

Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay



North Tyneside Council

ISSUE 2

November 2021

Hello and welcome to your [Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay](#) update!

This is a regular e-newsletter keeping you up to date with the latest progress as part of North Tyneside Council's ambitious Masterplan to transform the town centre and riverside through a series of bold regeneration projects.

The aim is to improve the area so that it provides the right environment to support businesses, leisure users and retail.

The Masterplan features eight separate ambitious projects, including:

1. Highways improvements at key gateways to the town: East Tynemouth Road and the Law Courts; South East Fish Quay/Brew House Bank; West Howdon Road/Coach Lane/Saville Street
2. [Transport Hub and new Town Square](#)
3. Public realm improvements at Bedford St and Saville St
4. [Northumberland Square redevelopment](#)
5. [Howard Street Cultural Quarter](#)
6. [Riverside Embankment Walkway](#)
7. Allocated housing sites: Tyne Brand mixed use site; [Unicorn House residential](#)
8. Relocation of the Shields ferry landing

Find out more at www.northtyneside.gov.uk and search 'Ambition for North Shields' or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmbitionNS

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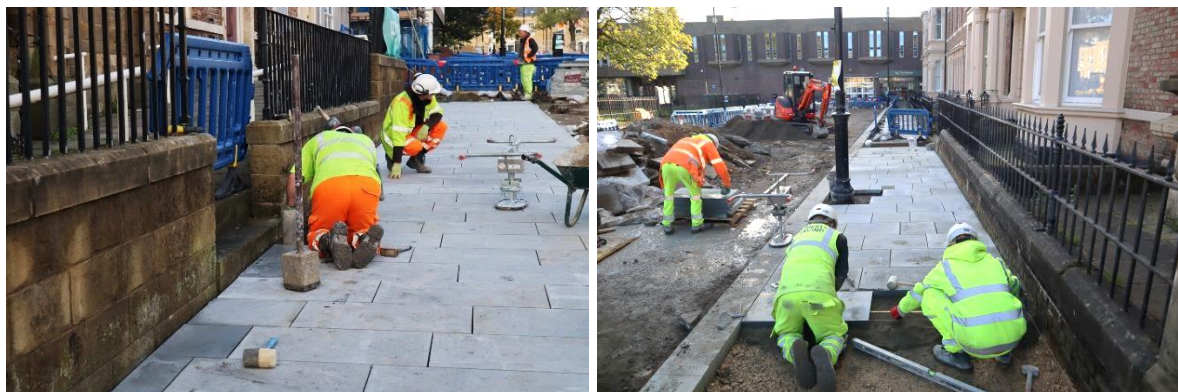
Northumberland Square redevelopment starting to take shape

The redevelopment of Northumberland Square and Howard Street is making excellent progress.

The project, which is being delivered in partnership with Capita, will see the redevelopment of the historic Square, sympathetic to its heritage and roots, recreating its Georgian-era appearance.

Supported and co-funded by Historic England and The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Getting Building fund, the work will take the Square back to its original layout of footpaths and a perimeter of trees.

Traditional-style paving is being laid along Howard Street and cobbled-style paths will be created. New contemporary lighting and up-lighting will be installed throughout the Square.



Above: The installation of new surfacing along Howard Street and Northumberland Square.

The scheme will be the first step towards creating a new Cultural Quarter for North Shields, incorporating the Square and the top end of Howard Street (north of the Saville Street junction to the Square), offering a new, pedestrian and cyclist-friendly environment and cultural scene.



Above: How Howard Street (left) Northumberland Square (right) could look.

[Read more](#)

Northumberland Square redevelopment – latest updates at a glance

Howard Street:

- From w/c 22 November minor enabling works will be carried out on the (eastern) side of Howard Street to allow sufficient space to keep the southbound lane open.
- This will result in some minor alterations to the parking bays, which will mean the bays moving slightly closer to the row of properties. The changes will be marked out using cones.
- Pedestrians will still be able to use footpaths on both sides of the road but are asked to pay careful attention to any on-site signage and all properties along Howard Street will be accessible.
- Works will continue from the newly-laid footpath on the western side to the centre of the existing road.

