

# In the pipeline

## Gas to the West news



A major energy infrastructure project to extend the benefits of natural gas to Coalisland, Cookstown, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh and Strabane.

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"Welcome to Edition 8 of our 'Gas to the West' Newsletter. In this edition we mark substantial progress with the project, starting with the formal event in Dungannon to launch the full construction phase as well as progress reports on work in Strabane and Cookstown. SGN Natural Gas has now commissioned not only its first industrial customer but also the very first domestic customer in the Licence area. As we are now getting major works underway, the project partners are keen to keep people informed about how ongoing operations may impact their locality. Why not keep up to date by linking up with the new SGN Natural Gas website and Facebook page - showing how we are bringing all the benefits of natural gas to more and more consumers."

Paddy Larkin  
Chief Executive  
Mutual Energy

Danny O'Malley  
Director  
SGN Natural Gas

## Gas to the West enters construction stage

Along with partners Mutual Energy, our SGN Natural Gas team has launched the next full construction phase of the project, which involves the construction of 200km of high and intermediate pressure gas pipelines.

Natural gas has already successfully been taken into Strabane with the first large customer connected earlier this year.

The launch of this new phase of the project took place in Dungannon in front of many stakeholders including local public representatives and officials.

SGN Natural Gas Director Danny O'Malley, who presented at the launch said:

"We're now in a position to get this major new phase of the build underway. We've finalised the appointment of the main suppliers and contractors who will be building the pipeline for us."

Danny added; "It's only a few weeks since our team won the Team of the Year award at SGN's annual Outstanding People Awards and I'm very proud that their excellent achievements over the past twelve months have been acknowledged and recognised in such a positive way.

"Today marks yet another milestone in the amazing progress we've made to date and I'd like to thank everyone involved."



SGN Natural Gas Director Danny O'Malley speaking at the Dungannon launch event



Mutual Energy CEO, Paddy Larkin speaking at the Dungannon launch event

# Major milestone as first Gas to the West domestic consumer connected

There was no shortage of new energy in Strabane when the first domestic consumer was connected to natural gas as part of the multi-million-pound Gas to the West project.

A special celebration was hosted by SGN Natural Gas to mark the occasion as local resident Justin Arkinson of Derry Road became the first household to benefit from the £250m infrastructure investment which will bring natural gas to eight main towns in Counties Tyrone, Fermanagh and Derry.

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Councillor Maoliosa McHugh, was on hand for the official 'switch-on' and warmly welcomed the announcement that natural gas is now available in the Strabane town area.

Cllr. McHugh said: "Gas to the West is a highly significant new infrastructure development for the western region and I am delighted that Strabane is the first provincial town to be connected to mains gas. The availability of natural gas will bring many positive benefits for both business and domestic consumers and the wider local economy."

Danny O'Malley, Director of SGN Natural Gas, said the connection of the first domestic consumer in Strabane was an important milestone for all those involved in making Gas to the West a reality. "I would like to pay tribute to the ongoing commitment and hard work of our dedicated project team, key partners and stakeholders in reaching this exciting stage of the project.

"Natural gas is now flowing for customers in Strabane, with the other seven towns in the west scheduled to follow suit in due course."

Also welcoming the first domestic connection to the newly extended gas network, Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive of the Utility Regulator, said: "This is another vote of confidence in the natural gas industry in Northern Ireland and a welcome boost for our infrastructure, bringing greater energy choice for consumers."

Referring to the benefits of natural gas as "an affordable, cleaner and convenient form of energy", the Utility Regulator said: "We also look forward to continued progress with the remainder of the construction phase

underway to extend the network so that natural gas will be available to many more customers in the near future as part of the Gas to the West project."

The Strabane householder making local history this week, Mr Arkinson, said the family were looking forward to enjoying the many benefits of using natural gas for their home heating and other utility requirements after making the decision to opt for mains gas.

He said: "We were in the process of setting up oil heating for our new home when we heard that natural gas would be available in Strabane, so the timing was perfect for us. We're delighted to be the first domestic consumer connected to the new gas network in the town and looking forward to the convenience it offers as well as saving on our energy bills and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which is an added bonus."

LacPatrick Dairies Ltd at Artigarvan in Strabane was the first business customer to be connected to natural gas earlier this year.



Justin Arkinson, homeowner, Mayor Councillor Maoliosa McHugh, Darren Young, Head of Business Development SGN Natural Gas, and Jason Millar.



Mayor Councillor Maoliosa McHugh and Darren Young, Head of Business Development SGN Natural Gas inspecting the newly installed boiler.



# Business as usual for Cookstown as natural gas gets green light

SGN Natural Gas has met with business representatives and local traders in Cookstown to outline plans for development works starting in the area as part of the £250m Gas to the West project.

A business information session facilitated by Mid Ulster District Council, took place in the Glenavon House Hotel ahead of the commencement of major works scheduled to get underway.

