

Ballymoney

B ♦ U ♦ L ♦ L ♦ E ♦ T ♦ I ♦ N

APRIL 2007

Walk BALLYMONEY

Explore, Observe, Discover



Walking is good for you regardless of what age you are. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! It is also one of the simplest, safest, most enjoyable and most effective forms of physical activity.

Walking can help you to improve your general health, to keep fit, to control your weight, or perhaps aid in your recovery from a period of ill health. It is something that can be done with all the family, it need cost you nothing and it can be made to fit in with most lifestyles and commitments.

So get up and get active, pick up your new walking guide from the Tourist Information Centre at Ballymoney Town Hall or download from visitballymoney.com

The new walking guide is funded by Ballymoney Borough Council and the EU Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme.



BALLYMONEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.ballymoney.gov.uk

Going Smoke Free?

As the new smoke free legislation is due to come into force in Northern Ireland on 30th April this will affect many people and their workplaces within the borough. Ballymoney Borough Council is providing lots of advice and information for the public to make this transition as smooth as possible.

The new legislation will mean that **smoking** in enclosed or substantially enclosed workplaces (including work vehicles) and public places will be against the law. This includes areas used by members of the public such as bus shelters, public transport, offices, factories, bars, restaurants, community halls and taxis.

To help assist businesses in their understanding of the requirements the council has issued packs to all businesses on what employers need to know and how to comply with the law. There is a legislative requirement for all business to display appropriate smoke free signage within their workplace and work vehicles.



However there is NO legislation stating that businesses of any kind should provide a shelter for smokers. Smokers must ensure that when they use external areas to smoke that they take care to consider other members of the public and any possible noise and litter generated. Anyone detected dropping tobacco-related litter will be liable to a fixed penalty fine of £50.00.

Appropriate signage needed to comply will be sent to all businesses by the Health Promotion Agency at the beginning of April. Information will also be available on the council website www.ballymoney.gov.uk and further seminars, press releases, on going smoke free will be advertised locally.



GRANTS TO MAKE HOMES WARMER, HEALTHIER AND MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT



Spring encourages us to get outdoors and enjoy the better weather but it is also the ideal time to think about preparing your home for next winter. There are various grant schemes available offering anything from brand new central heating systems and insulation to programmers and thermostatic radiator valves. But central heating systems don't arrive overnight. If you register now, you are more likely to have the work done before the cold weather arrives and be able to enjoy a warm and cosy winter at home.

Warm Homes Scheme

The Warm Homes Scheme is funded by the Department for Social Development and managed by EAGA Partnership and is for householders who own their own home or rent it from a private

landlord. Two levels of grant are offered:

- **Warm Homes** for householders on a qualifying benefit who have a child under 16 or who receive certain sickness or disability related benefits. Warm Homes offers cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, draught proofing to windows and doors, hot water cylinder jackets, reflective radiator panels and low energy light bulbs.
- **Warm Homes Plus** for householders who are 60 and over and in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Warm Homes Plus offers the same insulation measures as Warm Homes as well as the installation, conversion or upgrade of an oil or natural gas central heating system.

For more information, contact Borough Services on 028 2766 0257.



Warmer Ways to Better Health

Warmer Ways to Better Health is funded by Ballymoney Borough Council, Investing for Health, DSD and Northern Ireland Electricity. The scheme provides central heating systems, insulation and heating controls to home owners

and private tenants of any age whose property:

- is heated by means of an open fire or glass fronted fire, electric heaters/economy 7 or bottled gas or has no central heating **or**
- is heated by an oil or gas boiler more than 15 years old **or**
- has no central heating controls or insulation
- Householders must be on a qualifying benefit, on a low income or have a special health issue to be considered.

For more information, contact Borough Services on 028 2766 0257.

All work carried out under the Warm Homes scheme and Warmer Ways to Better Health is **free of charge to those who are eligible.**

Other Grants

There are many other grants and cash back schemes available to make homes warmer, healthier and more energy efficient. The Energy Saving Trust is a one-stop advice centre for energy efficiency advice. Phone 0800 512 012 or visit their website on www.est.org.uk for more information.

Grants may also be available from the **Northern Ireland Housing Executive** Phone your local grants office on 028 2565 3399 to find out if you qualify. Alternatively visit the Housing Executive's website www.nihe.gov.uk

Ballymoney Safer Bonfire Competition 2007



Due to the success of last year's Safer Bonfire Competition, the Community Safety Partnership have decided to run the competition again this year. The Council are



encouraging organisers of traditional (those that have been held since the year 2000 or before) bonfires in the Borough to enter. The competition is being organised in conjunction with Ballymoney Borough Council, PSNI, Ballymoney Community Relations Committee,

NI Housing Executive, NI Fire & Rescue Service, DRD Roads Service and the Water Service.

