



Public Notice

St Patrick's Festival, Downpatrick Traffic and Parking Arrangements

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council wishes to advise the Public of the following traffic and parking arrangements which will be in place in Downpatrick to facilitate the St Patrick's Festival that will be taking place in the town.

Road Closure and Re-opening times – Sunday 13 March

- The road through St Patrick Square (from its junction with Lower Market Street to its junction with the entrance to the car park at the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre) will be closed to non-essential traffic from approximately 9.00am to approximately 2.00pm to facilitate spectator safety at a programme of entertainment in St Patrick Square. The car park to the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre will not be affected by these arrangements and will remain open for parking.

Road Closure and Re-opening times – Thursday 17 March Only

- The road through St Patrick Square (from its junction with Lower Market Street to its junction with the entrance to the car park at the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre) will be closed to non-essential traffic from approximately 8.00am to approximately 8.00pm to facilitate spectator safety at a programme of entertainment in St Patrick Square. The car park to the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre will not be affected by these arrangements and will remain open for parking.
- The Ardglass Road (from its junction with the Ballyhornan Road to its junction with the Flying Horse Road) will be closed to non-essential traffic from approximately 1.00pm to approximately 3.00pm to facilitate the assembly of the Cross-Community Carnival Parade, which will commence at 2.30pm.
- The parade route from the assembly area on the Ardglass Road (i.e. Edward Street, John Street, Irish Street, Upper and Lower Market Street to the enclosed finish area in the section of Market Street Car Park towards the Railway Station) and all road junctions and exits/entrances along the route will be closed to all but emergency traffic from approximately 2.00pm until approximately 4.00pm to facilitate the passage of the parade. No traffic (except emergency traffic) will be allowed to enter, move along, or exit via the parade route between approximately 2.00pm and approximately 4.00pm. It is estimated that the parade will arrive in the Town Centre at approximately 2.50pm.

Parking Areas (including Disabled Parking) and No Parking Areas

Public parking will be available in Downpatrick as normal on Thursday 17 March with the exception of the following no parking and additional parking areas:

- No parking from 6.00am to approximately 5.00pm in the section of Market Street Car Park from Rathkeltair House to the Railway Station, which, as in previous years, will be used as the finish area for the parade.
- No parking in St Patrick Square (from its junction with Lower Market Street to its junction with the entrance to the car park at the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre) from approximately 8.00am to approximately 8.00pm to facilitate spectator safety at a programme of entertainment at the festival stage in St Patrick Square. The car park to the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre will not be affected by these arrangements and will remain open for parking.
- No parking on Upper Market Street and Lower Market Street from approximately 1.30pm to approximately 4.30pm.
- No parking along a section of the Ardglass Road (from its junction with the Ballyhornan Road to its junction with the Flying Horse Road) from approximately 1.00pm to approximately 3.00pm to facilitate the assembly of the parade.
- No parking along the parade route (i.e. Edward Street, John Street, Irish Street, Upper Market Street and Lower Market Street) from approximately 1.30pm until approximately 4.30pm to facilitate the passage of the parade and spectators wishing to view the parade.
- The Public can use the car park at the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Market Street Day Centre on Thursday 17 March.
- A FREE 'park and ride' service will operate from the car park at Downpatrick Racecourse on the Ballydugan Road into Downpatrick from 11.00am to 8.00pm on Thursday 17 March.
- Downpatrick and County Down Railway will be operating a park and ride train service from Inch Abbey into Downpatrick via Inch Abbey Train station. Car parking available at station and Abbey on first-come basis. Trains will run from 12.00noon to 5.00pm. Visit www.downrail.co.uk to view the train timetable for Thursday 17 March.
- A section of the car park at the South Eastern Regional College (SERC) on Market Street will be reserved from 9.00am to 5.30pm for disabled persons parking, and a parade viewing area for disabled persons will be located at the entrance gate to SERC, on Thursday 17 March. Those wishing to use the disabled parking at the College must be Blue Badge holders.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is aware that the assembly and procession of the parade and arrangements for some other events in Downpatrick on Thursday 17 March may inconvenience some individuals and organisations.

However, the Council hopes to keep any inconvenience to a minimum and would take this opportunity to thank individuals and organisations experiencing any inconvenience for their understanding and cooperation.

**For more information about the St Patrick's Festival, which runs from Thursday 10 March – Sunday 20 March, can be obtained from the Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre, 53a Market Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6LZ.
Telephone: 028 4461 2233.**

Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office

O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ.

Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office

Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ.

www.newrymournedown.org