



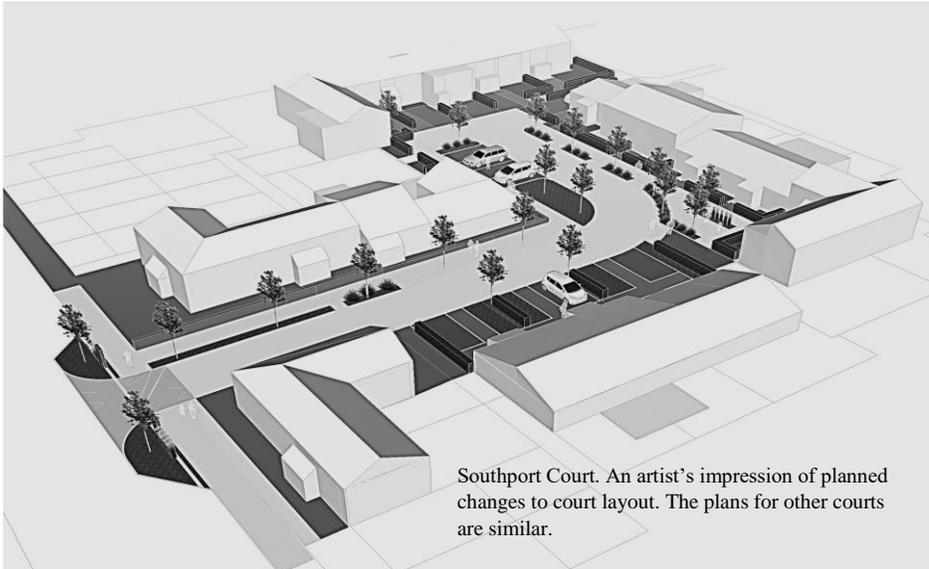
# HOUSING NEWS

Lower Oldpark

May 2017 Issue.

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## Consultations on Planned 'Courts' Project



Southport Court. An artist's impression of planned changes to court layout. The plans for other courts are similar.

RESIDENTS living in seven Lower Oldpark court housing developments are to be consulted on plans for major improvement works to their area.

In what will be a significant investment and a great vote of confidence in the long-term future of the Lower Oldpark community, the current shared surfaces of the courts will be transformed.

Southport, Manor, Bandon, Lifye, Bann, Foyle and Shannon courts will all see the wide, paved shared surfaces replaced by a more traditional street pattern with vehicle movement largely separated from that of pedestrians.

Many of the court houses will be given their own parking bay and garden at the front while for others, communal parking space will be available.

The planting of hedges at the boundaries between properties will help to create a greener and more pleasant environment. This will be

assisted by the introduction of ground level planted areas and the provision of a good supply of trees throughout.

The plans have a strong emphasis on improving ease of access within the courts. Where necessary, ramped paths will be installed to meet the needs of those with mobility problems.

Details of the consultation meetings, which will be held in the Modular Building at Lower Oldpark Community Centre in Avoca Street, are set out above (right).

The Courts' Project will mean big changes and a lot of disruption during the work. It is therefore important that all residents attend the consultation session for their own court on the designated evening and at the specified time.

The planned Courts' Project work will be funded by the Department for Communities through its Building Successful Communities initiative.

### Lower Oldpark Courts' Project Consultation

Court	Day/ Date	Times
Bann Court	Tuesday 23 May 2017	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Foyle Court	Tuesday 23 May 2017	7.45pm- 8.45pm
Lifye Court	Thursday 25 May 2017	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Shannon Court	Thursday 25 May 2017	7.45pm- 8.45pm
Bandon Court	Tuesday 30 May 2017	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Southport Court	Tuesday 30 May 2017	7.45pm- 8.45pm
Manor Court	Thursday 1 June 2017	6.30pm- 7.30pm

### New Housing Worker For Lower Oldpark

LOWER Oldpark has a new Housing Project Worker. Gary Hughes took over the post with Lower Oldpark Community Association in May 2017, following the retirement of David Blake at the end of April 2017. David was in the job for over five years and made a vital contribution during a period which saw derelict homes refurbished and re-occupied and new houses built in the area.

