

# BILL OF RIGHTS

Anna Lo MLA was involved in the development of the report on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, which was published and submitted to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on 31 March 2008.

Anna's year long contribution to the creation of the report had a particular focus on the rights of Children and Young People in the province. "It is crucial for Northern Ireland that we establish a strong Bill of Rights to ensure equality for all, not just today but for generations to come."



## ANNA WINS AWARDS

Anna's work has attracted much acclaim since her election in 2007 and she has been nominated for, and received, a number of awards. These include:

'The Icebreaker Fellowship Award' from the 48 Group Club for her work in promoting trade between Northern Ireland and China.

'Outstanding Contribution in the Community Sector' Anna was nominated for this award at the Aisling Awards Ceremony.

'Promotion of Cultural Diversity' at the Media and Multicultural Awards in Dublin.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Belfast City Council - 028 9032 0202

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust – 028 9056 5656

Citizen's Advice Bureau – 028 9032 9133

Consumer Council - 028 9067 2488

Equality Commission - 028 90 500 600

Housing Rights Service - 028 9024 5640

Housing Executive – 0844 8920900

Law Centre NI - 028 9024 4401

Planning Service - 028 9025 2800

## Police Service for Northern Ireland

*PSNI Switchboard* - 0845 600 8000

*Lisburn Road* - 028 9025 9850

*Donegall Pass* - 028 9025 9747

*Ballynafeigh* - 028 9025 9747

*Musgrave Street* - 028 9070 0523

# South Belfast Constituency News

SECOND EDITION

**Anna Lo**  
MBE MLA  
Alliance Assembly Member

This publication is also available online in digital PDF format at [www.annalo.org](http://www.annalo.org)

Dear Constituent,



Welcome to the second edition of my Constituency News. Since I reported to you last November I have been working hard as your MLA to put pressure on the Assembly Executive to deliver policies and actions to make a difference in people's lives.

My role as a member for both the Social Development and Employment and Learning committees has also provided me with the mechanisms to scrutinise the work of the two departments with responsibilities in social security, housing, urban regeneration, social development and job training as well as further and higher education.

Furthermore, I am active in the All Party Assembly Groups on Anti-Poverty, International Development and Minority Ethnic Communities.

On a wider perspective, I have been appointed by the Irish government as an ambassador to promote the 2008 EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue in the North and South of Ireland in collaboration with the Equality Commission here.

I hope you enjoy reading some aspects of my work highlighted in this edition and please do contact me if you need any assistance in constituency matters.

I'd love to hear from you.

*Anna Lo*

## SOUTH BELFAST OFFICE LAUNCHED

The official opening of Anna Lo's South Belfast Constituency Office took place on Friday 22nd February, at 88 University Street.

The office was officially opened by party leader David Ford MLA, who commented on the day;

"I am very pleased to formally open Anna's office today. Anna and her South Belfast team do excellent work in the area and this office is already the hub of their activities."

The day's celebrations included a musical recital from the pupils of Botanic Primary School and a traditional Chinese Lion Dance performance. Anna Lo said of the day;

"I am delighted to launch my new constituency office in the heart of South Belfast and hope that everyone knows our doors are always open should you need assistance of any kind."

The launch was also very well attended by a number of local community and residents groups.



Anna Lo MLA, David Ford MLA and Cllr. Sara Duncan with local community representatives at the launch of the South Belfast constituency office...

**INSIDE: PLANNING ISSUES  
| RESIDENTS' PARKING |  
REGENERATION IN THE VILLAGE |  
POST OFFICE CLOSURES...**

## HOW TO CONTACT ANNA LO

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

If there is anything you would like Anna's help with you can contact her South Belfast Constituency Office:

South Belfast Constituency Office  
88 University Street  
Belfast  
BT7 1HE

**Tel: 028 9033 0811  
OR 028 9032 4274  
Fax: 028 9033 3147  
Email: [anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk)**

## FLOATING SURGERY

If you would like to host one of Anna's constituency surgeries in your community centre then please call the Constituency Office at the number listed above.

Designed by [www.nomoreart.com](http://www.nomoreart.com)

This report may be received in areas outside of the South Belfast constituency. However Anna hopes you will enjoy reading it.

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# RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME

Anna Lo MLA has called for the Roads Service to address the issue of parking in South Belfast, and this call was recently answered in the form of the Roads Service Residents Parking Scheme.

The scheme, piloted in five areas including Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Markets area of South Belfast, will see the introduction of a 'Controlled Parking Zone' (CPZ) where residents and business owners within the CPZ boundary will pay for a yearly parking permit.

