

FORWARD SOUTH



NEW-MURAL
TRAIL

Autumn
Newsletter

www.forwardsouth.org

OPEN BOTANIC
2023



www.youtube.com/forwardsouthpartnership



@forwardsouthpb

@forwardsouthpartnership



www.facebook.com/forwardsouthpartnership

A word from our CEO

It's that time again when South Belfast celebrates the talents and rich diversity of its communities.

Open Botanic, now in its second year of testing, shaping and reimagining use of Botanic Avenue and its links to our neighbourhoods wouldn't be possible without the participation and engagement of all those residents living nearby getting involved.

We are delighted this year to be even bigger and better connected. I can't wait to hear about the experiences of all those who are helping deliver this unique festival, who are raising their voices in shaping their area and connection to Shaftesbury Square.

Thanks to all the sponsors and local businesses for supporting this event. We can only build success through collaboration and partnership.

See you there!



FORWARD SOUTH
SOUTH BELFAST

BRIEGE ARTHURS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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📍 23 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1FY
✉ brieghe.arthurs@forwardsouth.org

Open Botanic 2023 – 24th September 2023



Open Botanic, now in its second year will be taking place on the length of Botanic Avenue on 24th September from 12pm to 3pm. Open Botanic as a community-driven festival will bring people together by re-imagining Botanic Avenue in Belfast as a better place to work, live and play in a pedestrianised, car-free environment.

Open Botanic will give the public a chance to experience this diverse, busy thoroughfare in a totally different way, encouraging families to enjoy what this rich, vibrant place has to offer.

This welcoming event will showcase one of Belfast's most popular city streets as a place fully accessible to pedestrians and cyclists with a family-friendly range of fun activities, community engagement projects and a celebration of all the people and communities in the area.



Forward South Partnership, through the Open Botanic Festival, is leading the discussion around changes to the streets of Belfast with fewer cars to give better access to pedestrians and cyclists, reduce pollution and improve health.



The inclusive festival will include groups from the Holyland, Donegall Pass, Sandy Row, as well as Anaka Women's Collective, Sustrans, The Friends of the Field, the South and East Belfast Bands Forum and Yallaa, a group that promotes Arabic culture.

'Come and join us as we open Botanic.'

Use the hashtag #openbotanic, #OB23 or #lovingopenbotanic to tag us in your posts on social media. We are on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube if you take any pictures or videos.

Open Botanic Volunteers needed

Volunteering opportunity with us for Open Botanic. 24th September 2023 from 12pm to 3pm. Please register at link below.

[becollective.com/uk/volunteer-p_____...](https://becollective.com/uk/volunteer-p...)



Staff update

Denis Long has started as our new Holyland Capacity officer. She has a background in community development and intercultural training. Welcome to the team Denis!



Denis has already attended the Holyland Q&A with Holyland residents on 31st August with our Operations Manager Áine Groogan and other stakeholders within the area incl. PSNI and Belfast City Council.

Thankyou and goodbye to Jane Turnbull who helped us so much with our education reach and evaluation. We will miss you!

Welcome to our new Board members

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome 2 new Board members to FSP Board and thank our continuing Political elected representative members Tracy Kelly, Gary McKeown and Micky Murray for their work on our Board.

Tara Brooks **Geraldine McAteer**



Tracy Kelly **Gary McKeown** **Micky Murray**



Thanks also to Councillors Sarah Bunting and John Gormley for their hard work on our Board for the last few years. We appreciate you being a supportive voice for FSP and our work across South Belfast.



A New Strategy for Forward South Partnership (2024-2028) - Get Involved!

FSP is excited to move into its new Strategy period and has put the wheels in motion recently by issuing two important commissions. It is vital that all our stakeholders are involved in the development of the new Strategy and as such, we are tendering for a consultant to work with us on a comprehensive community consultation. We wish to know how our stakeholders view the role and remit of the organization and we will be inviting you to engage in Community Consultation events this Autumn so that our Strategy can be co-designed. We will



be taking on board the views of all of those who we are there to serve and look forward to hearing how we can shape the work of FSP in the coming period to meet the needs of the south Belfast community.

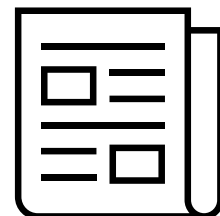
Our second commission will see a Strategic Consultant assist staff and Board to review the current work of FSP and to take the learning from the Community Consultation to inform the priorities of the organization going forward. Both of these processes are vital to development of a refreshed Board for FSP and we will be ensuring that the current recruitment process for the Community Support Group, which nominates representatives to Board, is aligned with the comprehensive review of our role.