The drive behind the competition is to encourage organisers of traditional bonfires in the Borough to think of both safety and the environment when organising their event. There will be 2 competitions, the first will be for bonfires held in July 2007 and the second for bonfires in October 2007.

Bonfires can be an eyesore both before and after the event and it is hoped that this competition will encourage a safer, more environmentally friendly approach that will benefit everyone.

There will be a range of monetary prizes for the Safest Bonfire. The

prize money will be donated to a charity, youth group, band or local community group of the entrant's choice.



Last year, Stranocum Ulster Scots Cultural and Heritage Society, and Bendooragh and District Community Association in first and second respectively in the July competition and Dunloy Development Association were winners of the October competition.



New 'Carbon Sink' Initiative



One unexpected outcome of last year's competition will benefit the local people and the local environment in the near future. As a result of surplus funds from the 2006 programme Ballymoney Council hopes to lead the way in reducing the 'Carbon Footprint' produced in the Borough by the bonfires. This project will offset the effects of carbon emissions produced from the local bonfires. It is hoped that local people will participate in this forward thinking initiative, not only in the planting of trees within the Borough but also in gaining a greater understanding of the importance of reducing carbon emissions locally and how that may reduce the effects of global warming.

Ban the Pan!

'Every 1 and a half minutes someone in the UK is burnt or scalded and ten people are admitted to hospital every day with serious burns and scalds.'

The Home Accident Prevention group in Ballymoney will be highlighting the dangers of 'Burns and Scalds' during HAP week in April

The local HAP group, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service are holding a 'Ban the Pan' chip pan demonstration at **Castlecroft in Ballymoney Town Centre on Wednesday 25th April** with demonstrations every half hour from 1.30pm. Members of the public are invited to come along and watch the dramatic displays which will hopefully persuade them to give up their chip pans for good.

Chip and grill pans continue to be one of the most common causes of



fire in the home. The Home Safety Officer, Barbara Allison believes HAP week is the ideal time to ban the use of chip pans in your home. It is vital to reduce fire hazards and cook safely. People leave pans of fat bubbling away that can be lethal, as the overheated oil will ignite. An interruption like a telephone call or to fall asleep when the chips are cooking can have serious consequences, which would have a devastating effect on families.

Ban your pan and invest in a deep fat fryer or opt for oven chips as an alternative!

Slim your Bin

Most households produce 1 tonne of waste each year or the same weight as ME!!!

Did you know that at least 70% of the waste you produce at home each year could be recycled using the options available to you in Ballymoney?



Home composters, at £10[rrp £35] and garden waste bags at £3 are available through Borough Services. For more information, please ring 2766 0257.



newspaper /magazines



plastic bottles



cardboard



cans



Last year you recycled 150 tonnes of glass, 600 tonnes of waste glass produced each year. You can recycle combinations of glass, cardboard, plastic, metal and paper. Recycling points are available at Knock Road & Crosstagherty Civic Amenity Site, Balnamore • Cloughmills • Dervock • Glebeside Spar • Milltown Spar • Tesco

Thanks to everyone in Ballymoney, you are making a difference. Your efforts make a difference. Let's make Ballymoney a place we can all be proud of.....S

A little R & R helps [Reduce and Recycle]

With spring in the air, why not think about reducing the amount of food and garden waste you produce?

As with all waste, it is better not to generate it at all! You can reduce the amount of food and garden waste you produce by following a few simple guidelines.

Food Waste

There are two simple guidelines, which will help you reduce your food waste



- Only buy what you need
- Be careful of 'sell-by' dates

Did you know....every adult in the UK throws away approximately £420 worth of food each year. In Ballymoney, this means we throw away a staggering £8.6 million pounds worth of food each year! This is even more dramatic when you consider Oxfam Ireland could use this money to provide crop kits and training for 358,000 families in Africa, enabling them to grow their own food.

Home Composting

Home composting is a great way to reduce the amount of garden waste you produce. It is a handy tool for households with garden waste. Home composting materials can be used in the home garden, on allotments, in sheds or greenhouses. Please contact your local council for more information.

Pit Bull Terrier Amnesty

Ballymoney Borough Council is having a Pit Bull Terrier Amnesty from **1st April 2007 to 31st May 2007**. The purpose of the amnesty is to give dog owners in the Borough the opportunity to have their dog checked, if they suspect it may be of a type known as the Pit Bull Terrier or display the characteristics of that type, without fear of prosecution.

On request, the Environmental Warden will initially examine the dog and if there is any doubt, an expert's opinion will be sought to give clarification on the matter. Should the expert identify the dog as the type known as the Pit Bull Terrier, or indeed as displaying the characteristics of this type, the owner will be requested to sign the dog over to the Council thus discharging any liability to prosecution. During the amnesty this service will be provided free of charge by the council.