Northumberland Square:

- Works will soon be taking place between Upper Camden Street and Church Way on Northumberland Place.
- The on-street parking bays along this section of Northumberland Place will be suspended while the works are carried out.
- Pedestrian diversions will continue to be in place along Northumberland Place in the same format as the current system, and pedestrian access will be maintained to all properties.
- Vehicles will not be able to park in front of the buildings along the section where work is being carried out.

- Access will be maintained to the side road between Hindle Campbell Law Solicitors and the YMCA.
- Please continue to pay careful attention to on-site signage in the area while works are underway and traffic continues to be managed with a combination of temporary signals and lane restrictions.

Further information:

- Parking is available in the free Norfolk Street car park (limited to 2 hours), the Beacon Centre multi-storey car park and on-street parking elsewhere around the town centre.
- Bus diversions are in place and two bus stops, on Northumberland Square and Northumberland Place, are closed.
- Buses are instead serving the existing stop on Albion Road and a new permanent stop on Stephenson Street.
- Further details about changes to services in North Shields are available on the [Go North East website](#) and [Arriva](#).
- The park area of Northumberland Square is now open between approx. 7.30am and 4pm on weekdays until after the Christmas holidays to ensure winter events, including the Victorian Christmas Market, are unaffected. It will be closed again after Christmas while further work is carried out.
- The North Shields Customer First Centre will continue to remain open as normal, although the entrance may be partially restricted at times.

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.

Help us shape transport hub and walkway proposals

We are preparing to submit plans for a new transport hub with town square and walkway to the Fish Quay and we would like you to help us shape them as they evolve.



Dozens came along to our drop-in session at the YMCA in North Shields on 11 November to find out more and leave their views on the proposals – it was a pleasure to see so many of you there!

If you haven't already had your say we still want to hear what you like about the plans, whether there are any improvements we could make and if there's anything you think we've missed.

There's information about the [transport hub and town square proposals here](#) and the [embankment walkway designs here](#). You can email your views to regenconsult@northtyneside.gov.uk



Above: Artist's impressions showing how the transport hub and embankment walkway could look.

Experience a virtual walkthrough tour of the transport hub and town square on [YouTube channel here](#) and the [embankment walkway here](#).

Eye-catching new artwork

You may have seen the eye-catching new artwork that's gone up around the town with information about our Masterplan for North Shields.



The wooden hoardings around the site of the former Unicorn House building now displays visualisations of what the future holds as well as a map showing what's happening and where as part of our ambitious plans for the town (pictured above, left).

Similar artwork has also been placed on the hoardings around the former Co-op site where the proposed new transport hub and town square will be built (pictured above, right).



With the former Unicorn House site now cleared and ready for redevelopment, the next step is to bring a construction partner onboard in early 2022.

Work on building the new homes could start in Spring and take around 12 months to complete, with the project set to be delivered in two phases.

Above: A visualisation of the housing development on the former Unicorn House site in Suez Street.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas lights

Festive lights have been switched on in Northumberland Square, the town centre and the Fish Quay.



The theme for this year's displays is 'classic elegance', with a focus on white, white gold and gold modern LED lights, providing a beautiful winter shimmer to some of our best loved places (pictured left, courtesy of David Hirst).

Reindeer visit

A family of real reindeer will be paying a special visit to Bedford Street between 9.30am and 3.30pm this Saturday (20 November). Children will be able to feed the animals and even get their photo taken.