Look out for your invitation to be part of this exciting process and Get Involved! FSP is run by the communities of South Belfast. We are governed by 5 community directors. If you want to be part of our board, you can start the process through nominating yourself or others onto our Community Support Group. Please send your nomination to enquiries@forwardsouth.org by the deadline of **12.00 noon on Monday 30th October 2023 (extended deadline)**. Each group can nominate one person for the committee.

Have you any events or stories you would like highlighted, Contact us.

If you have any stories or upcoming events you would like included in our next issue please email Chris at enquiries@forwardsouth.org

We would love to feature any of your events for South Belfast or any news of interest to South Belfast readers.



Holyland events and a new Mural trail

FSP like to test new approaches with our community partners and therefore Holyland residents are trialling a new mural trail, run by Holyland residents at Open Botanic. FSP hope that this expands as the years goes on and as new murals are added throughout the Holyland.

Come to the stall on 24th September to walk the trail. There is a new Instagram account called: Murals in Holyland <https://www.instagram.com/murals.in.holyland/> Follow this page on Instagram for new events relating to new murals and locations of existing murals.

There will be a launch of the newest mural in Wildflower Alley on 24th September after Open Botanic at 4pm. Join the tour and come and see the new mural for yourself. (see next page for details)



Holylands Community-led Street Design

September 8th
10 am- 5 pm

You are invited to participate in the community-led street design project by Sustrans, where we will be exploring and implementing design solutions to make the area a more liveable and friendly place for cycling, walking and strolling.

To find out more, please contact:
E: perla.mansour@sustrans.org.uk

We work for and with communities, helping them come to life by walking, wheeling and cycling.
Our campaign to create healthier people and happier streets for everyone.
Join us on our journey.
www.sustrans.org.uk

This project is funded by: Public Health Agency

In partnership with:

Thanks to the ongoing work of the Holyland resident groups for their continued work in the Holyland area. They have recently been engaged with Sustrans NI as to how to make their streets more liveable, safer and more cycle/pedestrian friendly.



Residents attended a workshop and then the main event took place on September 5th. Sustrans painted colourful motifs and created a pop up cycle lane along Collingwood Avenue, creating a car free section within the community. Kids played freely and learned to cycle. Thanks to Perla from Sustrans. This project was funded by Public Health agency and in partnership with Belfast City Council.

MURAL REVEAL COMING SOON

Funded by



INFORMAL LAUNCH AND CUPPA

WILDFLOWER
ALLEY AND
MUSLIM FAMILY
ASSOCIATION
"GOOD
NEIGHBOURS"
MURAL.

SUNDAY 24
SEPTEMBER
2023 @ 4PM

LOCATION:
WILDFLOWER
ALLEY, COLLEGE
PARK AVENUE,
BELFAST, BT71LR

HALAL
REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE.
PLEASE BRING
AND SHARE IF
YOU WOULD LIKE.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT BRID
ON 07734050266



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What's happening in South Belfast?

Keeping South Belfast Warm Project



Forward South Partnership has completed the delivery of the Over 55 Keeping South Belfast Warm Project. Forward South Partnership received the funding from Community Foundation NI through the Food and Fuel Small Grant Programme.

We have supported 170 individuals with food, gas and electric top ups who are facing financial hardship. Additionally, we have delivered 4

Community Gatherings with hot breakfasts and lunches providing a hot meal and having support services to provide advice on benefits, how to heat your home, health, and wellbeing programmes in the local area.

We thank all our partners for referral of individuals for the vouchers and those attending the community partners.

FSP and NICVA visit to Windsor Women's centre

FSP facilitated a meeting in Windsor Women's centre for robust conversations between community groups and NICVA around cost of living increases, recruitment and retention of staff and impact on the future of our sector. Celine McStravick (NICVA CEO) commented how focus on community development with clear impact on the lives of women children and families should be valued more within the sector. Please contact us on enquiries@forwardsouth.org if you have any issues you would like to discuss.



Dormant accounts funding

In August Forward South heard we had received Dormant Accounts funding to transform our internal systems and the way we communicate with our stakeholders.

Original news article: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2023-08-23/1-5-million-from-dormant-accounts-supporting-vcse-sector-sustainability>



Forward South Partnership @ForwardSouthPB · Aug 23

...

Thankyou to @TNLComFund @dptffinance for their recent Dormant Accounts funding. You are helping Forward South to improve our connectivity with community partners across South Belfast.

[tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-rel...](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-rel...) ✓...#DormantAccountsFundNI



ROMA Community outing



Park days



In August, the Roma Support Hub organised two trips to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon park for the Roma families. Lisa from the Parks at Belfast City Council and Maureen from Ulster Wildlife prepared a range of activities for the families including kite making, rock painting, planting or clay hedgehog making. Everyone (including the adults) enjoyed making bubbles and throwing balls on the big parachute. And we were lucky with the weather too as the sun was shining on us. The day wouldn't be complete without visiting the playpark.



In the community

Communities thrive when people come together. FSP has teamed up with Taughmonagh Community Forum which hosted a coffee morning and a chat for local residents. Of course its not just about coffee, but giving local people a chance to talk about their health needs and services in their area. We hope that this coming together continues in the future and we can provide much needed services in the area.

Look out on social media for our next coffee morning and bring along your family and friends for a good natter.



Coming soon!

South Belfast Dementia Carers Café

The South Belfast Dementia Carers Café is specifically for those who care for someone living with dementia within South Belfast. The Café will be taking place on Tuesday 31st October at 10am in Ormeau Road Library. If you would like to attend, please contact Marie at communityhealth@forwardsouth.org or 07394569154.



SOUTH BELFAST DEMENTIA CARERS CAFE

CARERS CAFE SPECIFICALLY FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR SOMEONE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA WITHIN SOUTH BELFAST

**JOIN US AT ORMEAU ROAD LIBRARY
10AM ON
TUESDAY 29TH AUGUST
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER &
TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MARIE MCGARRY:
COMMUNITYHEALTH@FORWARDSOUTH.ORG OR 07394569154

Positive Ageing Month – October 2023

Positive Ageing Month is a month-long festival of events and activities for older people, it celebrates the contribution that older people make to their communities and the city of Belfast.

Forward South Partnership will be delivering a South Belfast Connections Event on Monday 16th October at 11am in Taughmonagh Church. This will be an opportunity to connect with local services, neighbours, and friends.

South Belfast Connections Event

**Monday 16th October
11am-1pm
Taughmonagh Church**

Come along and connect with local services to health and wellbeing, advice, cost of living and some taster sessions.

REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH PROVIDED

Contact Strategic Health & Wellbeing Officer,
Emily Brown
emily.brown@forwardsouth.org or 07394569153

We are back with our ROMA English Classes

ENGLISH CLASSES



FREE English classes are back.
Two venues. Two time slots -
morning and evening.
Romanian speaking teacher.

WEDNESDAYS



10am to 12pm

Roma Support Hub
(Forward South Partnership,
23 University street, Belfast)



6pm to 8pm

Skainos centre
(239 Newtownards road,
Belfast)



**STARTING 6TH
SEPTEMBER**



Older and Active (Over 50s Club)



Belvoir Older and Active

Older and Active

Friday 8th September 12pm-1pm
Belvoir Community Hub
7-8 Drumart Square

Everyone is welcome to join us!

If you like to attend please contact Marie
communityhealth@forwardsouth.org /
07394569154

Come along to Belvoir Hub and join our over 50's group to improve your fitness, meet new people and have some fun.

We are delivering an Older and Active Programme in Belvoir Community Hub from Friday 8th September 12pm-1pm for 8 weeks. It will be opportunity to come along to try new activities and make friendships in the community.

If you would like to attend, please contact Marie on communityhealth@forwardsouth.org or 07394569154.

Regional Mental Health Campaign: Walk and Talk 2023

Health and Social Care Trusts and PHA have worked in partnership to develop a campaign to encourage people across Northern Ireland to embrace and demonstrate the theme: Creating Hope, Through Action. The campaign will run from 11th September – 10th October 2023 to mark the period between World Suicide Prevention Day and World. This year the campaign is calling on people to "Walk & Talk", embracing the Take 5 messages to Be Active and Connect.

The Campaign is encouraging anyone to organize a Walk and Talk with a friend, colleague or as part of a group. A Walk & Talk can be used to start adding the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing into your daily routine to take steps to protect and improve wellbeing.

The campaign is also encouraging everyone to learn about mental health and suicide prevention by attending a training course. Please [click here](#) to find out more about the training and the regional campaign.



Creating hope through action

Walk & Talk: steps to wellbeing

11 September – 10 October 2023

www.mindingyourhead.info

Tips and ideas to organise your own Walk & Talk event to promote mental and emotional wellbeing

Advert from our partners



The poster features a large pink ribbon graphic on the left side. At the top left, there are four logos: Belfast City Council, Women's Resource & Development Agency, HSC Public Health Agency, and Forward South Partnership Breast Screening Awareness Programme. The main text on the right reads 'OCTOBER BREAST Cancer AWARENESS MONTH'. Below this, it says 'Finaghy Community Centre CHARITY COFFEE MORNING' followed by the date and time 'Wednesday 11th October 10am - 12pm'. A paragraph of text describes a guest speaker from Women's Resource and Development Agency. A white rounded rectangle at the bottom contains the text 'ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT'. At the very bottom, the address and phone number are listed.

