



North Tyneside Council

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North Shields Embankment Walkway

21st December 2022

Dear Resident / Business,

I am writing to you following several complaints from local residents and businesses regarding disruption caused by the ongoing works to the Embankment Walkway.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere apologies for any inconvenience, discomfort or concern these works have caused so far. I wrote to you several months ago explaining that these works would be disruptive, which is a consequence of the complex nature of the scheme. I wanted to write to you and let you know the current position and to reassure you now the works have started.

In order to keep the slope of the embankment stable, it is necessary to reinforce the bank using sheet piling. Ideally, this should produce a lot less noise than it is at present, however, when hitting hard structures and stiff ground a more higher level of drilling is required, producing higher levels of noise and vibration.

Our construction partner, Willmott Dixon, are closely monitoring the noise, vibration levels and movement points on a continuous basis during operational periods. Given the disruptive nature of the works, a Council team are regularly visiting site to check on progress of the works, ensuring they remain within thresholds.

I would like to reassure you that these monitoring processes are in place to ensure no damage or significant disruption is caused to nearby properties, but I understand that this may be a concern to homeowners living or working close to the works. If you have any concerns regarding the works, please contact us on the address above and we shall be happy to discuss these with you and to help look at options to mitigate the impact.

As set out in the planning permission for the embankment, we will continue to only operate between the hours of 8am-5pm, Monday to Friday, limiting works to daylight hours on working days to reduce the impact on residents as much as possible. The sheet piling works are expected to stop for the Christmas period on 22nd December 2022 and will start again on 9th January 2023.

It is hoped the sheet piling installation at the top of the bank will be complete by 20th January 2023, with works moving further down the bank. This means residents and businesses on Tyne Street and surrounding streets at the top of the bank should experience much lower levels of noise and vibrations than they have so far in the project. However, this does unfortunately mean that properties on Liddell Street and Bell Street will experience an increase in noise and vibration from the works.

Additional sound blankets have been installed along the hoarding line to minimise noise as much as possible going forward.

I would like to reiterate that this is the most disruptive period of the works to the new and improved Embankment Walkway. Completion of the sheet piling stage is expected to be late March 2023. I would like to thank you for your continued patience while we undertake these disruptive works and will keep you updated on progress.

We produce regular e-newsletters to report on our progress. If you would like to subscribe, please email AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk and put 'Subscribe' in the subject line – and if you have any queries during the project, please contact us using the methods listed at the top of this letter.

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 North Shields Embankment Walkway:

Commencing in September 2022, the new high-quality walkway is aimed at improving access where accessibility can be difficult between the improved town centre and vibrant Fish Quay, making it easier for people to travel between the two parts of town.

The walkway will feature green open spaces and there will be route options to suit different needs, including step-free routes and steps with handrails, as well as a direct route from top to bottom via steps.

The scheme is being designed with environmental sustainability and safety at its heart and it will become an attraction in its own right and provide benefits for health and wellbeing. It will feature provision for artwork to be displayed and potential commercial opportunities, attracting more people to the area and vastly improve the appearance of the local landscape.

Works are expected to reach completion in Spring 2024.

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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