restrictions between 7pm and 10pm. There should be no audible noise between 10pm and 7am and all day on a Sunday. ("Quiet" construction may be possible. In some exceptional circumstances, some noise may be permitted if the work can only be carried out at night.)

[www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/noisecontrol/reportnoiseproblem.aspx](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/noisecontrol/reportnoiseproblem.aspx)

# Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee Appeal

## Letter from Greater New Lodge Memorial Committee

A Chairde,

The Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee is in the process of documenting and recording information relating to all those from the area who lost their lives as a direct result of the conflict and whose names appear on the Greater New Lodge Memorial Garden at Donore Court.

### Historical Documentation

The aim of this project is to document the circumstances of those who lost their lives and their connection to the Greater New Lodge area. In doing so, the Commemoration Committees wish to publish, for historical reference, a book detailing information relating to the 112 people whose names are inscribed on the memorial plaque.

### Lives Lost

To a generation and to many who visit the memorial garden to pay their respects, little is known about those who are remembered in name on the memorial plaque. To us they are fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. They are cherished and loved as much today as they were when they lived. The circumstances of how they met their death was out of their control. They were victims of a war that was forced upon them and the community from which they came.

It is important to the Commemoration Committee that they are all respectfully remembered for generations to come and we feel



that this project will assist with this objective.

### Making Contact

To aid with the documenting of information relating to all who are remembered on the memorial plaque, we are asking that family members or friends contact the Commemoration Committee to help us in our endeavours. We can be contacted by Facebook or by email. Both addresses are supplied below.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newlodgecc/>  
Email: [GNLCC2019@gmail.com](mailto:GNLCC2019@gmail.com)

## Work Starts on UU Car Park in Frederick Street

### Year-Long Construction

Work has commenced on the new Ulster University Car Park at Frederick Street. It is expected that the works will take at least one year to complete. Since the commencement of the works Ashton Community Trust has convened two meetings at the McSweeney Centre on Thursday 24th January and the 28th of February where local residents living in the Lancaster Street area close to the carpark were able to meet with the Carpark contractor O'Hare and McGovern. Representatives of the UU and Belfast City Council and contractors from the other nearby construction sites also attended these meetings. Community workers from Ashton Community Trust and local Councillor JJ Magee also attended.

### Face to Face Meetings

The key purpose of the meetings is to ensure that all possible means are employed to minimise the negative impacts of the building works on nearby residents. The meetings have enabled residents to meet face to face with the contractors where they have put a series of questions to them relating to a range of concerns including vibration, noise and dust levels, disruption to traffic and pedestrian, communications and notifications to residents, rodent control and sanitation policies.

### Communication and Complaints

It has been agreed during the discussions that it is crucially

important to maintain and strengthen communication links between the community, the contractors and all other relevant agencies. As part of the communication process the contractors carrying out the nearby construction works have provided their personal contact details to members of the local residents group allowing direct contact when required.

However for general complaints about issues such as excessive noise, vibration and dust, residents should phone Belfast City Council Day/Night 028 90 373006



# New Lodge Youth Centre FUN YC Group

## Research Project

This midterm saw the FUN YC group continue their research project as they embarked on a 4 day visit to Manchester. The girls have worked tirelessly over the past couple of months and they completed an 8 week programme with the Young Foundation to look at research techniques which allow them to gather the information needed to help improve youth provision at the youth centre. The girls have also been working on accreditations to allow them to improve the service to other young people at the centre. They are currently working on their food hygiene and have planned to complete their hair and beauty and youth work level one OCN's in the coming months.

## Manchester Super Centres

The trip saw the girls visit three Youth Zones in the Greater Manchester area. These purpose built facilities are regarded as super centres aimed at providing a service to local young people and local communities. The impressive centres had football facilities, climbing walls, sports halls, sensory rooms, skate parks, recording studios and an abundance of breakaway rooms for running alternative programmes. The groups had the opportunity to engage with youth workers, volunteers and young people at these super centres as they gathered their information, they had discussions about the centres, their successes, their programmes, the impact on the local community and much more. The girls are hoping to collate all this information and make the case for improved youth provision at the New Lodge Youth Centre. Watch this space!



## Need basic computer skills?

If you think computers and the internet are not for you, you're not alone. If you think you're too old or too stupid to use it, you're not alone. There are millions of people who feel the same way. Computers and the internet have become a part of everyday life – from staying in touch with friends and family and sharing photographs to booking holidays and doing your shopping online. It's all really useful... if you know how!

This course has been created to help those people who have never used a computer or the internet to understand and enjoy the benefits they offer.

It takes you step-by-step through the very basics like using a mouse and a keyboard, through to basic use of Word, Excel, Email and searching the internet. It really is easier than you think... so get ready to take your first click. For further information contact:

Emmanuel Wilkinson  
LEMIS+ ICT Tutor  
T: (028) 95 217 207  
Email: [emmanuel.wilkinson@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:emmanuel.wilkinson@ashtoncentre.com)

**Need basic computer skills?**

**Take control**

**Computer classes for beginners**

- From turning on a computer and learning to use a mouse, to using the internet and setting up an email account
- Set your own pace on this relaxed course for those who haven't used computers much - or at all

For more information contact a LEMIS+ mentor: Contact one of our Mentors on 02890742255

**Belfast Works**  
LEMIS+ Project

Led by Ashton Community Trust in partnership with East Belfast Mission, GEMS NI, Job Asstt Centre Greater Shankill and Job Asstt Centre West Belfast.  
The LEMIS+ Project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

**Belfast Works**  
LEMIS+ Project

Live in Belfast?  
Looking for work?  
Need qualifications?

Why not sign up for our **ECDL Essentials Course**  
12 Week Course

Modules include:  
IT user fundamentals  
Using Email and the Internet  
Security for IT users

**Belfast Works**  
LEMIS+ Project

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Health and Social Care Awareness  
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Person Centred Support  
Communication  
Career Preparation and Planning

Recognised Qualification  
No Experience or Qualifications required  
10 Week Course

Contact: Mentor on 02890742255

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# New Lodge Youth Centre Natural Highs Programme

## Natural Alternatives

The Natural High's Programme was developed to provide a group of 10 young people with positive natural alternatives to anti-social behaviour. The programme started with the young people firstly identifying the issues within the community and those that affect them as young men and individuals. Throughout the 15 weeks of the programme each member took part in a wide variety of activities all aimed at challenging the values and beliefs the young people held, overcoming barriers they may face as well as pushing to gain new experiences with outdoor learning opportunities.

## Challenging Your Personal Barriers

The young people participating in the Natural Highs programme were tested with lots of outdoor challenges such as Climbing with Belfast Activity Centre, Night Time Paintballing with Breckenhill and Jail House of Horror Trails. All of these activities saw the young people overcome personal barriers or fears they had and challenge themselves to push and strive for positive change within their lives. During group work sessions the young people's opinions and values were put on display in a Devil's Advocate type of session. This enhanced the young people's negotiation skills and challenged any views or opinions they may hold as well as challenging them to become empathetic and understanding of others around them.



## Positive Mental Health

With mental health being such an important topic in the area the young people in the group took this as the perfect opportunity to explore and identify methods of dealing with stress, anxiety and any other worries or concerns they may have. In doing so the young people researched some facts and statistics around mental health and took part in a two-week yoga session, 'Finding Balance with Kerri' which provided them with skills to become resilient and create positive mental health spaces for themselves as well as others.