Belfast City Council

Women's RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Empowering Women's Strength and Potential Across Northern Ireland

HSC Public Health Agency

FORWARD SOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Breast Screening AWARENESS PROGRAMME

OCTOBER BREAST Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

Finaghy Community Centre CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 11th October
10am - 12pm

A guest speaker from Woman's Resource and Development Agency will deliver a talk at 11am on how to check your breasts for changes, lumps, etc.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Finaghy Community Centre, 1-6 Geeragh Place, Belfast, BT10 Tel: 028 90620474

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Advert from our partners

Solo Jazz & Swing



TUESDAYS

Mixed level
Solo Jazz, rhythm & blues
class followed by a mixed
level **swing class**

7.30 PM SOLO JAZZ
9 PM SWING



SOLO IS BACK!

**Ballynafeigh
Community
Development
Association**

Swing Belfast @gmail.com



Updates

Belfast Agenda: Have your say!



THE

BELFAST AGENDA, CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION. Have Your Say online via link below. Deadline is 2nd October. Belfast City Council is running two in-person (one already taken place) and two online workshops in September to consider the potential equality implications in more detail. The draft Equality Impact Assessment and draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment documents are also accessed via the link provided above. The workshops will be held as follows:

1. 6 September at 2pm in City Hall
2. 20 September at 7pm - online
3. 21 September 3pm – online

<https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/draft-belfast-agenda>

'Moving In' advice for students

Watch out for the student advice booklet being launched soon via the universities collaboratively with Queen's University, University of Ulster, Stranmillis University college, St Marys University College, PSNI and Belfast City Council. The advice booklet will be available to students via online portals on University websites.

Also look out for messaging from PSNI and partners on their social media platforms.



Student Safety advice https://www.psni.police.uk/student-safety?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo&utm_content=Student+Safety

Queen's University Handy Helpers: Making a Difference one Helping Hand at a Time

Handy Helpers is a community volunteering initiative co-ordinated by Queens Students' Union.

Handy Helpers is a unique initiative which enables Queen's Students to take part in a wide range of one-off volunteering opportunities in the local community. Students can pick and choose what activities they want to participate in based on interests and availability. From community gardening to decorating charity premises and event logistics, students will gain experience in various settings while actively contributing to the local community.

In the new semester we are planning to host a Residents social event, Community Litter Pick, Allotment Showcase and Festive event just to mention a few exciting things to come.

If you are involved in a non-profit organisation, community group or residents' association and could do with short-term support from the Handy Helpers initiative, please get in touch at su.handyhelpers@qub.ac.uk



Eastern Transport Plan -Survey/Consultation

Department for Infrastructure have formally launched the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 (*formerly Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2035 (BMTP)*). There is an 8-week public engagement exercise which commenced on Monday 4 September 2023 will close at 5pm on Monday 30 October 2023.

They have advised that following consideration of stakeholder feedback, their Permanent Secretary took the decision to change the name of the BMTP to the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 in the hope of increasing the level of community engagement across the Plan area. The Plan area covers the following 5 Council areas:

1. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
2. Ards and North Down Borough Council
3. Belfast City Council
4. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
5. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

The following is links to further information:

Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 Website: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/eastern-transport-plan-etp-2035>

Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 Survey: <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/eastern-transport-plan-consultation>

Update on Streets Ahead

The Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 5 (BSA 5) Public Realm scheme is currently on hold. This is due to the work that the Department for Infrastructure is currently undertaking to prepare the Eastern Transport Plan 2035 (ETP) (formerly the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2035 (BMTP)).

It's important that the ETP complements the other strategies, plans and programmes that impact on the same physical space such as Belfast City Council's Local Development Plan, A Bolder Vision, the Department for Communities' Public Realm programme (including the BSA 5 scheme), Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2, and the Belfast Cycling Network 2021. Developing a full understanding of the cumulative impacts and interdependencies of the interventions being proposed across Belfast is essential to ensure that they can be successfully delivered in a managed and sustainable way.

When the outcome of the ETP is known, DfC will consider the next steps for the BSA 5 Public Realm Scheme, taking account of budget availability.

Advert



Mosaic Café are now open at the new location on University Road.

'Fresh Homemade' is our motto.

All tray bakes and cakes are made by us and change regularly.

Fresh soup and sausage rolls are made daily.

We offer vegan and vegetarian options also.

For sandwich fillings we bake our own ham, roast our own chicken, make our own hummus, pesto, roasted vegetables, everything that makes a sandwich so much tastier.