

Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay

ISSUE 16

March 2023



North Tyneside Council

Hello and welcome to our latest edition of the [Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay](#) newsletter.

This is a monthly newsletter to keep you up to date with the latest progress on our ambitious masterplan regeneration projects in North Shields town centre and riverside.

In this issue you'll find:

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Our ambition for North Shields aims to create a smaller, more vibrant town centre with more flexible retail opportunities, expanding the evening and weekend economy and improving the quality of public space in the town centre. For more information visit:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1415/ambition-north-shields>

Transport Hub update



Work is progressing well on the new Transport Hub with all external form work now complete. Work on the new Town Square, outside the Transport Hub, began this week.

A road closure is now in place on Rudyerd Street, commencing Tuesday 21 March for up to three weeks.



North Shields' Transport Hub has taken centre stage as part of a national event to inspire young people and career changers to consider a career in the construction industry.

Contractors Willmott Dixon opened up its construction site to the public, schools and colleges to go 'behind the scenes' during Open Doors Week 2023 – delivered by Build UK. Open Doors offers a unique chance for the public to go behind the site hoardings of live construction sites, offices, factories, and training centres across the UK, and discover how the communities they live in are shaped and constructed by a fantastic industry with a diverse range of career paths to offer.

Guided by project build managers, students from Tyne Metropolitan College learned about the huge variety of professionals that contribute to the construction of a new building, demonstrating the kinds of careers available in the industry.

Open Doors seeks to inspire young people and career changers to consider and explore a dynamic and exciting career in the construction industry.

Embankment Walkway update

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.

We 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.

Residents and businesses will receive a letter over with further information over the coming days, and our team will be in contact with all businesses directly affected by these works in the coming weeks.

11-12 Northumberland Square



Works are set to begin to revive two more Grade II listed Georgian townhouses in North Shields.

Following the successful redevelopment of former offices at 13-16 Northumberland Square into 28 homes, two more properties on the street will undergo a similar revival.

Numbers 11 and 12 Northumberland Square will be transformed into five apartments and one townhouse, completing the restoration of the historic Georgian square in the town centre.

It's all part of North Tyneside Council's ambitious regeneration plans for North Shields and the Fish Quay, aimed at transforming the town centre and riverside into an environment where people choose to live, work and spend their leisure time.

The construction work will be complete within 12 months and will be delivered on behalf of the Council by Compass Development Ltd, who successfully restored the neighbouring building at 13-16 Northumberland Square.

The restoration work will be carried out in a sympathetic manner to the character of the listed building and enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

[Read more here.](#)



The first phase of our ambitious restoration works to North Shields town centre were celebrated last night after being highly commended at a prestigious engineering awards ceremony.

The public realm works to Northumberland Square and Howard Street were highly commended in the Medium Project category for the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) North East Robert Stephenson Awards.

Completed in September 2022, the project was sympathetic to its heritage and roots, taking the square back to its original Georgian layout of footpaths and a perimeter of trees, enhancing the biodiversity of the park by introducing thousands of new plants.

Supported and co-founded by Historic England, it creates a new Cultural Quarter for North Shields, incorporating Northumberland Square, Howard Street and the surrounding area to support sustainable economic and cultural growth to restore and enhance local historic character.

Since reopening, the area has hosted exciting events such as the multicultural North Tyneside Together celebration and the North Shields Christmas Markets.

The scheme was developed in partnership with Capita.

[Read more here.](#)

Gateway 3: Emergency Northern Gas Networks works

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) is dealing with emergency gas leak repairs on the A187 Howdon Road/Prudhoe Street roundabout in North Shields.

Temporary traffic signals are in place on all junctions of the roundabout. Delays expected, please allow extra time for your journeys. Pedestrian crossings are open as normal.

Due to the nature of these works, we do not have an estimated completion date at this time, but we will keep you updated on our social media channels on any progress.

Nexus' Ferry investigation works

Nexus, the public body that owns the cross-Tyne Shields Ferry service, is planning to build a new landing point on the Fish Quay. This will bring the iconic ferry to the heart of the Fish Quay regeneration area with easy links to the town centre via the new Riverside Embankment Walkway and offer better access to leisure destinations on both sides of the river.

Nexus has brought in expert contractor Fugro to carry out a geological survey from a barge, which will be moored against the Western Quay where the new landing will be. Drilling will allow us to test ground conditions below the river at the point where we intend to site piles to support the landing.

Work started on 13 March and is set to be complete by 17 April, subject to weather conditions. Working hours will be from 7am up to 9pm Monday to Saturday, except Bank Holidays.

Noise from the machinery is unavoidable but most of the work will be undertaken on the barge itself at the waterline and not on the Quay edge. Fugro will also be fitting sound hoardings on the barge, which is 19 metres long. The forecast noise levels have been reviewed against national guidance and best practice. Monitors will be fitted at the edge of the site and checked daily to see actual noise does not become excessive.

If you have any questions, please contact Nexus at customerrelations@nexus.org.uk or by calling 0191 2020 747.

Unicorn House update



Work is still progressing to bring forward the 28-home scheme at the former Unicorn House site. Aurora Properties, who will be developing the site, are currently working hard to secure a contractor for the scheme and are forecasting that work will begin later in the summer.

Public Art upcoming workshops

Helix Arts are delivering an exciting programme of workshops inviting local people to co-design two public artworks in North Shields town centre.

The commissions are part of the Council's ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay which will see a total of five new public artworks created. Local artists are working with residents in schools and community spaces this spring, exploring what people think is important in North Shields' past, present and future.

Sat 25 March, 10am–2pm: Royal Quays Shopping Centre Market

Wed 5 and Thu 6 April, 11am–3pm: The Beacon Shopping Centre

Heritage Action Zone update

Our latest HAZ newsletter is now available! Check it out online or pick up a printed copy from North Shields Customer First Centre.

[Read it here.](#)

Further information

Parking

Parking is not affected around the Fish Quay, and is accessible via Tanners Bank and Brewhouse Bank.

Buses

From Thursday 23 March there will be some changes to the bus stops used in North Shields town centre. The current stops on Railway Terrace (STG 10/11 and GNE 310) and Nile Street (GNE 19) will be temporarily suspended to allow construction work to take place on the new Transport Hub. Customers for these services should instead use the bus stops on Bedfords Street for services 10/11 and 310, or West Percy Street for service 19.

From Sunday 26 March there will be some route and timetable changes taking place throughout North Tyneside and Newcastle. In North Shields the number 19 service will be taken over by Central Taxis following Nexus contract changes. The Go North East service 310 will be renumbered 307 and will have a new route and timetable.

Further details about changes to services in North Shields are available on the [Go North East website](#) and [Arriva](#).

Check out our Digital Story Map

We've created a digital story map showing all the exciting developments either already underway or still in the design stage for North Shields and the Fish Quay.

The map is a really handy interactive tool that plots each project included in the Ambition for North Shields Masterplan with a brief summary of what to expect.

You can view the [story map here](#).

Follow us for more updates!

We are working hard to minimise disruption where possible and we would like to thank you for your continued patience. We will keep you updated throughout the duration of the project.

Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for more updates as works progress.

If you wish to unsubscribe or have any queries, please email AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk or call (0191) 643 4830.