## Life Skills

Commitment and timekeeping for an effective session provided the basis for another discussion topic. The Natural Highs group also took part in cooking sessions with Urban Community Chef, where each member cooked a healthy meal for themselves and others around the club from scratch. Informal sessions on job applications and CV making were carried out for a few of the members who are hoping to gain employment throughout the summer months. As a celebration event the group were also taken to Cosmo's where they explored appropriate behaviours in public as well as exploring foods from all around the world.

## Todds Leap Residential

To finish off the programme all 10 of the young people took part in a residential over the half term break to Todd's Leap. This residential saw the young people taking part in activities such as Blindfolded driving, off road driving, zip lines, giant swings and even off road truck tours. All activities as well as evaluation sessions summed up and highlighted the group's overall learning. As the group comes to a close the young people who participated are now hoping to give back to the community by hosting fun days, football competitions and events that raise awareness of issues, fundraisers for local football teams and creating opportunities for other young people to gain positive natural experiences inside and outside of their own communities. For further information contact: Paul Dynes at New Lodge Youth Centre on (028) 90751358



## You & Me Programme

You&Me group have been working with Monkstown Boxing Club from September and have explored topics such as good relations, anti sectarianism and diversity. This group has massive potential and have really enjoyed what they've explored so far and are continuing on with our cultural learning covering the Holocaust. The group will be heading on a cultural learning international trip to Poland in May to explore the topic in greater detail and learn more about this hugely important part of history. For further information contact: Paul Dynes at New Lodge Youth Centre on (028) 90751358



# Update From Ashton Fablab

## North Belfast Students

FabLab Belfast has continued its work with the CORE Project. The students, as always have been fantastic to work with and have shown great motivation and interest in the work that is done here at FabLab Belfast. Each student's hard work and commitment to the project is topped off with an OCN Level 1 in Digital Fabrication and Graphic Design Skills. This great project is targeted at those aged 16-24 years, living in the greater North Belfast area and not in any form of education or training. If you or someone you know is interested in taking part in this course get in touch with Ashton Community Trust to find out how you can get involved.



## TechConnects

Our TechConnects programme has been thriving with lots of exciting work being produced by all our participants. This has been a jam packed programme which both the children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed in equal measures. The young people involved have learned a whole range of new skills while making new friends from different backgrounds in the process. As we move forward in the programme, we will recruit more young people from across Belfast to take part, so that the entire city can avail of this innovative programme and ultimately improve relationships across the city from people of differing cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds.

To find out more about this and see how you can get involved in the project contact Fablab Belfast @ Ashton Centre on 02890742255, you can also check us out of Facebook and Twitter.

## Bye Paddy

The team were very sad to say goodbye to one of our most valued



members of staff. Paddy has been part of FabLab from its inception back in 2012. During his time at FabLab Belfast Paddy has been heavily involved in all projects and insuring that we deliver the best quality

projects across not just North Belfast but the island of Ireland. We wish him all the very best in his new job at Lowden guitars. We'll miss you Paddy!!!!

## Set Design

FabLab were asked by Flax Arts Trust to help out with their new play "Oliver!" which was being shown in the MAC. We helped design, tweak and fabricate the entire set! This was an amazing collaboration and the Set turned out great. It was cut out of 16 sheets of wood and was painted by the Flax Art Trusts artists and constructed by an architect. There has been talk of a new production in summer in which we hope we can help!

## University of Ulster Students

We also welcomed Ulster University students through the doors. It was hand in month and of course with that comes all the students! This particular course was Product Design. We helped build everything from a fold out Christmas tree, to desks and laptop stands! This was enabling us to further integrate what we do and what we provide with the University and importantly showing that we deliver a competitive and high quality product that can be sold! We always enjoy working with students and hope to do so again in the near future.

## Breakthrough Programme

The Fablab is a hive of activity this week as the young people from The Breakthrough Programme are finalising their designs for the Breakthrough showcase next week. Amongst other things the young people have been designing and constructing speaker docks, jewellery, wall stickers and T-shirts and they're really excited about the prospect of showing their artwork to the public.

The Breakthrough Programme is a new and exciting youth work programme for young people aged 16 - 24 - all living in the Greater North Belfast community. To find out more about the Breakthrough Programme and see how you can get involved contact the Ashton Centre on 02890742255, or check out the Breakthrough Facebook



page: <https://www.facebook.com/breakthroughbelfast/>

**Follow Fablab on Social Media**

[facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/](https://www.facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/)

[twitter.com/FabLabBelfast](https://twitter.com/FabLabBelfast)

[instagram.com/fablabbelfast/](https://www.instagram.com/fablabbelfast/)

# New Lodge Housing News

## Article from New Lodge Housing Fourm

### Remembering Joe Kelly

Its official we're open for business, although we have been operating for many months now the Housing Office at 23 New Lodge Road was formally re-launched on the 1st of February after a short ceremony which also saw us dedicate the project to the memory of the late Joe Kelly for his invaluable contribution from the very start. I would like to thank our Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey for her participation in the unveiling of Joe's memorial plaque, Deirdre was no stranger to Joe and was more than happy to oblige. After the unveiling we headed to the Recy for a buffet lunch and a spot of socialising. Joe's family were there in force and I'd like to think we did them proud. Thanks to all who took part and especially to Deirdre and Caral for their input.



### Kitchen & Bathrooms

On the housing front a kitchen and bathroom scheme has begun involving over 70 properties mostly in Carlisle but in other parts as well. Some teething problems have been reported but the Forum, the housing worker and political rep are meeting the contractor and will be on a regular basis. If you have any problems or questions just call and speak to Gerry at 23 New Lodge between 9 and 2 Mon to Fri. The phone is 02890742399.

### Long Streets Survey

The survey for the long streets from V.B. Evans has confirmed what we already knew, that the houses are unfit for purpose. It is estimated that it would cost up to £50,000 per dwelling to make the necessary repairs, this is of course not a viable solution as you would still be left with a building well over 120 years old. To this end three proposals have been put forward for redevelopment and in due course these will be revealed to residents to decide the most popular. The Housing Executive will then present this to the Department of Communities to seek funding for the project. We must stress that this is not a done deal, the Department could well refuse, one thing is certain legally, as a result of the survey, something must be done. If the Department agreed then work would begin on how to proceed but we'll cross that bridge if and when it arrives. This is to let residents know the project hasn't ground to a halt it is very much alive and you will be informed and involved every step of the way.

### Tower Blocks

The proposals for the tower blocks have yet to be put to the H.E. board

but we are hoping for an update in the next issue, in the meantime the committee continue to meet with senior management on everyday issues. Residents will have received a publication in the past few weeks drawn up between the tower committee, H.E. and supporting communities N.I. This is as an informal rule book, obviously some can't



conform due to disability or infirmity but everyone in the towers must respect their neighbours and things like anti-social behaviour must be reported, again for anonymity use 23 New Lodge.

### In the Heart of the Community

To finish as stated above the office is up and running and the usage is increasing every day. We're here to help and not just on housing issues. If you have a problem and you are not sure who to speak to we can signpost you in the right direction to other organisations such as Tar Isteach for advice on Universal Credit or P.I.P. We are in the heart of the community and want to help so come in and be welcome.