Christmas market

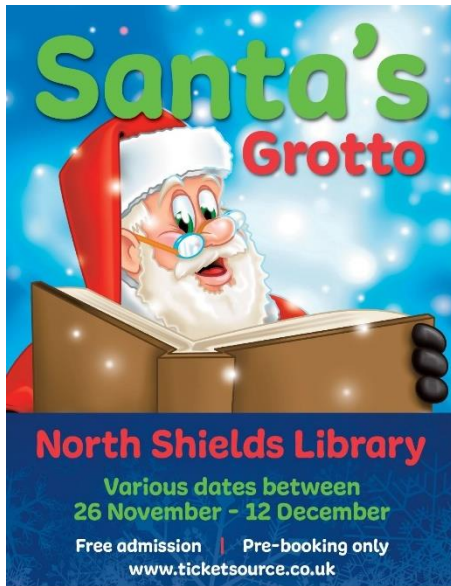
The popular annual Christmas market will return to Northumberland Square on 11-12 December.

There will be around 90 stalls selling a range of seasonal gifts, crafts and food between 10am and 5pm on the Saturday and 10am to 4pm on the Sunday.

Visitors can expect to see festive entertainment on the bandstand, a selection of hot food and drink, small fairground rides for children, activities in the library and more.

The event is organised by North Tyneside Council and supported by the Beacon Centre and Chamber of Trade.

Santa's Grotto at North Shields Library



Santa Claus will be hosting a special grotto in North Shields Library on selected dates between 26 November and 12 December.

Admission is free but places are limited and must be pre-booked at <https://bit.ly/3DualSV>

Places will be available to book from 9am on Sunday 21 November.

Protection jetty repairs underway

Work to replace the Protection Jetty and South East Splay at North Shields Fish Quay is underway.

The North Shields Fish Quay Company is delivering the project in partnership with The Port of Tyne Authority. The construction work is being undertaken by Southbay Civil Engineering.



The Protection Jetty is in a significant state of disrepair and large parts of it have now been condemned. The replacement is therefore vital to ensure that North Shields is able to continue to operate as the premier Langoustine port in England and Wales, and to preserve its status as the last surviving daily fish auction on the English North Sea.

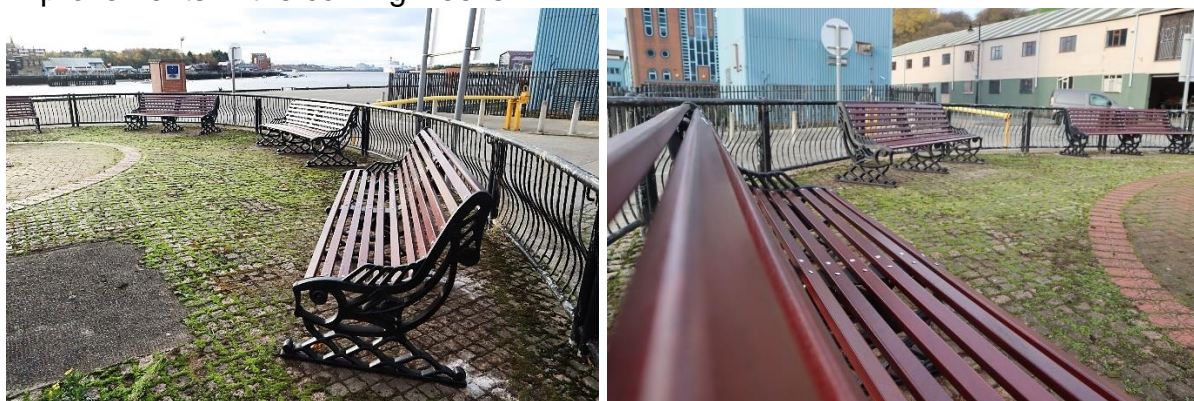
The works are expected to take around 36 weeks to complete. Please be aware that Western Quay car park on Bell Street is currently unavailable for use by the public for around six months. On-street parking provision is still available on the street in front of the car park.

Makeover for Fish Quay benches

A popular riverside seating spot has been given a welcome makeover.

The set of benches overlooking the River Tyne at Western Quay on the Fish Quay have been painted and freshened up and look as good as new once again (pictured below). The hardwood lathes have also been replaced due to the original ends splitting.

A number of other benches along the same stretch are also due to undergo similar improvements in the coming weeks.



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