

[View this email in your browser](#)



An update on construction work at West Kirby

Dear everyone

This message is to provide an update on the construction of the new flood barrier at South Parade in West Kirby.

Throughout the summer, contractors working on behalf of our partner on the project – VolkerStevin – have been moving along the length of South Parade to reach the point that they are at now where piling works are nearly complete.

These 'piles', as you'll be aware from previous updates, are up to 18 metres long and once installed provide the foundations of a base slab structure before any construction can begin above ground level.

At West Kirby, the piling works have taken place in eight distinct sections and as piling ends at each section, a programme of load testing then takes place to ensure they can bear the weight of the final construction. Only once these tests have been satisfied in each section can the workers then move on to the next phase of construction.

We are aware – as you probably are too – that local rumours have speculated about problems or issues with the works because activity along sections of the wall seems to have stalled. Please be reassured that this was largely due to this load testing, which is an essential part of the process.

While it is true it has taken a little longer than expected to complete and review the load test results, the piling works themselves have gone well. Along with the old concrete break-out works, these were the elements of the programme most disruptive to residents and visitors and they remain on schedule to be completed by October as planned.

We will shortly start to see steel reinforcement and concrete works taking place, then work will begin to start building back the promenade, which will involve installing the wall with integrated seating from October and then resurfacing the promenade area, starting at the north end. Lighting columns will then be installed.

As you know, the programme is monitored and reviewed regularly and the current advice from the contractors is that the end date for the completion of the whole scheme could now be early 2023, not November as previously forecast. Although it is disappointing the remaining elements of the works will continue beyond Christmas, we will be working with the contractor to open up discrete sections as soon as they are finished.

Conscious of the need to comply with one of the planning conditions put in place in response to the Habitat Regulations Assessment, there is an ecological monitoring officer in place to ensure that none of the works or activities are causing significant disturbance to bird populations. This officer is also currently monitoring the anticipated return of the migrating birds that call West Kirby home during the winter months.

Finally, another interesting development is that workers have discovered part of a sandstone wall near to the old baths site that it is believed was part of the original old baths structure. This will be left in place and built over to provide part of the foundation to the new open space to be formed at the old baths site, which will reduce the need for some of the piling in this area.

The old baths site, as has been publicised previously, will become a new public open space for West Kirby, suitable for a range of events such as food festivals, markets, music and art performances.

Best wishes

Colin Clayton

Assistant Director – Parks and Countryside





Copyright © 2022 Wirral Council, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).