For further information please contact:

New Lodge Housing Forum  
23 New Lodge Rd BT15 2BU  
Phone number 02890742399  
email [thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com](mailto:thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com)

Liam Wiggins Chairperson New Lodge Housing Forum

## Looking for Childcare in North Belfast?

Why not visit

### Ashton Kinderkids Daycare

High quality daycare provision across 4 sites

Investing in Children and families for over 20 years in the North Belfast community.

Caring and learning is at the heart of what we do!



For more information or to arrange a visit please contact:  
Christine McKeown - [christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:christine.mckeown@ashtoncentre.com)  
Fionnuala Black - [fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:fionnuala.black@ashtoncentre.com)  
Telephone: 028 9074 2255 or 028 9074 9146

# Reconnecting North Belfast

## Investment Imbalance

Huge investments are being made regenerating the City Centre but with only minimal benefit for nearby North Belfast. Ashton believes it is crucial that inner areas of the city are fully integrated into the strategic planning and design of this regeneration. Ashton is lobbying politicians and statutory authorities to influence policy direction and is offering its own solutions for physical reintegration.

## Inner North Belfast

As part of this, Ashton has focussed attention on the geographical area running from Lower Shankill in an arc around to Sailortown, including buildings, vacant sites, streets and other spaces statutory authorities have influence over. Road infrastructure and design is a key issue to bring walking and connectivity benefits including:

- Making safe and high quality pedestrian friendly streets
- Investment incentives, bringing activity and jobs
- Addressing physiological barriers to employment, education and services
- Stimulate tourism and wider civic awareness of North Belfast assets

## Ashton Identifies Potential Development Sites

To help achieve this Ashton has identified 7 key development targets.

**York Road Axis** Reactivating a number of existent vacant sites including the old Midland Hotel alongside regeneration of York Street Rail Station would revitalise an important urban intersection.

**YorkGate Station** As major restitution of city rail stations continues, YorkGate is the best renewal option for North Belfast. The nearby UU campus undoubtedly boosts the footfall of the station and an elevator access from street level could be integrated. This underused site contains 160,000 Square Feet of potential commercial development space and could act as a key hub.

**Bridge to Titanic Quarter** A bridge linking Sailortown / City Quays to Titanic Quarter would create an East/North reconnection and drive regeneration. North Belfast residents would benefit from direct access to Belfast Met, the Science Park and beyond to Airport Road.

**York Street Interchange** The Interchange will facilitate regional traffic but will bring years of local construction disruption, dust and noise. A more obvious benefit for residents would be the creation of walking connections along York Street to the proposed North/East Bridge and Rail Station. We suggest that the project be framed within City Deal funding, supported by a cluster fund.

**Clifton Street North Belfast Heritage Cluster** is diverse alliance including, St Anne's Cathedral, Clifton House, the Orange Hall, the Indian Community Centre, Carlisle Memorial Church,

Working Mens Club and Carnegie Library. Their emerging planning vision for Clifton Street respects the scale and integrity of the fine listed buildings located nearby, this should be supported. Ashton hopes to develop frontage to enliven the street.



**Why don't you follow Ashton On Twitter**  
 [twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust](https://twitter.com/ashtoncommtrust)

# Lower North Family Support HUB

It has now been more than three years since Ashton was awarded the lead for the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub.

## Early Intervention

The Family Support Hub provides early intervention services to families and young people requiring support. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people (0-18 years) and their parents/carers and this includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services.

## Connecting Families

Since August 24th 2015, Ashton Community Trust has been co-ordinating and receiving referrals and working to connect families to the services they need at a time when they need them. The wards covered by the Hub are New Lodge, Duncairn, Fortwilliam, Castlevue, Waterworks (part of), Chichester Park (part of) and Bellevue. Since the establishment of the Hub we have worked with our partner service providers to deliver support to 720 families and hope with continued funding until March 2019 to offer support to many more families.

The Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub can help your family at many difficult times whether it is dealing with the challenging behaviour of children, stress/depression, alcohol/drug misuse, debt or social isolation.

## How to Refer

Any adult family member can refer themselves to the Hub simply by completion of a referral form or you may give your consent for another organisation with whom you are involved such as your child's school, your doctor or health visitor or a local community group to make a referral on your behalf. The Co-ordinator of the Hub will then contact you in order to help match appropriate services to your family's needs.



## Confidential

At all times your details will be kept confidential until you agree that you would like to avail of a particular service whether it is youth support, advice and guidance or services that offer emotional and well-being support. Your information will only be shared with the organisations who you feel will be of help to your family.

## Help Is Here!

There is now no need for families to struggle through life's difficulties because the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub is here to help through these times and work in partnership with families to improve outcomes for all the people who live in Lower North Belfast.

Should you have any queries about the Hub or should you wish to refer your family to the Hub please contact Edith McManus, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub Co-ordinator at the Ashton Centre (028)90 749986.

## Register to vote/change address/change name

The deadline for registering to vote at the Local Council elections on 2 May is Friday 12 April 2019.

There are two ways to register to vote or update your registration details:

You can register online via

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

This is the quickest and easiest way to register or update your details.

If you are unable to register online, you will need to complete a paper registration form and return it to the Area Electoral Office. The form can be downloaded below or contact us and we will post one out to you.

The registration form can also be used to apply for an Electoral Identity Card. Visit the Electoral Identity Card page for details of how to apply.



# Ashton Community Survey Recommendations

Full Report Visit:  
[www.ashtoncentre.com](http://www.ashtoncentre.com)

Each of the recommendations below demonstrate that effective and sustained communication and engagement is paramount to delivering change 'with' rather than 'to and on' the community.

## Department for Infrastructure

### Dedicated Community Engagement Resource for the York Street Interchange (YSI)

A dedicated resource from the Department to the community sector to enable it to support effective engagement, communications and information sharing between the Contractor, Community and the Department. It is essential that both the Department and the Contractor listen to the concerns of local people in advance of works. Ashton Community Trust are best placed to support and co-ordinate this process as a trusted organisation with a detailed understanding of the wider North Belfast regeneration agenda.

The resource will enable:

- agreed Protocol between the Developer, Department for Infrastructure and the Community, ensuring all parties recognise and acknowledge each other's responsibilities;
- regular information and representation on Contractor's Liaison Forum; Ulster University
- Community Safety Forum and establishment of a YSI Development Management Forum;
- a Local Community Fund to deliver social and environmental improvements to the local area and respite for affected residents;
- designated areas for construction vehicle parking;
- minimising impacts of noise and dust pollution;
- ensuring no night-time construction works and where emergency works are required compensation for affected residents.

## Contractor

To lessen impacts on surrounding residents and local service users the contractor should:

- provide a named on-site operational point of contact;
- participate in early and meaningful engagement workshops with the community facilitating genuine opportunities to reduce impacts of localised phasing;
- survey homes and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain (a Grade II listed building) to assess damage before and after works e.g. utilising sensor and drone analysis;
- liaise with the Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain to minimise disruption to bunscoil routine, teaching and learning and to maximise creative learning opportunities e.g. engineers and other professionals sharing their knowledge with pupils.

## Community

### Moving from change happening 'to and on' the community to 'with' the community

It will be essential for the community to continue to organise and co-ordinate to safeguard the strong sense of community which exists and is valued by local residents and to develop local ideas, solutions and ownership of this process. It will be challenging to maintain momentum and a consistent and united voice over what could be a lengthy 3 to 4-year YSI construction period.

