

Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay



North Tyneside Council

ISSUE 4

January 2022

Hello and Happy New Year! Welcome to your first [Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay](#) update of 2022...and what an exciting year it promises to be for the town with lots of exciting developments already underway or about to begin!

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 latest

Following the Christmas break, work is now focused on the park area of the Square.

The work will see the original historical layout of the park, which featured a perimeter of trees rather than within the centre of the park, restored, as well as the network of footpaths simplified.

Traditional sandstone paving and cobbled-style paths, new contemporary lighting and up lighting will be installed throughout.

Work currently underway in the park area involves strengthening railings around the perimeter and removing the existing footpaths to make way for the new paths.

The park area will remain closed until the work is complete.



Meanwhile, the work to reshape the footpaths and install smart, new surfacing between Church Way and Bedford Street and along Northumberland Place is now complete. In addition, the work to upgrade and reshape the surfacing along Howard Street and in Upper Camden Street continues to make excellent progress.



Above: (Top left) Upper Camden Street; (Top right) Between Church Way and Bedford Street; (Bottom left) Northumberland Place; (Bottom right) Howard Street.

The Northumberland Square redevelopment project is 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:

- Excavation works have now moved along the carriageway to the end of Norfolk Street
- There is no impact on traffic movements but pedestrian diversions have been moved to the other side of the road – as shown by the image below.



- The footpaths around Howard Street remain open

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 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.

Digital story map now live!

We've created a new 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.

Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay

Transforming the town centre and riverside into an environment where people choose to live, work and spend their leisure time



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

Transport hub and walkway plans

There's still time to view and comment on ambitious plans for a new transport hub and embankment walkway.



Plans were submitted last month (December) for the exciting schemes. The proposed transport hub will provide a modern and convenient, high-quality facility bringing all bus services in the town together and closer to Metro, taxis and links to cycling infrastructure – making it easier for people to choose cleaner, greener forms of travel. The proposals also

include local amenities such as public toilets and a Changing Places facility.

The plans also include a new open town square for events and leisure activities with new planting, creating a much-needed green space in the heart of the town centre and increasing biodiversity in an urban environment.

The proposed walkway will represent a vast improvement on the current stepped route with much-improved accessibility and will create a safer link between the improved town centre and vibrant Fish Quay.



It will feature green open spaces and different 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.

Visit the [North Tyneside planning applications webpages](#) to view the plans in further detail (search reference 21/02518/FUL for the transport hub and reference 21/02406/FUL for the embankment walkway). You can read more on the [North Tyneside Council website](#) and search 'North Shields Transport Hub' and 'Embankment Walkway'.

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

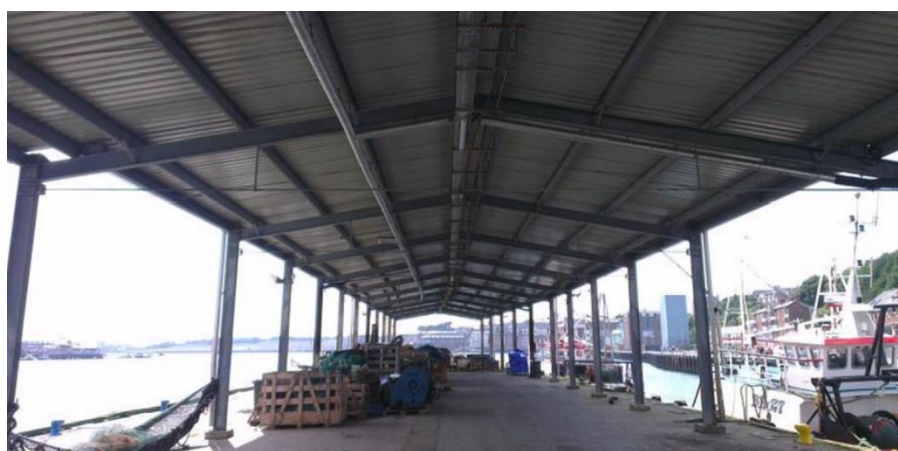
Experience a virtual walkthrough tour of the transport hub and town square on [YouTube channel here](#) and the [embankment walkway here](#).

Protection jetty latest

Works on the Protection Jetty replacement were paused for two weeks over the Christmas break before resuming on 10 January.

A number of metal pilings have now been put in place, with many more to come, in order to carry out the strengthening and repair work. The contractor, Southbay Civil Engineering, will continue their piling work and removal of the canopy, prior to laying the first part of the new slab.

The North Shields Fish Quay Company is delivering the project in partnership with The Port of Tyne Authority. 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.



North Shields High Street HAZ update

The third edition of our North Shields High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) newsletter will be out soon and will feature:

- A look back at the history of trams in North Shields
- An update on 3rd Party Grant Schemes
- What's happening at the Exchange
- Curtilage Scheme
- An update on Public Realm Schemes
- What's coming up in 2022
- An update from our Culture Consortium including the 'Make it Happen Takeover' event aimed at 13-21 year olds to help plan and run an epic creative event, inspired by North Shields's heritage. It takes place at the Exchange, 21 January, 4.30pm.

The newsletter will be delivered to all properties in the HAZ area but you will also be able view it on [our website](#) (search 'North Shields HAZ') or email AmbitionNS@northtyneside.gov.uk if you would like a copy sent to you.

Meet the artists

A 'Meet the Artists' event is taking place at the Old Low Light Heritage Centre, North Shields, on Saturday 5 February. Drop in for tea, coffee and cake from 12pm - 3pm.

It is being hosted by Rosie Morris and Harriet Sutcliffe, two artists working with English Heritage on an exciting new art project responding to Tynemouth Priory and Castle.

They are interested to talk to people about their stories and histories of Tynemouth as well as gardening, art, architecture, and to share with you their initial ideas for working with the site. They will also have a family friendly activity to design and make your own heraldic flag (suitable for all).

Attendance is free and places can be booked via [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

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