



North Tyneside Council

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North Shields Embankment Walkway 9th June 2023

Dear Resident/Business,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the ongoing works to the Embankment Walkway. Following a three-month pause, works are expected to recommence in the coming weeks.

Starting immediately, preparation for temporary propping works which will help support the existing retaining wall along Bell Street will commence until the end of July. Temporary two-way traffic lights will be in place during this stage of works.

Once in place, piling works will recommence on the embankment from late July, and are expected to be complete by December 2023. This stage of the works involves drilling into the ground and securing metal sheets down the slope, otherwise known as sheet piling, to reinforce the bank ahead of excavation and our main construction works commencing.

Bell Street will be closed to traffic from week commencing 3rd July, remaining in place until the end of September, when the sheet piling at the foot of the embankment is programmed to conclude. The remaining sheet piling work between September and December will be carried out via a crane positioned on Tyne Street, therefore Bell Street will partially re-open and revert to a single lane traffic light-controlled arrangement.

Due to the nature of these works, it is expected that there will be further noise and vibration disruption, but we anticipate this will be less intense than during our previous piling wall installation works at the top of the embankment. This is due to the driven depth required for the remaining

sheet piling being far shallower and therefore less force is required to achieve this.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of the steps we are taking to minimise disruption as much as possible:

1. Willmott Dixon monitor noise and vibration data on a daily basis during construction activities and will continue to ensure the works are carried out in line with national guidance. Vibration and noise monitoring devices are located outside Salt Market Social on Bell Street and at three points along Liddell Street.
2. Due to the open nature of the site, it is difficult to reduce the construction noise/vibration levels on site, but we have applied additional methods to reduce the impact on residents and businesses, including:
 - a. Fixing acoustic blankets (which help reduce noise from machinery) to the hoardings at the location of piling activities;
 - b. Switching to a method called pre-auguring of the sheet piles to reduce the duration of both vibrations and noise; and
 - c. Using a smaller drop hammer where possible to further reduce noise and vibrations.
3. Building surveys have been undertaken by Willmott Dixon on the condition of nearby properties before the sheet piling works began and will continue to be updated on a weekly basis.
4. As set out in the planning permission for the embankment, we will continue to operate between the hours of 8am–5pm, Monday to Friday, to reduce the impact on residents and businesses as much as possible.

The Embankment Walkway is a hugely complex project and has presented different challenges along the way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding and apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works cause going forward.

North Tyneside Council are committed to delivering these works to install a new high-quality step-free walkway, aimed at improving access where accessibility can be difficult between the town centre and vibrant Fish Quay. This will make it easier for people to travel between the two parts of town.

Following the completion of the piling phase of work in December, we anticipate the disruption caused by the construction work will substantially reduce as we excavate the slope and construct the new earth retaining structure. Prior to this phase of work commencing, we will provide further updates on the construction programme and revised timescales for completion.

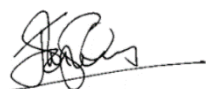
If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk, call us on (0191) 643 4830, or write to us at the address listed at the top of this letter. We endeavour to respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

We plan to contact all businesses directly affected by these works in the coming weeks. If you are a business and wish to get in touch with us before then, please use the methods above.

We produce regular e-newsletters to report on progress of the Ambition for North Shields and Fish Quay projects. If you would like to subscribe, please email AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk and put 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

For more information, please visit www.northtyneside.gov.uk and search 'North Shields Embankment Walkway' or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmbitionNS

Yours faithfully,



John Sparkes

Director of Regeneration and Economic Development

Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay

About the Embankment Walkway:

The new high-quality walkway aims to improve access where accessibility can be difficult, linking the improved town centre to the vibrant Fish Quay, making it easier for people to travel between the two parts of town.

The walkway will feature green open spaces and unique artworks – creating an attraction in its own right – with route options to suit different needs making the walkway accessible to all.

The scheme has been designed with environmental sustainability and safety at its heart, providing benefits for health and wellbeing, and vastly improving the appearance of the local landscape.

About Willmott Dixon:

Willmott Dixon is a privately-owned contracting and interior fit-out group. Founded in 1852, they are dedicated to leaving a positive legacy in communities and environment and in 2018, were one of only six companies to receive a Queen's Award for Enterprise in promoting opportunity through social mobility category.

Willmott Dixon create value for customers, stakeholders and communities by working in a sustainable and responsible way to shape the built environment and make a positive impact to society's well-being.

The scope and scale of what they do reaches all areas of society, with over 90% of the population never more than a mile from a Willmott Dixon project.

Considerate Constructors Scheme

Willmott Dixon are a founding Partner of the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), participating in the scheme since its establishment in 1997. The scheme has influenced the way they design their strategy of work, accounting for successful CCS scores on site. All Willmott Dixon sites are registered with the CCS and, as a partner working to the higher code of conduct, are committed to the highest standards of work.

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