## Kitchen Table Conversations

One idea which received broad support from survey respondents was the introduction of community kitchen table conversations. This is where a household hosts other neighbours to come together to discuss and document impacts and identify solutions. This could usefully

## New constructions overshadow Thomas Street homes



inform engagement on localised phasing of YSI development; evidence and coordinate complaints to Belfast City Council's Environmental Health Services regarding issues such as vermin and noise nuisance; and ensure that the local community benefits from city regeneration. Initially these could be developed and tested within each of the three study areas.

## Advocacy and Networking

Advocacy and networking relationships should continue to be strengthened between the community and other stakeholders, service providers and users within the immediate area. This could include for example: Ulster University; Student Roost; North Belfast Heritage Cluster; Quakers Society of Friends Frederick Street; Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain; Depaul Ireland Stella Maris Hostel; Sailortown Regeneration Group; Clanmill Housing Association; Translink; Belfast Harbour; City Quays, Cathedral Quarter Trust; Cathedral Quarter BID; Belfast City Council; Local Businesses. Partnerships could also be developed with other agencies such as Age Concern, International Fund for Ireland; National Lottery Community Fund; and Children in Need to provide respite or relief for particularly vulnerable residents.

## Ashton Community Magazine

There was widespread support for the continued use of the Ashton Community Trust Magazine to keep the local community informed and connected.

## Sailortown

The survey results should inform and shape ongoing plans for: Sailortown community regeneration; a programme of events and activities for St Joseph's Community Space; and the wider Clarendon Masterplan and City Quays developments.

## Cranes and building works fill the skyline



## Ashton Community Survey Report – Impacts of Development and Involvement in the Community Key Survey Findings

A community surrounded on all sides by construction work



- Levels of awareness: Overall, respondents had a high level of awareness of developments in the area including York Street Interchange; Ulster University and Student Accommodation. There was less awareness of City Quays however, respondents from the Sailortown area were familiar with it.
- Positive aspects of the community: included quiet, safe and peaceful character of the area; friendly and good neighbours; strong community spirit; proximity to the city centre and amenities such as shops; clean and tidy; and the history of the area.
- Impacts on the Community: 71% stated that the positive aspects of the community will be affected negatively by the developments. Considering the Henry Street and Lancaster Street area this increased to 78% and 73% respectively. Overall, the results illustrated that 69% of respondents think the community will experience mostly negative impacts from the development. Again, this increased to 82% of respondents from the Henry Street area and 73% from the Lancaster Street area.
- Concerns: Main concerns relate to increased noise, traffic, dirt and pollution; general inconvenience and reduced access; disruption to sleep and impacts on school work and well-being; parking constraints; vermin; loss of community spirit; isolation of elderly residents; safety for children from increased traffic; potential anti-social behaviour from students similar to that experienced in South Belfast; and structural damage to houses during work on the Interchange.
- Positive Aspects of developments: 11% of respondents noted that the developments could also bring positive aspects to the area including employment; increased population and footfall to support local community and businesses; an up to date campus; less traffic congestion in the longer term; investment; and more shops and services.
- Health and Well-being: 60% of respondents from the Henry Street and Lancaster Street areas and 52% from the Sailortown area stated that recent or current developments in the area were having a negative impact on the health and well-being of people in their household. Impacts included: disruption to sleeping patterns; mental and physical impacts from disruption to daily routines, traffic congestion and noise; anxiety and isolation as friends and family find it more difficult to visit; worsening air pollution and dust impacting on those prone to chest infections or with Asthma and COPD.
- Impacts of YSI: 71% of all respondents said the YSI (York Street Interchange) would have mostly negative impacts on the area. This increased to 87% for respondents from the Henry Street area and 75% of respondents from the Lancaster Street area. 11% stated that the YSI would have mostly positive impacts and 18% didn't know. The negative impacts centred on: increased traffic congestion, noise and air pollution, dirt, dust and rats during construction; parking constraints; danger to children from increased traffic; accidents; delays to emergency service vehicles; impact on house prices; general disruption to journeys by both foot and car including school run; and isolate Sailortown from neighbouring communities. Positive impacts included less traffic congestion in the longer term, less pollution and improved access when the works are completed.
- Addressing Impacts: Preferred actions to ameliorate potential impacts from the YSI development included: schemes to reduce impacts of noise and dust pollution (87%); construction company to listen to the views and concerns of local people before construction work begins (83%); no night-time construction works (82%); designated areas for construction vehicle parking (79%); regular information from the construction company (78%); Local person employed to liaise with construction company (73%); and a Community Fund to bring improvements to the local area (73%). Efforts to reduce noise and dust; information; effective communication; and limiting the hours of construction works were consistently raised by respondents.
- Community Involvement: The most popular ideas to get people more active and involved in the community were: the introduction of Kitchen Table Conversations where neighbours come together to discuss issues (57%); a Community Facebook page (51%); Community Space (47%); Participatory Budgeting – when local people pitch and vote for ideas to improve their area (46%); and a Community Website (42%). Other comments highlighted the convenience of on-line access to information on what is happening in the area.
- Levels of activity in the community: 57% of respondents said they would be more active in the community if it was easier to get involved or have a say in decisions that affect the community. 91% of respondents noted that the best way for their household to be kept aware of what's happening in the local community was through a Community Newsletter, with many of the respondents referencing the existing Ashton Community Magazine as a key source of information.
- Sailortown: Respondents from Sailortown prioritised the development of Green space (83%) (trees, planters, baskets and grass) to improve well-being and support wildlife; Parks (78%) including, clean safe places for children and dogs that are off-street and away from traffic; and a Community Space (72%) accessible to all. In relation to activities and events in St Joseph's respondents prioritised activities for older people (84%); youth activities (80%); Health and Well-being (71%) and Training or lifelong learning (67%). Over half of respondents were supportive of seasonal events, community celebration events and cultural and historical events.
- Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain: issues raised by Principal Dr Séamas Ó Donnghaile related to opportunities such as job creation, economic investment, learning and the creation of pathways to University. Other issues included: air pollution, relationship with Ulster University, restrictions on future expansion; threat to the history and sense of community of the area, and the need for active and sustained communication and engagement between developers and the community.
- Other comments: structural damage of homes; impact on house values; impact of the YSI on vulnerable people within the community; support for compensation to address inconvenience and disruption; concerns of anti-social behaviour; the need for activities targeted at individuals rather than solely family orientated; and positive outcomes such as recognition of the role of volunteers within the community.

# Remaking our Public Spaces Community Consultation



Blighted location

## North Queen Street Steps Area

The current design of the general green space area that runs from North Queen Street Steps along the Westlink Wall to Henry Place is a product of previous road building in the 1980s. Over the following years, this area became the site for ongoing problems including anti-social behaviour, dumping, fire setting and graffiti.

## Blighted Location

The situation has been worsened by disjointed accountability for maintenance and cleansing. Today three separate agencies including Belfast City Council, the Housing Executive and the Department for Infrastructure each has separate responsibility for maintaining different sections of the area. All of these factors have contributed to the creation of general sense of blight at this location.

## York Street Interchange Works

As part of their plans to construct the York Street Interchange, the Department for Infrastructure is intending to take away the steps at North Queen Street and replace these with a simple sloped pathway. Improvement works will also be carried out at the nearby bridge underpass.