If you have concerns in light of recent articles in the media, and in particular if you have a dog that you believe falls into this category, you should contact the Department immediately.

Should you require assistance or would like to speak to the Environmental Warden for advice, please contact Karen Mitchell on 028 2766 0257 or call into Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney.

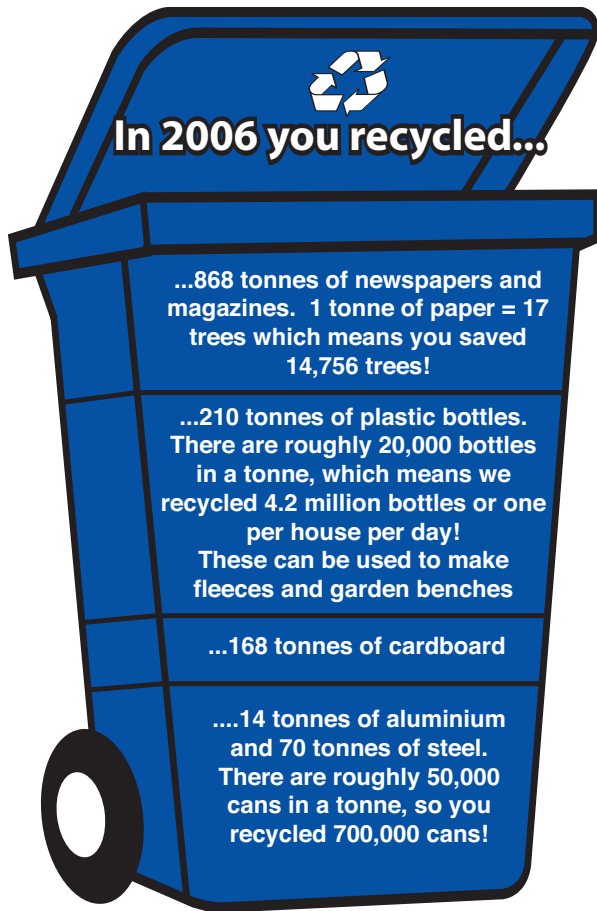
Falling "Foul" of the Law

Ballymoney Borough Council continues to strive for a cleaner and safer environment. A particular problem which concerns everyone is the small minority of dog owners who allow their pets to foul pavements and green areas and do not clean up afterwards. Dog faeces is unhygienic, highly infectious and in some instances can cause blindness to persons who come into contact with it. Young children are particularly at risk.

Not cleaning up after your dog properly is a breach of the Litter (NI) Order 1994, and if detected carries a fixed penalty fine of £50.00.

Please contact the Environmental Warden on **028 2766 0257** should you require advice or assistance regarding this matter.

The Council wishes to work with the community to eradicate this on-going anti-social problem.



is through our recycling sites. In total, there is about
n year in the Borough, please help us to recycle more.
ans, paper and textiles at the following sites:

Convenience Sites

**Dunloy • Killyrammer • Loughgiel • Stranocum
co • Trolan's Supervalu**

**matter to us and to our environment.
LIM YOUR BIN!**

Reuse]

dispose of by following some simple guidelines.

Composting

Composters are ideal for recycling food waste and small
of garden waste. By following the guidelines in
booklets available through Borough Services,

users should soon master the best composting mixes of

If you have a larger garden or lots of garden waste,
a compost bin may not be the best solution. Why not
your own composter using materials possibly lying in
garages? For more information on either option,
contact Borough Services on 2766 0257.

Your Rates

What are Rates?

Rates are a property based tax which raises the finance needed to provide public services.

What changes have been made to the way rates are calculated?

From the 2007-08 your rates bill will be based on the capital value of your home. A list of all capital values may be obtained from www.mycapitalvalueni.gov.uk

Telephone 0800 197 0611 Minicom 0800 1970612
Fax 0800 1970613

Valuation and Lands Agency
PO Box 981
Belfast
BT13 9AQ

For further information on changes to domestic rates visit
www.vla.nics.gov.uk

How do I pay my rates?

To visit the Rate Collection Agency's Website to find out ways to pay your rates.
www.ratecollectionagencyni.gov.uk

North Eastern Office

Rate Collection Agency,
Academy House,
121a Broughshane Street,
Ballymena.
BT43 6HY

Tel: 028 2566 4700
Fax: 028 2566 4715
Email: northeastern.rca@dfpni.gov.uk

Who sets the Rates?

There are two parts to the rates: a DISTRICT rate set by the Council and a REGIONAL rate set by Government.

What are the REGIONAL services provided by Government?

Education	Roads
Health	Planning
Personal Social Services	Water
Housing	Sewerage

What is the increase in my rates bill this year?

