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## **North Shields Embankment Walkway**

**21st March 2023**

Dear Resident/Business,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the ongoing works to the Embankment Walkway.

As I'm sure you are aware, the piling works have been on pause for several weeks now. The team recently discovered several challenging areas underground which will need a different approach to pile through.

The Embankment Walkway is a hugely complex project and has presented different challenges along the way. Although we did as much investigative work as possible, there was always a chance that this stage of works could expose some unique issues that we would need to overcome.

This means a different method of piling is required to clear the obstructions, which will involve the construction of a rig on the embankment from which driven piles will be installed. We are working with our construction partner Willmott Dixon to ensure the works recommence as soon as possible, but due to a shortage in specialised machinery available to us, it may be months until piling works can recommence. We will provide a further update once a recommencement date for the piling is confirmed and keep you updated if there are any other significant changes to the works in the meantime.

At this time, we are able to remove the access restrictions in place on Brewhouse Bank, this will be done by the 24 March. Unfortunately, the Bell Street road closure will need to remain in place to allow for further site investigation works and mobilisation of piling equipment in advance of works starting.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are committed to delivering these works to install a new high-quality 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. Due to the complex nature of this project, completion of the Embankment Walkway is now expected to be Autumn 2024.

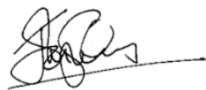
I appreciate that this update might be disappointing, and I apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by this unexpected delay to our programme of works. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk), call us 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](mailto:AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk) and put 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Sparkes', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**John Sparkes**

Director of Regeneration and Economic Development