## Community Vision

However Ashton along with other community groups that make up the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (CEP) are proposing that the community uses the opportunity created by the Interchange construction to explore how broader improvements could be made to this general location.

In recent times discussions have been ongoing between community representatives and statutory agencies to explore if there could be agreement in principle as to how a new community vision for this location could be put into practice. The general idea is to improve the site on the basis of a realistic design that meets the needs of local residents including making it safer, visually attractive and functionally effective.

## Community Conversations

To gather the views and ideas of local residents two public discussions have been organised to take place in the McSweeney Centre, Henry Place on Friday 22nd March at 3.00 pm daytime and that same evening at 6.30.

At the meetings community workers from Ashton Community Trust will present some outline ideas and illustrations before facilitating a general conversation. Homes closest to the site will be leafleted in advance of the meeting. However the meeting is open to the general public and in particular residents of the New Lodge area.



North Queen Street Steps



Poor Maintenance

## Uniting Communities Programme

Led by Ashton, the Uniting Communities Programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Centre, Ardoyne Youth Enterprises, North Belfast Alternatives, Fab Lab, New Lodge Arts and TAMHI.

The Uniting Communities Programme, which uses sport, physical and creative activity to build good relations between young people, has seen a packed programme over the past few months. Young people aged 11-16 years from Ardoyne and Ballysillan have enjoyed four weeks of sports activity delivered by our partner TAMHI and some great sessions delivered by Sport Changes Life. Flex Fitness also delivered a fun filled four-week programme for groups with a range of competitive activities enjoyed by the young people and staff. At the core of sessions good relations themes have been incorporated into the activities while staff have facilitated sessions so the young people are learning about each other's culture and identity. This has been further enhanced with residential's at Sheep Island View and East Coast Adventure Centre.

Aside from the sports and physical activity, the young people engaged in three weeks of a social action project where they looked at local and global issues where they would like to make a difference. Globally, young people initiated a shoebox appeal and collected items that went to an orphanage in Romania for Christmas. Locally the young people launched a toy appeal for the Children's Cancer Unit. The appeal drew lots of attention from people in the local areas and donations were astounding across both communities. Anna from the Children's Cancer Unit Charity came along to speak to the young people and collect the donations. Anna stated, "Donations like these are so important to the Children's Cancer Unit.



Some children have to receive specialist treatment in isolation, and that means anything they come in to contact with must be clinically clean or brand new – including toys. As well as ensuring these children have plenty to keep them occupied and to help put smiles on their faces, donations of toys can also be used to help families affected by childhood cancer who may be struggling to make ends meet or to keep us with the pressures at Christmas time. We are so grateful to this fantastic group of young people for all their efforts in gathering all these toys."

Young people and staff felt very privileged to make a small difference in the lives of children and their families at a time that can be very difficult for people.

Next up on the programme for young people is our creative element where they will have the opportunity to get involved in dancercise, street art, African drumming and showing their creative digital technology skills in the FabLab. Alongside the 11-16 year old programme, the young leaders training programme for 16-24 year olds has commenced with training provided by Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and Peace Players NI. The young leaders are at the beginning of their

journey and some participants enjoyed a fun filled networking day at Jungle NI. As the young leaders progress and develop, we look forward to seeing them shine on their delivery of the 11-16 year old programme. We also welcome on board our new coordinator for the young leaders programme Mickey Meehan based at TAMHI.

The Uniting Communities Programme is for young people aged 11-24 years living in the Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas. Funded by The Department for Communities (DfC) 'Uniting Communities through Sport and Creativity Programme' the programme is one of seven headline actions in the 'Together: Building a United Community' T:BUC strategy.

If you, or you know someone who would like more information on the 11-16 or 16-24 year old programmes and are from the Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas please contact:

Caroline Delaney- Uniting Communities Programme Manager  
Contact: 02890 742255  
caroline.delaney@ashtoncentre.com

Ashton are now on Facebook, you can send us a friend request to keep up to date on all our services, we have also created a Like Page, where we will also post information on a regular basis about all of our services, please send friend request or like our page to be kept updated. Thank you

[facebook.com/ashton.centre](https://www.facebook.com/ashton.centre)  
[facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust](https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust)

# Young People Across North Belfast Gain Employment

Ashton CORE Project has recently developed new local job academies which have enabled young people across North Belfast to gain employment. These academies have been running since November and have already supported the young people into secure jobs in a number of sectors.

The project has worked directly with local employers to produce job academies in the warehousing, hospitality and customer service sectors to date and are looking to introduce new opportunities in the coming months.

"These young people have come through our doors for support in getting into employment and we have worked to make that happen for them. We wanted to meet the needs of our clients by creating better opportunities for them to gain employment whilst still meeting the requirements of local employers and we feel we have done that through these newly developed job academies," explains project coordinator, Kerry Harding.



"By creating sustainable employment opportunities for the young people in North Belfast we are changing their future and giving them the confidence and skills to be successful."

The week-long job academies promise the opportunity of an employer visit, job-specific qualifications, CV and interview preparation, guaranteed interviews for live jobs and 1:1 support throughout the programme.

The CORE Project is a government funded programme committed to supporting young people aged 16 – 24, living in the North Belfast area and not currently in employment, education or training into sustainable employment and training. Support services include job support, CV and interview advice and guidance, job-specific training and qualifications, personal development support, guaranteed interviews and a designated 1:1 mentor throughout the duration of the programme.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from some advice and guidance in finding a job or getting into training please feel free to get in touch by calling 028 9560 9522 or emailing [core@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:core@ashtoncentre.com).

## Improve your Health & Wellbeing with Ashton Bridge of Hope

Ashton's award winning health and wellbeing project Bridge of Hope delivers services to help manage and reduce stress, and encourage the development of positive, healthy and resilient lives. Wellbeing services include:

- Complementary Therapies
- Life Coaching
- Counselling and Psychological Therapies
- Accredited training in Complementary Therapies
- Personal Development workshops
- Grassroots Transitional Justice programmes
- PEACE IV Health & Wellbeing Caseworker Support

This range of support is available to those affected by the conflict, poor mental health and suicide and self-harm. It is made possible through funding from the Victims & Survivors Service, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC) and Public Health Agency.

If you are interested in accessing support, get in touch with the team on 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 8707. You can self-refer or be referred by a family, friend, community group, GP or public body. Bridge of Hope's bespoke clinics operate from the McSweeney Centre and 16 Alliance Avenue as well as various outreach centres.



# Schools in the Community Programme

## Tackling Awareness on Mental Health Issues

The Tackling Awareness on Mental Health Issues project (TAMHI) is running an ambitious 'Schools in the Community Programme' working with 42 young leaders and 10 Primary Schools including over 300 pupils who will all benefit from the project. The Programme represents a fun, interactive approach to promoting positive mental health that utilises games and play as the means of delivery.

Day one of the programme kicked off on 13th Feb with Young Leaders delivering the activities in the Holy Family Youth Club, Girdwood Community Hub and Ballysillian Leisure Centre. There were 220 young people involved the Day 1 activities. The Programme will conclude in a massive all schools Wellbeing Day that will include Football 4 Wellbeing; Minecraft Olympics and Don't Quittach a Harry Potter themed game. The Schools in the Community Programme is supported by the Department For Communities through Together Building United Communities (TBUC).