Gary is no stranger to the job as he held the post between August 2010 and December 2011. As before, he will be focused on helping people with their housing problems, dealing with local environmental problems and securing the development of new housing.

Gary is based at the Lower Oldpark Community Centre in Avoca Street. He can be contacted on 028 9035 1334.

## Housing Advice Service On Your Doorstep

A HOUSING advice service is available to Lower Oldpark residents within their own neighbourhood, five days per week.

The service is based in the Lower Oldpark Community Centre in Avoca Street and is provided by the newly appointed Housing Project Worker, Gary Hughes, Monday to Friday.

The times are 9.00am to 12.00 noon and 12.30pm to 4.00pm. However, on occasions, Gary's other duties may take him away during these times. If this happens, please leave your telephone number and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

The Housing Advice Service offers help with a range of issues, including repairs and maintenance services, rehousing applications, Housing Benefit enquiries and tenant rights and responsibilities.

If you want to make use of this service, call into the Community Centre in Avoca Street during the times indicated above or call 028 9035 1334.

## Kitchen and Bathroom Replacement Schemes Planned

WORK is programmed to start in August 2017 on a scheme to replace the bathrooms and kitchens in specific Housing Executive houses in the Lower Oldpark.

The properties to benefit from the work were identified by the Housing Executive on the basis of the age of their current bathroom and kitchen. Not all Housing Executive houses in all Lower Oldpark streets are included in the this scheme.

The scheme surveyors, VB Evans and Co, have been carrying out

## Keeping It Clean In Lower Oldpark

SINCE 2011, the Lower Oldpark area has seen major improvements.

While there remains a long way to go, the refurbishment and occupation of derelict, empty homes and the development of new houses has made the area a more attractive place to live. Plans for the redesign of the housing courts will make it even better and will strengthen the case for more new housing on vacant sites.

Lower Oldpark Community Association is playing its part. The Housing Project Worker will be doing regular inspections of the neighbourhood to identify problems such as dumping, weeds, dog fouling, graffiti, poor maintenance of planted areas and problems with pavement and road surfaces. He will then report these to the relevant organisations.

Unfortunately, the Housing Project Worker can't be out and about every day. If we are going to be able to 'Keep It Clean' in Lower Oldpark, residents need to play their part. Please think twice before leaving unwanted household items on open

technical surveys of the properties affected by the scheme, while the Housing Executive Patch Manager, Amy Donnelly has been carrying out non-technical consultations with tenants.

If you have any queries about the surveys or the planned work in your home, you should contact either:

The surveyors, VB Evans and Co on 028 9045 7000 or,

The Housing Executive Patch Manager, Amy Donnelly, 028 9047 0119.



space or in the alleyways at the back of houses. During a recent inspection, the Housing Project Worker identified and reported over 20 cases of dumping.

You can also play a more direct role by reporting problems to the Housing Project Worker who will pass the information on to the relevant agency. You can contact the Housing Project Worker at the Lower Oldpark Community Centre in Avoca Street or by calling him on 028 9035 1334.

## Apartments' Plan Opposed

LOWER Oldpark Community Association (LOCA) is opposing a recent planning application for the development of a five storey block of 18 apartments above two retail units on the Crumlin Road.

The development would be on the vacant site between the dental lab at Albertville Drive and Yarrow Street. LOCA wants to see much needed development on the Crumlin Road. However, it is concerned about the large scale of the development and its likely impact on Albertville Drive and Yarrow Street residents. LOCA is also worried about an apparent inadequate supply of parking spaces and the potential use of surrounding streets by residents of the new development.

LOCA will monitor this planning application and keep residents informed.