Anna Lo said of the scheme;

"The residents of South Belfast have long been victim to the daily influx of commuters taking up precious residential parking space. I support a resolution that will alleviate this problem for local residents; however I would like the Roads Service to review the proposed charges for the residential parking permits to fully reflect the views of those affected by the scheme".



Anna Lo MLA in the Markets area of Belfast, one of the five proposed areas for the Resident's Parking Scheme...

## LO SUPPORTS THE ARTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Anna Lo MLA supporting the Keep Our Arts Alive rally at Stormont...

Anna Lo MLA has been a longstanding advocate of the arts in Northern Ireland and was out in support of the sector in December 2007, when she joined the 'Keep Our Arts Alive' rally at Stormont. Anna joined a large number of Arts organisations in calling for increased funding for the sector at the demonstration;

"Our arts sector needs far more support. They play a vital role in tourism, and attracting more visitors to Northern Ireland is an essential part of expanding our economy. Arts jobs are at risk and projects are being put in jeopardy. This is totally unacceptable."

Anna was keen to highlight the positive role that a flourishing arts sector plays in Northern Ireland;

"The cultural wealth that the arts bring cannot be overstated. Related activities play a massive role in bringing people together. They demonstrate that Northern Ireland is moving away from its troubled past and is now a vibrant region."

Anna went on to discuss the issue in the Assembly with the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

## PLANNING IN SOUTH BELFAST

The rampant development of apartment blocks in South Belfast continues to cause all of us grave concern. Anna has continually asked pointed questions of the Environment Minister about bad planning in South Belfast.

"I am working with community groups and 'Community Places' to develop an Action Plan to tackle bad planning in South Belfast, and I intend to raise the issue for debate in the assembly."

If you have a planning problem or wish to voice your concerns on planning in South Belfast contact Anna on 02890 330811 or via email at [anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk)



Anna Lo MLA with Sam McDonnell of the Lisburn Road Post Office which is under threat of closure...

## LO CAMPAIGNS TO SAVE LISBURN ROAD POST OFFICE

Anna Lo MLA has been campaigning to save the Lisburn Road Post Office from the proposed schedule of closures.

Following a visit to the Post Office, Anna said; "Local residents have already suffered the closure of the Balmoral Post Office and now they are facing further cutbacks with the proposed closure of the Lisburn Road Branch.

I have visited the Post Office staff and local residents and share in their deep concern and dismay at the potential loss of this invaluable community hub. The Lisburn Road Post Office is a thriving business and it makes absolutely no sense to shut it down when it serves the local residential and business communities so well."

## VILLAGE REGENERATION

Regeneration of the Village area of South Belfast has received much attention in recent times, with the dedicated work of the Greater Village Regeneration Trust and the announcements made by the Minister for Social Development regarding funding for the renewal of the area. Anna Lo MLA has continually called for much needed improvements to housing standards in the area, and in March 2008 debated the issue in the Assembly;

"I commend GVRT and the Housing Focus Committee for taking a very active role in the consultation process and for lobbying the statutory bodies and MLAs. I support fully the Department for Social Development's (DSD) plan to proceed immediately and I endorse the views of previous Members who have spoken about the need for speedy action to begin redevelopment in the area. However, change brings uncertainties, doubts and concerns to any area, and I would like to see an open and transparent consultation that involves all residents in the area, giving full consideration to all the hopes, fears and expectations that exist in the Village community."

## P.A.C.T. IN THE HOLYLANDS

A new forum has been set up in an attempt to tackle the issues affecting the Holylands area of South Belfast.

PACT (Partners and Communities Together) is a community initiative from the PSNI that together with relevant partners, seeks to consult with local residents to deal with the ongoing problems in the area. Following the first meeting of the forum Anna Lo MLA said;

"This is a positive step for the Holylands and presents a real opportunity for improvement in the area. However I hope that this forum is able to deliver visible results for the long suffering residents of the area, who have endured years of anti-social behaviour, crime and over development."

If you are affected by any of these issues, please contact Anna on 02890 330811 or [anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:anna.lo@niassembly.gov.uk)

## ANNA LO PRAISES I.T. INITIATIVE



Anna Lo MLA at the launch of the project in Hong Ling Gardens

In February 2007, Anna Lo MLA was invited to launch a new I.T initiative for the residents of Hong Ling Gardens in the Markets area.

The project, which will enable the senior residents to develop computer and internet skills, is the result of a partnership between BIH Housing Association and 'EverybodyOnline'. Ms Lo praised the scheme's organisers and participants, saying;

"This project will make a huge difference in the lives of the Hong Ling Gardens' Residents, allowing them to keep in touch with family and friends in their native China as well as providing them with new skills for the digital age."