

UPDATE

From Ashington Town Team

November Edition No. 6

A great start to 2016 for Ashington

The implementation of Ashington Investment Plan has begun. The Investment Plan aims to:

- Re-establish Ashington Town Centre as a thriving heart to the town.
- Improve the experience of pedestrians and public transport users
- Improve the vitality of the main shopping thoroughfare on Station Road
- Improve connectivity throughout Ashington
- Create a more walkable, active and healthy town centre



Ashington Leisure Centre opened on the 4th January and has already proven to be a huge success. In the first month alone it has recorded over 20,000 visitors for either swimming, gym or booking into a fitness class.

Ashington Library is incorporated into the new building and has welcomed 432 new members they have issued 8,000 items in January – a 20% increase on the same period last year.

The Tranquillity Spa has signed up hundreds of members and more than 1600 visits to the Thermal Experience.



Northumberland County Council's ambitious plans to move County Hall from Morpeth to Ashington has been approved at the budget meeting on 24th February 2016. Once planning permission has been granted

work on building the impressive new Headquarters will potentially begin in the Summer of 2016. This building will contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy in Ashington. It will also help support our strong, vibrant and healthy community.

Summary:

'Construction of five storey grade A office building (Use Class B1) and associated infrastructure comprising upgrade of existing and creation of new highway, modifications and upgrading of existing junctions, new roundabout, street lighting and furniture and associated hard and soft landscaping. Replacement of existing bus shelters and associated infrastructure, and the provision of up to 474 parking spaces'

Station Road Re-development

Consultation took place on Station Road proposals on 26th and 27th January which were well attended by traders, elected members and residents. 92% of those that filled out feedback forms were in support of the preferred option. Opening the street up to one-way traffic. Ashington Town team are in support of this option given its many benefits.

- Street open to one-way traffic (westbound) – Passing Trade and Open to a bus service
- Provision for upto 30 parking spaces – Short stay Customer spaces
- Flexible 'activity zone' – to accommodate events, fayre day and markets
- Linear Planting beds – to provide a buffer between carriageway and the generously proportioned pedestrian/ activity zone
- Conspicuous pedestrian courtesy crossing – at regular intervals