David Butler, Head of Engineering with SGN Natural Gas, reassured local traders that any disruption would be kept to a minimum during the construction of the new gas network in the Cookstown area.

Business and civic leaders also welcomed a commitment by SGN Natural Gas that no construction work would take place in the main trading centres and on arterial routes during the Christmas period, traditionally the busiest time of the year for local retailers.

Mr Butler said: "We are delighted to be progressing with the development works scheduled to begin in the Cookstown area and we are fully committed to completing these works with minimum disruption. We will continue to consult and engage with our stakeholders and the local community, businesses and residents throughout the project.

"We are looking forward to connecting our first customers in

Cookstown in the winter of 2018, with a view to rolling gas out across homes in the area in 2019."

Councillor Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, who also attended the information event, welcomed the major Gas to the West investment for the area and the benefits expected for local residents, businesses and the wider economy. She said:

"This is such a significant project and ensuring local businesses have the opportunity to hear first-hand about the work schedule, as well as to raise queries, is very important. I welcome SGN's commitment to on-going engagement and to seeing Gas to the West rolled out in Mid Ulster."

Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Coalisland – all within the Mid Ulster Council area – are four of the eight towns where SGN Natural Gas will be delivering natural gas mains, services and meters to nearly 40,000 customers over the next 40 years. The other towns included in the Gas to the West project are Strabane, Omagh, Enniskillen and Derrylin.

Gas to the West is expected to support around 200 jobs during the construction phase. The new gas infrastructure is also expected to sustain a significant number of ongoing jobs for installation sub-contractors and other related functions.



David Butler of SGN Natural Gas with Councillor Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council.

## Gas to the West contractors appointed

Under the auspices of the Gas to the West project, SGN Natural Gas has recently awarded a contract for a major element of the works to a Joint Venture consortium made up of two established and well recognised gas utility contracting companies: Murphy International Ltd and GMC Utilities Group. The consortium, which will be known as MGMC, will construct over 112km of Intermediate Pressure gas infrastructure which will connect to the new High Pressure pipeline infrastructure that, under a separate contract, is being constructed in parallel within the new SGN Natural Gas Licence area in the west of Northern Ireland. In addition to Strabane which has already been connected, the new infrastructure will bring natural gas to the towns of Coalisland, Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Omagh, Enniskillen and Derrylin. The contractor has established a base along the construction route and is now mobilising with site works in some parts of the route having already commenced.

# SGN Natural Gas new Facebook page now live!

The SGN Natural Gas Facebook page is up and running and can be found at the following link:

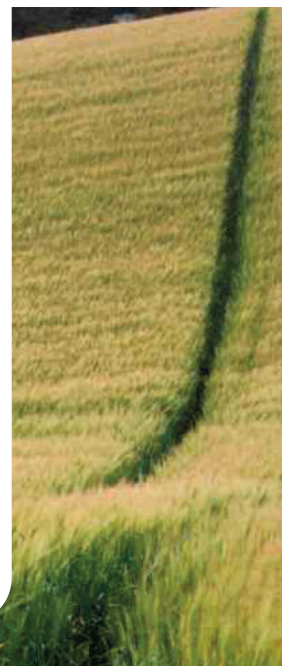
<https://www.facebook.com/SGNnaturalgas>

Keep up to date with all the latest news on Gas to the West and SGN Natural Gas activities on the official Facebook page.

To celebrate the arrival of natural gas and the first domestic connection in Strabane, we are giving away a new 'A' rated condensing gas boiler to one lucky customer.

Get regular updates on the construction of the new gas network in Coalisland, Cookstown, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh and Strabane. Learn more about the many benefits of switching to natural gas; how to stay safe near our work sites; and much, much more!

This new portal will bring you all the information you need about the availability of natural gas in your local area.



## Progress update in Strabane

To date we have laid 16.7km of Medium and Low Pressure distribution mains. Gas is now available to the first 247 houses on the North side of the Mourne River. We connected our first two domestic customers at the beginning of August. We are continuing to work to increase the number of houses that will have gas available.

Contractors for SGN Natural Gas are currently working in Strabane Town Centre on Railway Street and we are also working on the South side of the Mourne River on Bradley Way working from the Junction of Urney Road towards the Mourne River to facilitate the crossing of the Mourne River.

We are working collaboratively with Derry City and Strabane District Council on the North side and with the land owner on the South side of the Mourne River to construct a pipeline across the river. This will facilitate bringing gas to the network already constructed South of the river and making gas available to a further 1,300 properties.

Look out for the SGN Natural Gas van around Strabane and for all of the latest updates on roadworks please visit: [sgnnaturalgas.co.uk](http://sgnnaturalgas.co.uk)



SGN Natural Gas now has a new website full of information on the project including details of roadworks and traffic interruption.

[sgnnaturalgas.co.uk](http://sgnnaturalgas.co.uk)

