



Trams to Newhaven

NEWSLETTER 4
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PROJECT NEWS

Updates from the team and a profile on SFN's Stakeholder Lead – Karen Alexander

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SUPPORTING BUSINESS

Work continues on the delivery of the Council's business support measures

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LEITH DIY SKATEPARK

New site identified for a community-led skatepark in Newhaven

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PROJECT UPDATE

Early Contractor Involvement

Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) period is now entering its fourth month.

We recently carried out a **trader survey** to better understand what 'business as usual' looks like along the proposed route. The information gathered has given us an invaluable insight into how all businesses operate, allowing us to minimise disruption to deliveries during construction of the project. We had very positive engagement, with 227 businesses responding to give us information on when and how they receive deliveries, the type of products they sell and when their waste is uplifted. We are currently analysing this information so we can design logistic hubs that will be strategically located along the route. These will be in place for the commencement of construction, with more details to be announced in October 2019.



90%

of businesses are retail focused



20%

of businesses sell controlled products (alcohol, pharmacy, etc.)



80%

of businesses only trade in the area



Deliveries

Elm Row- Haddington Place & Pilrig Street- Lorne Street have the most deliveries

Vibration testing and **Ground and site investigation works** along the route are now complete. In carrying out these works we have gathered information related to how vibrations from the tram could travel through the ground and to determine the ground conditions under the road. This has allowed us to identify any areas of concern and, from this, design the track infrastructure in an appropriate way.

Karen Alexander STAKEHOLDER LEAD



TEAM PROFILES

Each month we will introduce a member of our team



Born: Seaham, County Durham

Lives: Seaham, County Durham

Works: across Scotland and NE England

Tell us a little about yourself...

I live on the North East coast of England, in a small, ex-mining town called Seaham in County Durham. I was born there and have pretty much lived there, alongside my family, all of my life, with no strong urge to leave. I love being part of a close-knit community, where everyone is friendly and you can walk down the street and see people you know every day. In the 80s, I studied for a degree in the History of Modern Art, Design and Film and a post-graduate degree in Administration. I married soon after graduating and my daughter, Emily was born in 1994. She is now a teacher and is getting married in 2020 (I'm probably going to be a granny not long after that -

wow, that makes me feel old!). I divorced when I was 40, but for the last 12 years I've been in a very happy long-term relationship with my partner, Alan. I have two cats who are looked after by my mother when I am away from home (she is still fit and well and says it gives her something to do, now that all the grand-children have grown up!).

What is your role on the project?

I am part of the SFN team (employed by Farrans Construction) and my job title is Stakeholder Engagement Lead. My role is to oversee the delivery of community benefits, stakeholder engagement and associated communications strategies, supporting the SFN Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager who is employed on the project 100% of the time. During my time away from the project, I have a lead role in ensuring stakeholder engagement activities meet contractual requirements on other Farrans' projects across Scotland and Northern England.

What parts of the job do you enjoy most?

I love the teamwork aspect of the role, working in partnership with people from different backgrounds and skills, coming together with a common purpose and seeing a job being taken forward from start to conclusion.

What part of the project are you most looking forward to?

Being able to turn the Community Benefit plans into reality. Projects like ours can create sustainable social and economic impact. For me, the most rewarding part is being able to sit back and watch a person, who has previously been unemployed, perhaps struggling with low motivation or self-belief, seeing their transformation through work experience, training and ultimately a job. I love to build networks and meet people who work in grass-roots organisations, to find win/win solutions to problems at a community level.

Tell us about your career history

My first role was at the Port of Seaham, where I was Quality Assurance Manager, responsible for maintaining accreditation to the ISO9001 standard, plus compliance with Investors in People (we were one of the first companies to be awarded the IIP standard). After my daughter Emily was born, I moved into adult learning and managed training contracts for both a college and a private training provider. After a period of self-employment, I then moved across to the public sector, working for Sunderland City Council in its Economic Development Team where I stayed for 14 years. I managed a city-wide employability service, delivered as a partnership of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, as well as an apprenticeship contract and two training centres. During my last 3 years, I had the pleasure of working with Farrans

Construction, commissioned by Sunderland Council to build a new bridge over the River Wear. While on the “client side” tasked with making sure the city got as much additional social value as possible from the contract, I realised how much I enjoyed being part of such an exciting construction contract. When the opportunity was offered, I jumped at the chance to “cross over to the other side”.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I sometimes dream about selling up, packing some simple belongings into a camper van and driving off into the sunset. If I get bored, I could always pull up somewhere with a good internet connection and try to get some freelance consultancy work that I could deliver from miles away for a few weeks.

What is your favourite song?

This is such a difficult question for me to answer and I love music of all kinds. My partner, Alan Jordan, is the owner of one of the few independent record shops in the country, so he constantly pushes new (and very often old) music my way, saying “I think you’ll like this.” I tend to drift towards acoustic singer/songwriter material, but also love Soul and, in recent years, am discovering the fabulous sound of Northern Soul.

Which countries have you travelled to?

Another difficult one to answer; I like natural beauty - mountains, lakes, huge skies. I’m more comfortable in colder climates, so particularly love travelling around Nordic and Scandinavian countries – Norwegian fjords take my breath away, as do the moody, majestic mountains of Scotland.



SUPPORTING BUSINESS

Work continues on delivery of the Council's business support measures

The team have been continuing to work behind the scenes to finalise and finesse the Council's business support measures. A final decision on these measures will be made at a meeting of the project board in late September. Following on from this, the team will then begin the process of communicating how each measure will work from mid-October 2019. This will include a marketing campaign and will be accompanied with handy guides to explain how each measure will work and how they will benefit your business. If you are a local business and keen to stay up to date with information on how we will support you, please ensure you have added us to your 'safe sender' list on your email. Additionally, please forward this email to any business who you think may be interested in being kept up to date.



DIY SKATEPARK UPDATE

The Council have identified a site for a new community skatepark in Newhaven

Leith DIY had created a skateboard park on land on Melrose Drive which unfortunately needed to be removed as part of the project. While they had sourced another location at Out of the Blue on Dalmeny Street, the Council agreed in May of this year to lease an area of land at Hawthornvale, adjacent to the existing Basketball Court and to the cycleway that runs through the area, subject to planning permission being obtained. The Council, along with the project team, are now working with Leith DIY on developing a plan to take this forward. We'll keep you updated on progress.