

# Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay



North Tyneside Council

## ISSUE 8 June 2022

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.

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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
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

### Northumberland Square update



Works are progressing to finish the paving of the main paths leading into the Square and applying resin layers to the wavy style paths around perimeter. The original fencing is being cleaned, painted and reinstated and the central planters are being filled with soil ahead of landscaping works commencing. Once complete, the Square will boast 4,000 different types of plants creating a biodiversity haven for bees and other wildlife.

Footpath works are ongoing on the northern side of the Square and are expected to be complete in week commencing 11 July 2022.

### Howard Street update



Paving near the Library is now complete, but the area remains fenced off to allow Northern Power Grid to carry out some essential works.

The tree pit borders have now been installed down the eastern side of Howard Street and seats are now being fitted.

Footpath works are now progressing in front of St Columba's Church, to tie in with the main stretch of Howard Street's paving. Access to the church will be maintained at all times.

Final footpath works at the bottom of Howard Street have commenced now that scaffolding for the Saville Exchange has been removed. Access to businesses and properties will be maintained at all times. A minor pedestrian diversion may be in place during these footpath works.

## West Percy Street update



Footpath works are progressing on the Northern side with the southern side now complete.

## Transport Hub update



Demolition of the old Co-op building is almost complete, with the remaining sections of building to be removed once utility works are carried out on site. Once full demolition is done, foundation works for the new Transport Hub will begin.



## Tanners Bank businesses open as usual



Businesses on Tanners Bank Road are open as usual despite the closure of the through road under Tanners Bank Bridge.

Nexus are set to replace the 160-year-old bridge due to increasing levels of maintenance and repair, and plan to create more space underneath the bridge for better bus links and road freight to the Fish Quay, encouraging more sustainable travel and reducing journey times as well as improving the local economy.

The through-road that links Tynemouth Road to the Fish Quay will be closed from 20 June for a total of eight weeks. Businesses are accessible to road users and pedestrians via Union Road.

Hospitality businesses still operating during this time include:

**The Wheel House:** Fancy a coffee by the coast? Grab a takeaway latte or cappuccino and sweet treat from the Wheel House and take in the beautiful sea views from the Fish Quay.

**Opening hours:**

Wed – Sun 8am to 2pm

**The Engine Room:** Fully licensed underground arts and music venue. Upcoming gigs include vintage Ska Reggae act The Baytones on Friday 24 June and MiXiTuP DJ's Soul night on Friday 8 July.

**Opening hours:**

Mon – Fri 4pm to 11pm

Sat / Sun 2pm to 11pm

**Three Tanners Bank:** Independent artist studio, bar, and café with covered and open-air outdoor seating. Head along this Thursday for an intimate gig with folk and roots act from Foskett and Friends from 7pm.

**Opening hours:**

Wed – Fri 3pm to 11pm

Sat / Sun 11am to 11pm

A 14-day line closure to Metros between St James and Tynemouth from 16 to 29 July is planned to allow Nexus to carry out additional track and overhead line renewal projects and vegetation clearance work along the North Tyneside route in addition to replacing Tanners Bank Bridge.

### High Street Heritage Action Zone update



Members of the public and visitors from Meadow Well Connected donned hard hats to find out more about the history and revitalisation of Northumberland Square and Howard Street.

The works form part of the North Shields High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), a 4-year, heritage-led, regeneration programme that is being delivered by North Tyneside Council, with co-funding and support from Historic England.

The Square is undergoing a programme of works sympathetic to its Georgian heritage, as a relatively rare local example of a nineteenth century garden square. Originally laid out as a private, formal garden for those living in the surrounding housing, it featured a perimeter of trees with an internal network of curved footpaths, as shown on Rook's 1827 Plan of North Shields and Tynemouth. It has been subject to much change and redesign over the years, with the current works taking it back closer to its original historical layout, including traditional sandstone paving, cobbled-style paths, with new contemporary lighting and up lighting throughout. The revamp will create a more open, green and tranquil space for everyone to enjoy, whilst also providing a better environment to host community events, such as the well-attended Victorian Christmas Market.

**Caring for old building's workshop**

The next HSHAZ workshop will take place on Tuesday 19 July from 6.30-8.30pm at The Exchange and will look at how to care for old or historic properties. It's the

perfect opportunity for owners or managers of traditional or historic buildings to explore approaches on how to better maintain, repair or adapt historic properties.

[Register your attendance here.](#)

### **Tynemouth Road / Stevenson Street investigation works**

We're improving pedestrian and cycling provision at key gateways into the town centre, encouraging more active travel and making North Tyneside a cleaner, greener Borough as part of our plans to work towards being carbon net zero by 2030.

As part of these plans, we're undertaking site investigations to assess the ground conditions and determine the precise location of underground cables along Tynemouth Road and Stevenson Street starting on 22 June.

Four holes will be dug, including two trial holes in the verge/footpath outside North Tyneside Magistrates' Court; one near the Tynemouth Road junction with Linskill Terrace; and one will be in the footpath just outside Kinder Castle Nursery further along Tynemouth Road.

The works are expected to take around three days and will have minimal impact on the highway, although safety fencing will be placed around the working area.

We would like to thank you for your patience and apologise for any inconvenience caused by the works. The working areas will be closely monitored, and working methods adjusted accordingly, to minimise disruption to the public and businesses.

### **Further information**

#### **Parking**

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.

#### **Buses**

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](#).

### **Customer First Centre**

The North Shields Customer First Centre will continue to remain open as normal, although the entrance may be partially restricted at times.

### **North Shields businesses**

All businesses around Northumberland Square and on Howard Street remain open as usual.

### **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.

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