The new figures are: a non-domestic local property rate of 21.5659 pence and a domestic local property rate of 0.2768 pence. This represents an increase of 5.85%.

Council has managed to return an increase below that set by government for the Regional Rate (6%) and will still deliver improvements to services and facilities.



What are the main services provided by Council?

Waste Collection & Disposal	Street Cleaning
Building Control	Parks & Sports Grounds
Leisure, Arts & Tourism	Economic Development
Environmental Health	Cemeteries & Public Toilets
Building Control	

What do the Council's services cost me?

Less than half of the rates bill you receive goes towards funding the Council's services. In 2007/08 the Council will get 43.4% of your domestic rate payment which means that the remaining 56.6% of the rates you pay will go to Central Government.

Out of 26 councils in Northern Ireland 14 have a higher domestic property rate than Ballymoney Borough Council.

What will Council be doing in 2006/07 to improve services and facilities?

- Upgrading three play areas (Bendooragh, Dunloy & Dunaghy)
- Improving paths and bridges in the Riverside Park
- Creating a cycle path linking the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and Riada Playing Fields to the Riverside Park
- Replacing cardiovascular equipment in the Fitness Suite

Water and Sewerage Charges

Water bills due to be posted out in early April have been put on hold following the news that power-sharing will return to Northern Ireland. For the most up to date information on water charges visit www.waterreformni.gov.uk

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS REFUSE COLLECTION 2007/08

	Public Holiday	Alternative Collection
St Patrick's Day	Mon 19th March	Mon 19th March
Good Friday	Fri 6th April	Fri 6th April
Easter Monday	Mon 9th April	Mon 9th April
Easter Tuesday	Tue 10th April	Tue 10th April
May Day Monday	Mon 7th May	Mon 7th May
Spring Bank Holiday	Mon 28th May	Mon 28th May
12th July	Thur 12th July	Sat 14th July
13th July	Fri 13th July	Fri 13th July
Summer Bank Hol	Mon 27th August	Mon 27th August
Christmas Day	Tue 25th December	Sat 22nd December
Boxing Day	Wed 26th December	Sat 29th December
New Year's Day	Tue 1st January 2008	Tue 1st January 2008

New equipment will help to investigate complaints

The Borough Services Directorate has obtained two new pieces of equipment to assist field officers when investigating complaints.

The first is a gas detection machine, which is used primarily to detect carbon monoxide but can also indicate if flammable gases are present in the air sampled. This allows investigators to check for

leaks from fossil fuel burning appliances and chimney flues etc in addition to monitoring workspaces where appropriate.

The second is a deployable CCTV system that is portable and can be used to give both black and white and colour images. It also has an infrared facility to allow its use under darkness. A GPS tracking device is

fitted to the system to alert if the unit is tampered with. The system may be used to monitor sites subject to fly tipping and indiscriminate dumping and other anti-social behaviour complaints where appropriate.

For further information contact Environmental Health on 028 2766 0257.



BALLYMONEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Comments, suggestions & complaints



www.ballymoney.gov.uk

We want to hear from you.
Contact us at:

Ballymoney Borough Council
Riada House
14 Charles Street
Ballymoney
BT53 6DZ

Telephone: 028 2766 0200
Email: info@ballymoney.gov.uk
Website: www.ballymoney.gov.uk

Treasure Island Adventure Play Centre

NOW OPEN

The Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre is pleased to announce that the eagerly awaited **Treasure Island Adventure Play Centre** is now open for business. Situated in what was originally two squash courts, the new adventure play area is 5.4 metres high by 5.49 metres wide and will prove a must for all children from toddlers up to of 12 years of age.

Ballymoney Borough Council has taken the lead in many new play concepts and is pleased to unveil some of the new and unique items on show at **Treasure Island**.

The first in the UK '**Exerstation**', a must for all the computer game buffs, only this time you will not be able to sit in your armchair and play. You will have to move, pull and push to play the multi game options available. So not only is the experience enjoyable, it is also good for your health. Other play features include the '**Sky Glide**', '**Ball Canons**', giant '**Whirlpool Spiral Slide**' and '**V Net Bridge**'. There are some **54** different play items to experience and enjoy. We have also revamped our Birthday Party menu packages, which include new Party Treasure Island menus and invitations at a very competitive price.

There is something for all boys and girls up to the age of 12, so if you want to book a **Birthday Party** at our new Treasure Island Adventure Play Centre contact **Lorraine**, Office Manager, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, 028 2766 0260 to discuss your party arrangements.



Ballymoney Borough Council

Riada House, 14 Charles Street, BALLYMONEY BT53 6DZ

Telephone: 028 2766 0200 Fax: 028 2766 0222 E-mail: info@ballymoney.gov.uk Web: www.ballymoney.gov.uk

Our website contains information about the Council and its services and is updated regularly.