

Stockton Northern Gateway Townscape Heritage Project

Issue 1
March 2021

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Stockton Northern Gateway Townscape Heritage project.



"The Stockton Northern Gateway Townscape Heritage Project is a five-year scheme, which has secured £1.88million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to improve the historic environment at the northern end of Stockton town centre. It's joint funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as part of our commitment to reshape our town centres for the future. We'll keep residents and businesses informed on this project's journey and welcome any opportunities for you to get involved."

Councillor Nigel Cooke, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The Townscape Heritage Project area covers Stockton High Street from Regent Street and Bishop Street, including Norton Road. The northern boundary of the area is Tennant Street and Queen Street. This important project in Stockton town centre's regeneration includes improvements to the public realm, grants for historic buildings and a heritage-focused activity programme.



Artist's impression of Tennant Square



Artist's impression of Tennant Square

Tennant Square and Footpaths

Our first area of improvement is the public realm, the area around Tennant Square and the footpaths along Norton Road.

The redevelopment will give Tennant Square an open appearance by removing the boundary walls and current planting, introducing paving and soft landscape to provide an attractive, safe space. This will incorporate part of Tennant Street, increasing the size of the square and include parking bays along Thomas Street. Works are expected to start before summer 2021 and we will be engaging with all stakeholders impacted by the works.



Norton Road approximately 100 years ago, showing the range of businesses. The terraces in the left were known as Central Buildings. H&M Ernest was opened in the early 1990s, selling baby linen. It described itself as 'a most important emporium, so far as babies are concerned.' You can find more historic photos of Stockton at: picturestocktonarchive.com

Townscape Heritage Projects

Building Grants

Grants of up to 73.5 per cent of costs are available to improve the structure and external appearance of buildings. Projects will use materials and methods in keeping with the building's historic construction to preserve and enhance the conservation area. Eligible works include shopfronts, signage, windows and rainwater goods. All priority owners have been contacted regarding grants but you can contact the Townscape Heritage team at stockton.gov.uk/townscapeheritage for more information.

Heritage Activity Programme

Over the course of the Townscape Heritage project there will be a range of heritage based activities run by the team, these will create a variety of opportunities to get involved. Although activities to date have been limited due to the pandemic, last year we worked with a small group of volunteers to do building condition surveys. The next activities will be focused around an archaeological excavation in Tennant Square.

Volunteer opportunities and events will be advertised on stockton.gov.uk/townscapeheritage

Other Updates

Business Grants

Did you know there are grants available from the council to help bring vacant premises back into use? The retail grant scheme can offer a tenant who is taking a lease on a vacant property, a grant of up to £5,000 to help with costs associated with fit out, works to the frontage and signage. There are also grants of up to £500 for existing businesses to improve signage or works to the front of your unit.

For more information, please contact Marc Bould **01642 526075**, or email marc.bould@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton Globe

The £28million restoration of Stockton Globe is due to finish in April this year.

Stockton Globe will be a 3,000 capacity venue, incorporating 153 High Street as the café bar and box office, with its own dedicated small performance space. With internationally renowned theatre operators ATG set to operate the venue, there'll be a world-class event's programme focussing on music and comedy. The project was supported by a £5.2million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and has engaged the local community and a team of volunteers with an activity programme including public tours, presentation, research and exhibitions.

Introducing the Team



Fiona Riley | *Senior Townscape Heritage Project Officer*

Fiona is responsible for the day to day delivery of the Townscape Heritage project. If you have any questions or queries about the Townscape Heritage project or would like further information about grant availability please contact Fiona on **01642 524551** or **07584 543676**, email fiona.riley@stockton.gov.uk.



Eleanor Blyth | *Apprentice Townscape Heritage Support Officer*

Eleanor's role is to support the delivery of the project, particularly the activity programme. For queries about the activity programme, including how to get involved please contact Eleanor on **01642 524551**, email eleanor.blyth@stockton.gov.uk.