

Find out more about planning information, PSNI and the opportunity to be part of NI Open Golf with Ballymena BID.

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Have your say on future development plans of Ballymena's Town Centre

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has published its Preferred Options Paper (POP) and is encouraging you to attend its **public engagement event on Thursday 22nd June 2017 at the Braid Centre, Ballymena.**

There are two events at 2pm and 7pm. The POP consultation paper is intended to promote debate on issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the shape of future development within Mid and East Antrim.

It sets out the Council's preferred options in relation to a number of key issues and will be used, in conjunction with feedback received, to inform the making of the Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan 2030.

The POP and the SA Interim Report will also be available in hard copy for examination between 9.30am and 4.30pm (Monday to Friday) at the following Council offices:

- Planning Department, County Hall, 182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena
- The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena
- Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre
- Smiley Buildings, Larne

For further information please visit www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/planning_

Opportunity to be Part of NI Open Golf

Ballymena BID will have a stand at the NI Open Golf Thursday 10th - Sunday 13th August 2017 and is offering traders the chance to be part of it for a day.

Exhibiting at the NI Open provides a unique platform to set yourself and your product in front of a captive audience. With over 39,000 visitors attending the event in 2015 and 2016, this offers a wonderful chance to showcase your product at Northern

Ireland's national annual professional golf tournament, a golf tournament for all the family. The NI Open Village located behind the 18th green, is the primary walkway to and from the golf course forming a natural flow of footfall through the NI Open Village. The village will have strong representation from leading retailers, with a food festival, a number of bars, the tournament scoreboard and casual seating creating a real hub of activity.

The Interactive Zone is the perfect place to take time out away from the live action on the course and try some golf of your own. BID is planning to take a stand and would like town centre retailers to get involved, please contact Alison Moore on 07702 711888 for more information, this is strictly on a first come first served basis!



BID Members urged to report all Retail Crime

Ballymena BID, Ballymena Retailers Against Crime (BRAC) and Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry met with the new Police Chief Inspector, Stephen Humphries and Superintendent Darrin Jones to discuss the Crime Strategy for Ballymena Town Centre.

The meeting was extremely productive with the Police Officers listening carefully to areas of concern raised regarding Police Engagement with the Town Centre.

The PSNI agreed to look at the resources available and how they could be most effectively utilised in working with the Radio Link scheme, Town Centre Warden and the MEA Town Centre CCTV Scheme.

One of the areas of concern raised by the Police was the under reporting of retail crime and the Police Officers have asked the business community to report all incidents of theft, however small, to the Police.

When reporting an incident you can ask that Police do not call, if this is your preference, but the report will be logged. This is important as it will enable the PSNI to respond with appropriate resources to address the level of reported crime.

The deputation from BID, BRAC and Chamber also commended the Police on recent

searches that were carried out and the recovery of substantial quantities of property, which had been stolen by retail thieves.

BRAC, BID and Chamber will be remaining in touch with our Police Partners to develop on the progress already made and to ensure that Ballymena Town Centre Businesses are supported in making Ballymena as safe and secure as possible.

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