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Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay

January 2024

Hello and welcome to our latest edition of the Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay newsletter.

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

In this edition you'll find the latest updates on:

1. Albion Road / Stephenson Street Gateway
2. Town Centre Footfall
3. Bedford Street
4. Riverside Embankment Walkway
5. Monkey's Fist Knot Sculptures
6. Cultural Quarter Launch Event

Our ambition for North Shields aims to create a 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.

[Find out more](#)

Albion Road/ Stephenson Street Gateway

Gateway 1 – A193 Albion Road / Stephenson Street junction



Approx working areas



Closed area



Pedestrian / cyclist diversion

Work is about to begin on one of the improved gateways to North Shields, at the A193 Albion Road / Stephenson Street junction.

The council's construction partner Capita will deliver the works, which involve adding new traffic signals and upgrading pedestrian and cycle facilities to make it easier to get into North Shields town centre.

Works are expected to start from week commencing Monday January 15 and last until summer 2024.

The works will begin in three areas (pictured in red):

- Footpath outside the Masonic Hall on the A193 Albion Road – the team will remove the bollards and widen the footpath.
- Area outside North Tyneside Magistrates' Court at the Stephenson Street / A193 Albion Road junction – the footpath will be upgraded to accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians, with improved crossing points.

- Footpath outside Kiki's Cabin on the A193 Albion Road – upgrading paving and removal of the pathway through the car parking area.

To ensure the safety of site staff and the public, there will be narrow traffic lanes, minor footpath closures and temporary traffic signals in operation at the A193 Albion Road/Stephenson Street junction. The construction team will make every effort to keep the use of these to a minimum but we advise making extra time for your journeys as there may be delays. The bus stop outside Kiki's Cabin will also be removed during the works. Please visit www.nexus.org.uk for more information on temporary arrangements.

Town Centre Footfall



There's some good news in terms of the number of people coming into North Shields Town Centre.

The data we gather on town centre footfall across the Borough shows an increase for North Shields over the course of last year.

With the new Transport Hub and Town Square complete, the total figures for 2023 show a promising increase of 5.45% over the previous year, signalling community growth.

Bedford Street



Thanks very much to everyone who spoke to us as we engaged with businesses on Bedford Street before Christmas about their access and delivery needs. We'll be having further conversations with businesses and sharing more detailed plans in the coming weeks, ahead of the improvement works starting.

The scheme will bring Bedford Street up to the same high-quality standards as the Town Square, Howard Street and Northumberland Square, with new seating, tree planting and pedestrianisation.

We'll be ready to share much more detail including timescales in our February newsletter, so do look out for that.

Riverside Embankment Walkway



The final phase of piling work is now taking place and we expect that to finish within the next three weeks, depending on the weather conditions.

We accept that there has been a lot of noise and vibration in this final phase and apologise to those residents affected. This noisy phase is due to finish soon and then we will start to see the walkway take shape as construction work begins.

The walkway will link the revitalised town centre to the vibrant Fish Quay and become a community asset and visitor attraction once complete. We thank everyone for their patience as we work with our construction partners Willmott Dixon to complete the scheme.

The road along Bell Street/ Liddell Street reopened for two weeks over Christmas while the work was paused for the festive period and the crane could be moved. The crane is now back in place until the end of piling works in early February. In our February newsletter we'll bring you an update on when the road can reopen more permanently, which we expect will happen very soon.

In the meantime, the Fish Quay remains open to traffic from Tanners Bank and Brewhouse Bank, with ample free parking in the Low Lights / Fish Quay Sands car park. The Fish Quay is very much open for business.

Monkey's Fist Knot Sculptures



If you haven't seen them yet, here are the newest additions to the Town Square. By local artist Colin Davies, they are two sculpted monkey's fist knots that honour North Shields' fishing heritage. The knots were used to either tether to the safety of the shore or were passed between boats to connect and share supplies. One is made from white Carrara marble and the other from Kilkenny black fossil granite, carved by a 5-axis CNC machine by Stone Circle. They are 40cm across and sit on concrete plinths. Like the other new art installations within the Transport Hub, they are paid for by the Government's Transforming Cities Fund.

North Shields Cultural Quarter Launch



The official launch event for North Shields Cultural Quarter takes place on Wednesday January 31st at [The Exchange 1856](#).

It will be a celebration of creativity and culture in North Shields and North Tyneside and a chance to get everyone together.

There will also be:

- An introduction to our plans to develop and support creativity and culture in the area.
- Two special performances, created in North Shields.
- Presentations from people sharing their experience of working creatively in North Shields and North Tyneside.

Registration 4pm, performance starts 4.30pm, finish 6pm. You must RSVP via Eventbrite using this link.

A new [North Shields Cultural Quarter website](#) is also coming soon.

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



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Council**

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