

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Refurbished Shops on Ashton Road Re-open**

The first four shops to be refurbished on Ashton Road have re-opened for business.

Hathershaw & Fitton Hill New Deal for Communities Programme has funded the £1.8 million major programme in an attempt to boost the local economy and open up this important commercial corridor and gateway to Oldham.

The scope of works includes new chimneys, re-roofing, new guttering and fall pipes, new rendering on the front and rear elevations, new shop fronts and windows, disabled access, shutters and upgrading of security, new signage and work to the rear of the premises to improve parking and loading/unloading facilities.

The main contractor for the works is the long established Oldham Company, Emanuel Whittaker Limited and the programme is being managed by Oldham Council's Regeneration Directorate.

The first section of this first phase covering 326 to 340 Ashton Road has been completed and the second section from 312 to 324 is now well under way with completion expected by March 2008. This second section includes the conversion of four former houses to two double fronted retail/commercial premises, which will be available for local businesses to rent.

Peter Milner owner of Milners Butchers said.

"We are very pleased with the work so far and hopefully it will give a new lease of life to the NDC area and encourage more businesses to set up. We are a family run business and have been in the area for over 50 years, we've seen a lot of changes over the years but this is certainly one of the better ones"

Sam Brierley, shop Manager at Daisy chains florist said

"The NDC have done a fabulous job with the design of our new shop, we now have plenty of space and it has given the shop a whole new look".

The re-opened shops are J & J Flooring, Milner's Butchers and Daisychain Florists. Dreamland Beds is occupying refurbished premises at 328 on a temporary basis while its usual premises are being given a facelift under the second section works and the shop at 330 is undergoing a fit out to accommodate the Academy hairdressing salon which will move from its current premises. Griffin Batteries at 346 is also nearing the completion of its refurbishment.

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Councillor. Dave Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Environment and Regeneration, said:

“Quality buildings give residents pride in their locality and these highly visible improvements should encourage people to treat the area with respect. It is also important that properties along the roads leading into the Borough create a positive perception for visitors, because first impressions count. I congratulate all of the people who have been involved in this scheme”

The second phase of the programme is due to commence in early spring and will run from 204 Ashton Road at the corner of Neild Street down to the Greaves Arms pub.

The improvements to the shops are part of the NDC's bid to improve and regenerate Hathershaw & Fitton Hill and complement other refurbishment works happening in the area including the facelifts to the outside of residential properties in north Hathershaw and the Triangle site, as part of the wider Spatial Masterplan.

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