## News from Sailortown

### St Joseph's

St Joseph's in Sailortown continues in its aim to re-open as a Community Hub. We just need to get the final leaks fixed and thanks to a small grant from the Foyle Foundation in London, scaffolding went up last week. We now need to inspect the guttering and find the money to fix it. Once that's done, we'll get heating and a toilet and start to run a daily programme of community events. It's a long way off a full restoration, but we can make it safe for 'Meanwhile Use'.

### Maritime Festival

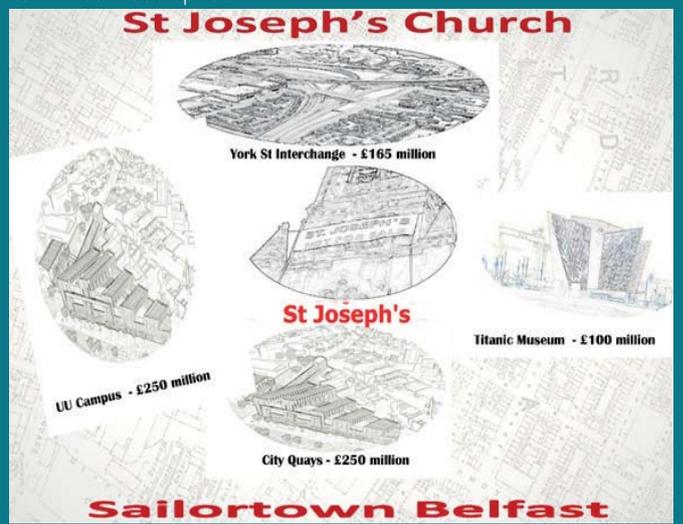
Our partners, Household (the Art curators) are doing great stuff with the local children in the area and want to expand this into the wider community over the next few years. We want to bring people from across the City to celebrate the rich heritage of Sailortown. There will be some events in the area for the Maritime Festival over the 3rd weekend in May. Just waiting to get the ok from the Council. Watch this space. There will be a chance to look at Sailortown Seamen's role in WW1 with an exhibition and films in the Church. Also, walking tours of the area and music events celebrating the Rotterdam Bar.

### Bringing Sailortown Back to Life

To put this in context; Sailortown was devastated 50 years ago by the building of the M2 and cut off from the City by the Westlink. It's surrounded by car parks and high-rise office and apartment blocks, with not even a rope round a lamp post for local kids. It's become a 'run

through' for workers in the Harbour estate and Docks traffic.

We are asking that political representatives ensure that Sailortown and St Joseph's are included in development plans for Belfast. There's a chance now to bring Sailortown back to life. In these days of huge 'regeneration' projects, we think it's time the devastation of Sailortown was made up for.



## 174 Older Peoples Club 174 Trust

Dance – Bingo – Singsong  
Every Saturday Night 8.00pm – 12.00am  
Bring Your Own



## NEW LODGE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION TREMENDOUS SUCCESS



In February the Belfast History Project, based in the McSweeney Centre, staged a fantastic photographic exhibition in The Recy showing a massive collection of Then and Now style photographs from all around the New Lodge.

Working with the Recy Women's' Group and the North Belfast Men's' Shed the history project gathered a large collection of old photographs, many dating back to the Victorian period, and mounted them on exhibition panels. They then went out and took modern photographs from the same spot as the originals.

Joe Baker, one of the organisers, said that the scheme was a bigger success than he was expecting. "The turnout for the exhibition itself was more than expected. From the moment it opened until the final evening the whole thing was packed and it's great to see that such an interest was generated."

There was an extremely positive response from those visiting the

exhibition. One woman pointed out how brilliant the use of old and new photographs was and how they were self explanatory in showing where they were.

Another visitor was full of praise for the layout and loved the old advertisements which were on display while another loved looking through the old newspapers.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund the scheme also included visits to historical sites throughout Ireland to promote an interest in local history for those involved.

"We took those taking part to sites ranging from Dunree Fort in Donegal through to Trim Castle in County Meath with the sole purpose of generating an interest in Irish history," said Joe. If you missed the exhibition don't worry as all is not lost. Accompanying the exhibition was a book showing all the panels and some of these are still available at the Ashton Centre reception and cost just £5.



In 1972 as part of Operation Motorman British troops using helicopters took over a number of roofs on the tower blocks setting up bases and observation posts. Several years later they moved off all of them except one which they occupied up until the mid 1990s.

The above photograph shows them on the roof of what was then Artillery House looking down on the lower section of the New Lodge Road.



For more information on this project visit:  
[facebook.com/newlodgethenandnow/](https://facebook.com/newlodgethenandnow/)

# Breakthrough Project Youth Creativity Showcase Event



On Wednesday the 27th of February, the Breakthrough Programme exhibited the Showcase Event for the Creative aspect of the Programme. The showcase was displayed at the Duncairn Arts centre with a launch event, and remained in place until March 1st. The showcase was the culmination of one year of work undertaken by the Breakthrough Creative team with young people exploring their creativity and celebrating this through the exhibition.

The creative aspect of the Breakthrough Programme is unique in that a team of creative staff from across the mediums of digital design and fabrication, arts, creative industries, music and sports work to offer young people a menu of training in which they can opt-in to participate in structured developmental programmes.

The Showcase was compered by Nuala Mc Callum, the Operations Manager for the Breakthrough Programme, who also offered an introductory speech detailing the purpose and approach of the Breakthrough Programme. Nuala was followed by Katrina Newell, the Head of Youth and Arts Development within Ashton Community Trust who detailed the creation of the Breakthrough Programme from concept to functioning programme, and the importance of the Creative element of the programme.

The event displayed the creative skills of the young people in a range of ways. We had John McIvor, a participant on the Programme provide the audience with an impressive live performance of his track that he has worked on developing alongside our Music Facilitator Graham. We were also treated to a short film that was created and starred young people who had participated in a programme focusing on body image, fashion and photography, working alongside.

On display were also a wide variety of creations from young people throughout their time on the programme. There were dresses that had been created by young people programme on the Centre Based/ Detached Youth Work Programme as part of a trash fashion element, speakers that were designed and created by young people were playing with music that young people had also created and a range of photographs taken by young people on display.

Breakthrough is an exciting programme aimed at engaging young people, aged 14-24 years old, across the North Belfast, Shankill and Newtownabbey areas and is funded by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme and managed by SEUPB.

Led by Ashton, the programme is delivered in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum; New Life City Church; YEHA Project; Street Beat; Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network; New Lodge Arts and Loughview Community Action Partnership. Schools engaged in the Programme include Coláiste Feirste, Blessed Trinity College, Boys Model, Edmund Rice and Mercy College

We are currently recruiting young people aged 16 – 24 years old for the Community element of the Programme. If you would like more information, please contact:

Sean Breen  
Breakthrough Operations Manager  
Email: [sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:sean.breen@ashtoncentre.com)  
Phone: 02890742255

## North Belfast Mens Shed Re-energising the lives of older men



### Walking Rugby

It's been a busy start to 2019 for North Belfast Men's Shed. With the support from Ulster Rugby shed members and Cliftonville Men's Shed have come together to take part in Walking Rugby every Wednesday morning throughout February and March in Girdwood Hub. "It's a bit more than walking around the pitch" said John a shed member. "The Ulster Rugby coach knows our limitations but he also ensured that we reach our full potential". According to Sean Paul for Cliftonville Shed "I definitely feel a whole lot fitter since taking part in Walking Rugby and I'm determined to keep up some sort of exercise routine in the future".

