

St Patrick's Day Festivities, Downpatrick. Traffic and Parking Arrangements on Tuesday 17 March 2009.

Down District Council wishes to advise the Public of the following traffic and parking arrangements which will be in place in Downpatrick on Tuesday 17 March 2009 to facilitate the St Patrick's Day Festivities that will be taking place in the town on that day.

Road Closure and Re-opening Times

- The road through St Patrick's 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 6.00pm to facilitate spectator safety at a programme of entertainment at the festival stage in St Patrick's 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 Killough 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 and 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 Tuesday 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's 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 6.00pm to facilitate spectator safety at a programme of entertainment at the festival stage in St Patrick's 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 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 4.00pm to facilitate the passage of the parade and spectators wishing to view the parade.
- The Public can use the car parks at the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Market Street Day Centre, the Housing Executive Offices on John Street and Downpatrick Racecourse on the Newcastle Road, on Tuesday 17 March.
- The South Eastern Regional College car park on Market Street will be reserved for disabled persons parking and parade viewing area on Tuesday 17 March. Those wishing to use the disabled car park at the College must be Blue Badge holders.

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

Further information about the St Patrick's Festival, which runs from Monday 9 March to Tuesday 17 March, can be obtained from the Downpatrick Tourist Information Centre, 53a Market Street, Downpatrick BT30 6LZ. Telephone: (028) 4461 2233.

John McGrillen, Clerk and Chief Executive