

# Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2011

DOWN EDITION

e-mail: editor@mourneobserver.com

62nd YEAR

£1

**£18m social housing scheme boosts local construction industry – PAGE 9**



**Minister says completed scheme has enhanced town centre – PAGE 13**



Health Minister Edwin Poots at the opening of *The HUB* in Ballynahinch with (from left): Down Council chairman Dermot Curran, Chris Totten from the Public Health Agency, *The HUB* board chairperson Rev Mairisine Stanfield, Presbyterian Moderator Rt Rev Dr Ivan Patterson and Citizens Advice Bureau district manager Sandra Ogle. See full coverage on page 37. **Photo: Chris Halpin.**

## Survey reveals the 'negative impacts' on local schools

A SURVEY of Down District's schools has revealed some of the harsh pressures facing head teachers and their staff.

Conducted by the local council's education committee, all primary schools in the area were asked to participate in the study.

The survey asked the schools to identify areas which were having a negative impact on the delivery of education to their pupils.

Its results show the major areas of concern for the primary schools include insufficient school budgets, ongoing cuts in funding, the poor state of existing buildings and accommodation, increased workloads and decreasing staffing levels.

Other problems outlined by the schools include the lack of stability in the curriculum, the high level of new initiatives, restrictions on admissions, total enrolment figures and lack of good special needs provision. **(to page 14)**

# Projects hit by funding delay

**DOWN District is at risk of losing up to £158,000 in funding.**

The money has been earmarked for diversionary schemes across the district that centre on combating antisocial behaviour around bonfires at Halloween, the Twelfth and those lit to mark the anniversary of internment.

However, a delay in approving the funding has plunged the planned schemes for Halloween across the district into disarray, with event organisers unsure whether or not the money will be

in place to run diversionary projects.

This week the chairmen of Down District's Community Safety Partnership and the local bonfire liaison committee, councillors Mickey Coogan and William Walker, jointly appealed for eleventh-hour intervention to ensure the council's bid for PEACE III funding, covering a three-year period, is rubber-stamped.

The funding application has been deferred on several dates in recent weeks; however the men hope that a meeting, to be held later today, will approve the district's funding bid.

The money has been earmarked to run a number of diversionary schemes when

bonfire beacons are burned rather than the traditional bonfires, consisting of rubbish and other materials.

The beacons, which have been deemed a major success each time they have been used, have been operating in the district for several years.

Down District Council owns four of these beacons.

This week Mr Coogan and Mr Walker appealed for the funding to be approved, to ensure that the diversionary programmes for Halloween in Ballynahinch, Ardglass, Crossgar and Killough can proceed.

**(to page 14)**

**HARDY'S**  
OF KILKEEL

**Save £60.00**



**43" High Definition Plasma**  
**2 x HDMI Connection**  
**Freeview & Saorview Ready**

**Only £379.00**

40-48 Newry Street, Kilkeel  
BT34 4DN  
Phone: 028 417 63366  
office@hardysofkilkeel.co.uk