### Photography

Some of our members have also taken a keen interest in photography and wanted to learn more about the art of taking photos using a camera, Ipad and mobile telephones. As a consequence, Sharon Currie, a facilitator from Community Art Partnership is coming into the shed to pass on her photography expertise to shed members. An exhibition of a photographs taken by shed members and based on the theme "Then and Now" will take place at the end of March 2019 so watch this space for further details.

### Laser Machine Training

When it comes to sharing their skills there's no end to the

many talents of our shed members. John Johnston has been delivering laser machine training to other shed member, Dessie, Tommy and Tony have been working on a new design for our buddy benches and John Cooper has started a six week router training class.

### Bird Boxes

Spring is only a few weeks away so it's the season to ensure our bird population has a nice cosy place to feed and nest. Shed members have volunteer their time to make bird boxes for a number of community projects including Cavehill Conservation Group and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Ground work have also commissioned shed members to make bird box kits for local schools so that pupils can assemble the bird boxes and take home to their own garden.

### Volunteers Welcome

All this work wouldn't be possible without the commitment and dedication of our volunteer members. So if you are a male aged 18 and over and want to get involved in projects that benefit the local community, why not come along to this Big Lottery Funded project. To find our more contact Geraldine Nelson on 028 90322289 email mensshed@ashtoncentre.com. We are based in Edenderry Industrial Estate 326 Crumlin Road, BT14 7EE.

**Facebook: northbelfastmensshed**  
**Twitter: @belfastmensshed**

## Drug and Alcohol Services for North Belfast

When alcohol or drug use becomes a problem in a person's life it can be hard to know where to turn, but don't panic, help is close at hand. This card provides details of sources of support available locally.

### Help for Young People

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<i>I want advice or help with my drinking or drug use to cut down, stop or stay stopped.</i>	DAISY Service (Start360/ASCERT)	11-25	028 9043 5815
	Extern Reach Out Project	<18	07442 533165
	Falls Community Council	<18	028 9020 2030

### Help for Adults

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<b>Treatment and Support</b>			
<i>I want advice or help with my drinking or drug use to cut down, stop or stay stopped.</i>	Addiction NI	18+	028 9066 4434
	ASCERT	18+	0800 2545 123
	BHSCT Addiction Services	18+	Ask your GP to refer you
	Dunlewey Addiction Services	18+	028 9039 2547
	Falls Community Council	18+	028 9020 2030
<b>Harm Reduction Services</b>			
<i>I am not ready to stop. I am an injecting drug user or a chronic drinker and at risk of losing my home.</i>	Drug Outreach Team (Injecting drug users)	18+	028 9504 1433 or 028 9504 7301
	Extern Alcohol Housing Support Service	18+	028 9033 0433
<b>Recovery Groups</b>			
<i>I have stopped taking alcohol or drugs and need support to help keep it that way.</i>	Alcoholics Anonymous	18+	028 9043 4848 www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
	Narcotics Anonymous	18+	07810 172991

### Help for Families

What you need	Who can help	Age	Contact
<i>If someone you care about is drinking or using drugs you can get advice and support too.</i>	Addiction NI	18+	028 9066 4434
	Al-Anon and Al-Ateen Support Groups	12+	028 9068 2368
	DAISY Service (Start360/ASCERT )	Any	028 9043 5815
	Falls Community Council	Any	028 9020 2030
	Families Affected by Addiction Support Group	18+	07803 526709
<i>Whether it is your parent, child, partner or someone else these services can help you better cope with the situation.</i>	Reaching Out Family Support Group	18+	07729 184612
	Steps to Cope (where a parent is drinking/using drugs)	11-18	0800 2545 123 www.stepstocope.co.uk
<i>The person who is using alcohol or drugs does not even have to be getting help themselves.</i>			

If it is an emergency or you need urgent support or advice you can contact:

Your GP  
Out of hours GP service 028 9074 4447  
Call 999 for the emergency services or present in person at your local Hospital Emergency Department (ED)  
Lifeline on 0808 808 8000 (24/7 free)  
Childline on 0800 1111 (24/7 free)

**Some advice for anyone taking alcohol or drugs to keep them safer.**

Only use one substance at a time. Mixing different drugs, including alcohol, increases the risk of overdose.

The strength of a drug can differ each time. Only take a small amount and wait to see its effect before taking any more.

Never use when alone and always look out for your mates. If someone has an unexpected reaction call 999 for an ambulance straight away.

Details of all drug and alcohol services in NI are available at [www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info) or by contacting the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team Connections Service at [connections@bdact.info](mailto:connections@bdact.info). This card has been produced by the North Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum and the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team.

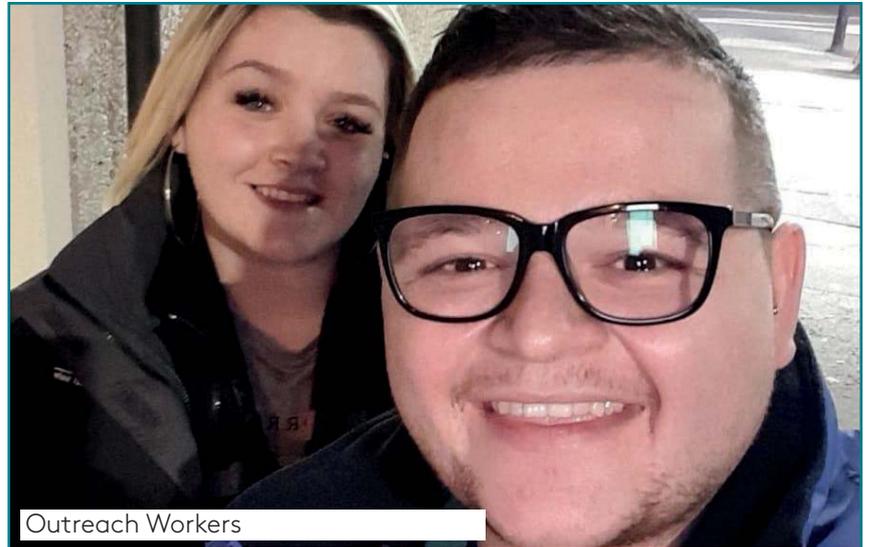
# Reaching Out New Lodge Youth Centre

## Street Based Youth Service

Over the past two months the Youth Centre has been working in partnership with AYE (Ardoyne Youth Enterprise) StreetBeat and North Belfast Alternatives to deliver a street based youth service to young people in North Belfast. The programme runs on a Friday and Saturday night from 6.00pm to 10.00 pm. Through this initiative we have been able to open our drop- in service on a Saturday night ensuring that high quality youth provision is available for young people at the New Lodge Youth Centre every night of the week.

## Focused Educational Programme

This is the second phase of the initiative and both have been a resounding success. An indicator of progress is that many of the young people that we engaged with on the streets last year continue to use the centre on a daily basis, with the majority of them now participating in focused educational programme work.



## New Generation

This year's programme has allowed us to contact a new generation of young people and engage them in our daily provision. The vision we have for these young people is that they will avail of the many exciting opportunities on offer at the Youth Centre. In overall terms the programme is a good example of high end partnership work that is happening across four communities in North Belfast.

