

Tindal Square and Market Road Project Update



Transforming Tindal Square:
Public Realm Improvements

Bulletin No. 19

17th November 2022

Contractor Details:

Tindal Square – Dyer & Butler

Market Road – Marlborough Ltd

Project Manager – Rob Venables/Phil Cowland

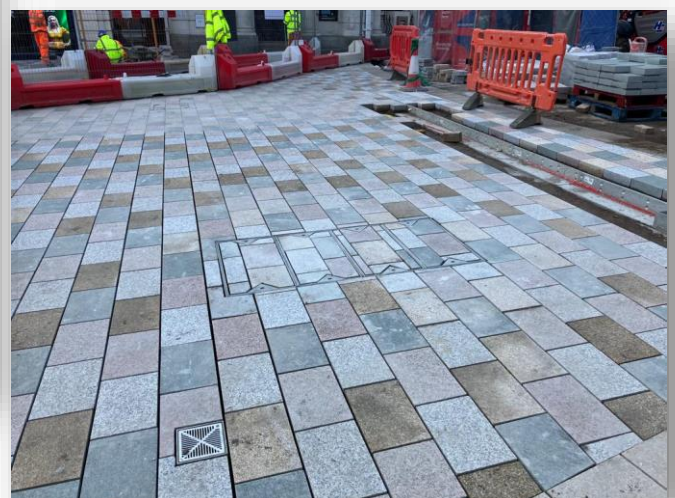


Latest Achievements:

Tindal Square

The following has been accomplished since the last update:

- The installation of remaining slot drains in phase two have begun with the majority of underground pipe works installed.
- New road drains have been installed to the phase two area to the west of Shire Hall.
- Works have started on the retaining wall which will provide strength and structure for the new steps, ramp and graduated steps to Shire Hall.
- The majority of paving in phase one is complete, with final completion happening once the trees are installed.
- The trees have arrived at our warehouse from the nursery, these are awaiting to be planted once drainage works have been completed.



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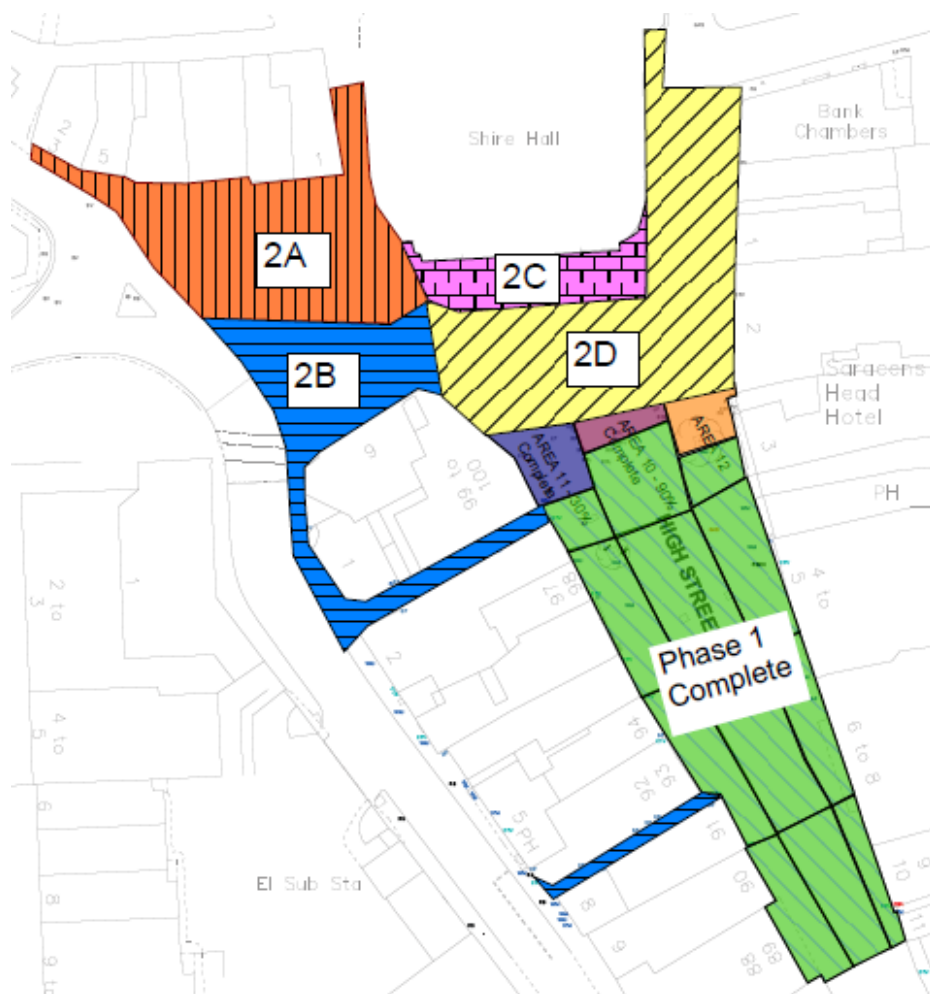
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Next steps:

