

Additional Development Plan: Warrenpoint Town Centre

Background:

In 2002, BGE (Northern Ireland) was awarded the licence to construct and operate two transmission pipelines in Northern Ireland. In October 2004, the 115 km NW pipeline, connecting the Scotland to Northern Ireland Pipeline, (SNIP), to Coolkeeragh Power Station, was completed.

The 156 km SN pipeline, connecting Gormanstown in Co. Meath to Ballyalbanagh in Co. Antrim was completed in October 2006. This pipeline forms a key component in the “All Island” energy market by linking the gas networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, thereby providing the opportunity for bi-directional security of supply.

On 24 March 2005 (date of grant), firmus energy was formally awarded supply and distribution licences for the development of the natural gas network across 10 Development Areas.

Warrenpoint:

firmus energy now wish to develop the gas network to Warrenpoint Town Centre as an extension to Newry. As per Condition 3.1 of the distribution licence, this Additional Development Plan seeks that the Electoral Wards of Derryleckagh, Burren and Kilbroney, Clonallen and Seaview (as outlined in the attached map) be designated as Additional Development Areas, thereby allowing firmus to develop the network in these areas.

Capital works is planned to commence in 2011, beginning with the construction of a feeder pipeline from Newry. One connection is anticipated in 2011; more connections will follow in subsequent years as the network develops further (see Annual Targets below).

Annual Targets:

The network for Warrenpoint Town Centre is expected to pass 385 properties. Forecast annual target connections are set out below.

Customer type	Connections	Conversion rate
Residential	19	4% pa
SME	17	20% pa
Large IC	1	Year 1

Owner-occupied properties:

firmus energy will endeavour to maximise residential conversions to natural gas over the licence period.

I&C properties:

The anchor load for the project is Saica Packaging, Warrenpoint. Saica Packaging have expressed an intention to switch to natural gas when available.

As Saica Packaging is located on the outskirts of Warrenpoint town which is predominately a seaside and commuter town there are no other large or medium I&Cs known in the area.