## Skill and Passion

At the heart of the success of this work is the skill and passion of the youth workers who realise the value and benefit of collaborative working when trying to make an impact on the lives of the young people they engage with in the different communities. We see the crucial importance of street based youth work and it now forms a large part of our service provision. We fervently believe that all young people have right to the best possible youth worker support. We would therefore encourage any young person or member of the community to feel free to engage with our detached workers in order to find out more about the services available at the New Lodge Youth Centre.

## Long term Funding Commitment Needed

Paul Dynes is Senior Youth Worker at New Lodge Youth Centre, "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that our street based work is making a significantly positive difference to the lives of young people and is helping improve the general atmosphere at local community level. However to be able to continue with this important work we need the financial resources to do so. Unfortunately, the funding for this phase of the street based work will be coming to an end soon but it is of crucial importance that this funding is continued to allow us to build on the successes that we have achieved so far".

New Lodge Youth Centre is a Project of Ashton

# Reading Aloud Project

The Reading Aloud project at The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts is offering free taster sessions - Shared Reading - a simple idea with a powerful impact. By bringing people together in small groups to read aloud a book, short story or poem, our Shared Reading groups create a safe, welcoming space where individual thought and feeling is recognised and valued.

Group members can choose to read aloud, share personal reflections or simply to listen - in this way, individuals form real connections with the literature and with each other. Contact Marnie - marnie.kennedy@sky.com or 028 9074 7114



# Bridge of Hope

## Bringing Health & Wellbeing to North Belfast



Ashton's award winning health and wellbeing project Bridge of Hope delivers services to help manage and reduce stress, and encourage the development of positive, healthy and resilient lives. Wellbeing services include:

- Complementary Therapies
- Life Coaching
- Counselling and Psychological Therapies
- Accredited training in Complementary Therapies
- Personal Development workshops
- Grassroots Transitional Justice programmes
- PEACE IV Health & Wellbeing Caseworker Support

This range of support is available to those affected by the conflict, poor mental health and suicide and self-harm. It is made possible through funding from the Victims & Survivors Service, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Public Health Agency.

If you are interested in accessing support, get in touch with the team on 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 8707. You can self-refer or be referred by a family, friend, community group, GP or public body. Bridge of Hope's bespoke clinics operate from the McSweeney Centre and 16 Alliance Avenue as well as various outreach centres.

### OCN Childcare Class Level 1

Have you always been interested in a career in Childcare but don't know how to go about gaining the necessary skills? Our short introductory course is the perfect starting point.



Contact one of  
our Mentors on  
02890742255

**Belfast Works**  
LEMIS Project



## ashton

Essential Skills

# Calling all Residents!

Do you have the Essential Skills for everyday life and work?

### English + Maths + ICT = Essential Skills

New English and Maths courses are starting in your area. Computers (ICT) are used in English and Maths classes, so you can improve your computer skills too!

Courses are **LOCAL + FREE** + lead to a recognised **QUALIFICATION**

### Make 2019 the year to start your Essential Skills journey!

If you would like to find out more:

- + phone: Hilary on 028 9074 2255
- + email: [hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com](mailto:hilary.adair@ashtoncentre.com)
- + call in person at the Ashton Centre



# ashton

## 'Serving North Belfast for over 25 years'

**Ashton Community Trust** is an award winning regeneration charity that has been delivering services in North Belfast for over 25 years. It employs over 250 people delivering a wide range of services. The Trust has a number of departments who have an online presence, please visit their websites, like their pages on Facebook or follow them on Twitter to be kept up to date on activities of Ashton Community Trust. Ashton's service delivery outputs are an important element in community and social development in North Belfast. In each of our service delivery areas we are constantly working to improve and grow the services we provide. Below is a brief summary of some of our key services.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ashtoncommunitytrust>  
Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/>

Main Ashton contact number: 028 90 74 22 55

**Bridge of Hope** is a community based health and emotional wellbeing service that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict. Our services include complementary therapies, life coaching, psychological therapies including trauma counselling, personal and professional development, legacy and conflict analysis, as well as accredited VTCT training. We take a person centred approach to all of the work we do. You can easily access support by self-referring or by asking your GP or health care worker to refer you into us. Our local clinics operate from the Ashton Centre, McSweeney Centre and Alliance Avenue. We also deliver services in outreach locations right across the city of Belfast.

If you would like to take steps to better health and wellbeing please phone and talk to the team on: 028 9022 1022 or 028 9543 8707. You can read lots more about Bridge of Hope by checking us out on Facebook or logging onto our website.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeofhope.org>  
Website: <http://www.thebridgeofhope.org/>

### New Lodge Youth Centre

In 2012 the management of the Youth Centre in Upper Meadow Street, locally known as the Grey Gables, was officially handed over by the Belfast Education and Library Board to the Ashton Community Trust (ACT). The decision by ACT to take over management was based on the need to improve usage by local young people, increase programme delivery and maximise the overall potential. Some of the services provided include creative thinking skills, drama, arts and crafts, issue-based group work, cultural awareness, community relations, healthy lifestyles, positive behaviour and other programmes. For further information contact 9075 1358

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLodgeYouthCentre>  
Website: [www.ashtoncentre.com/services/youth-development/](http://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/youth-development/)

**FabLab** (Digital Fabrication Laboratory) is halfway between a laboratory and a workshop it's a place where you can make (almost) anything, where both small children and inventors can turn an idea into reality. We can make products out of wood, acrylic, composite moulds, silicon, cardboard, sheet aluminium, plastics, copper foil and vinyl using various technological methods. FabLab works with young people, students, community and voluntary organisations, arts groups and individuals, schools, universities and businesses helping people to develop their creativity, skills and life opportunities. For further information contact: 9075 5412

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FabLabBelfast/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FabLabBelfast>

Website: <https://www.fablabbelfast.org/>

The **Employment & Training Service** has a 20 year track record of delivering training and employability initiatives to unemployed people in North Belfast. Unemployed clients get one to one mentoring, access to high quality training and help identifying and applying for work. The organisation has developed strong links with local community groups, schools and employers and operates from over 20 outreach centres across North Belfast to ensure that all sections of the community have access. For further information contact 9074 2255

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AshtonEmploymentServices>  
Website: <http://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/training-and-employment/>

**New Lodge Arts** provides an exciting and packed programme for young people of all ages in dance, drama, film-making, carnival arts, visual arts, volunteer development and youth leadership. We work with approximately 2000 children and young people each year. Our key aim is to make the Arts accessible to all in our communities regardless of age, gender or background. For further information contact 90742255

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nlarts?fref=ts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newlodgears>

Website: <http://www.newlodgears.com/>

**Kinderkids Daycare** was established as a social enterprise by Ashton Community Trust in 2000. Since then, the daycares have expanded in response to demand and now operate three daycare centres in North Belfast. Kinderkids provides childcare services to over 250 children aged from birth -12 years. Each daycare is committed to providing high quality, day care and after schools services to children, thereby supporting their development and improving parents' access to education, training, employment and support services.

Kinderkids believes that learning begins at birth and has a profound effect on lifelong development and adult wellbeing. They acknowledge that quality child care promotes healthy child development at the same time as it supports families, reduces child poverty, advances equality, and deepens social inclusion. For further information contact 9074 2255

<http://www.ashtoncentre.com/services/childcare-family-support/>

The community magazine is produced by Ashton Community Trust with support from  
Belfast City Council

