

Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

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63rd YEAR £1

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First Newcastle Cubs wreath bearers Ben Sloan, Eve Kenneally and Molly Crawford at the Remembrance Service at Newcastle Cenotaph on Sunday. See pages 31 - 33. **Photo: Aaron Hawthorne.**

Closure threat looms over PSNI stations

By Lisa Ramsden

CLOSURES, if implemented, could decimate the number of police stations in the wider Down area, a local politician has claimed.

Last week it emerged that almost 40 PSNI stations across the Province, including those in Ballynahinch, Warrenpoint, Saintfield, Crossgar and Killyleagh, could close by 2015.

The plans to sell off the stations were discussed during a private Policing Board meeting on Friday.

So concerned are local politicians that a delegation is expected to discuss the matter with PSNI chiefs next month. The issue is also expected to be raised at a forthcoming public meeting of the Down District Policing Partnership.

If endorsed by the Policing Board, the number of stations in Northern Ireland will **(to page 12)**

Oaklee wants to press ahead

HOUSING PLANS MAY REQUIRE 'SIGNIFICANT RE-DESIGN'

PLANS for a town centre social housing scheme in Newcastle will be progressed – but not before they go back to the drawing board.

Yesterday it was confirmed that Oaklee

Housing Association intends to progress its plans for the former East Down Institute buildings at Donard Street, and that it is "likely" there will be "a significant re-design."

News of the proposal first emerged in September, prompting a backlash from residents and politicians alike, who feel

the proposal is not suitable for the site.

However, local politicians yesterday received letters from Oaklee's senior development manager, Adam Alexander, confirming that it is the housing association's intention to apply for planning permission.

Concerns about the scheme centre on **(to page 12)**

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