Tindal Square

The next stages in construction for the project are:

- Concrete will be poured for the remaining area in phase one to allow the completion of the paving. Works will begin in paving areas within phase two starting with areas 2a and 2d.
- All drainage works will be complete in areas 2a and 2b (to the west of Shire Hall) with the installation of the large slot drain covering the majority of the area 2d also beginning.
- Works will progress with the construction of the retaining wall which will provide strength and structure for the new steps, ramp and graduated steps to Shire Hall.
- Final preparations of the tree pits will take place ready for the trees to be installed during December.



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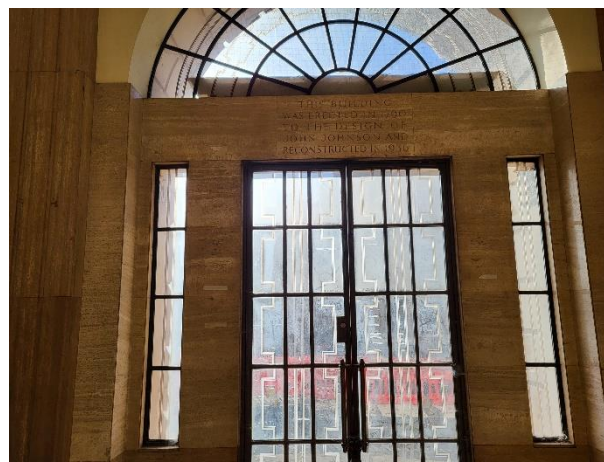
17th November 2022

Tindal Square and the Shire Hall

As work progresses on the installation of the new access to Shire Hall this week we are going behind the scenes of this iconic building and its longstanding history within the City.

The Shire Hall was built between 1789 and 1791 and designed by John Johnson, a county surveyor and architect to be used as a courthouse and venue. The external façade gives a sense of importance with the third storey decorated with three bas reliefs to represent Justice, Wisdom and Mercy. The extension to the west was added in 1851 and east added between 1903 and 1906.

As you enter the building you encounter a large atrium which was originally intended to be used as a Corn Exchange, however due to poor light conditions a new Corn Exchange was built in 1857. Rooms to the east and west were used for jury rooms adjacent to the two court rooms. The steps, court room and atrium were altered in 1936.



From the court rooms you can access the basement level of the building which houses cells for those due to appear in court. One of the most interesting parts of this historic building is the underground tunnel that was used to transport people awaiting trial to the court room, connecting to 59 New Street which was formerly Chelmsford Police Station.



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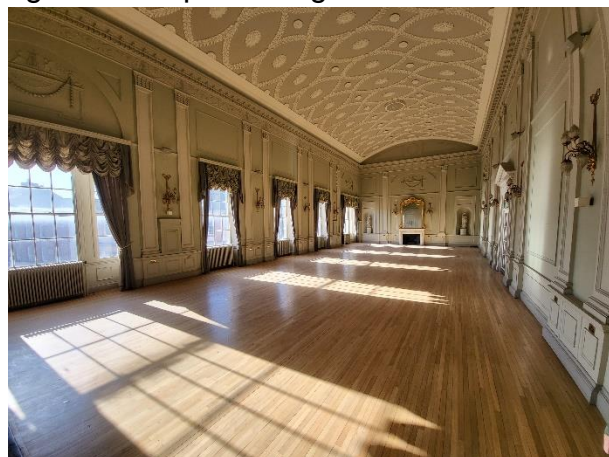
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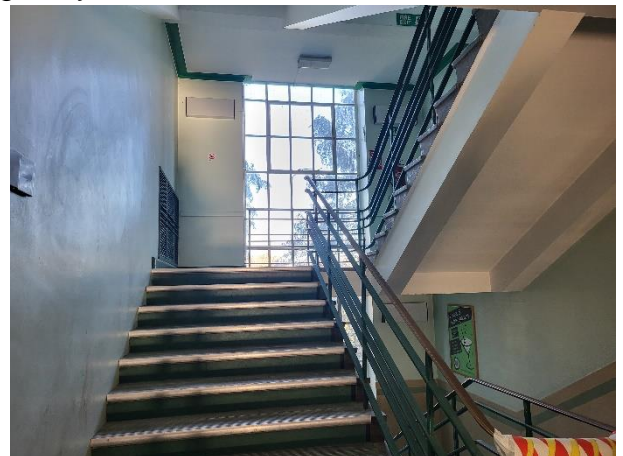
Tindal Square and the Shire Hall

Proceeding to the next floor of the building you come across another hidden treasure of the building. Above the atrium is a large assembly room used for balls and other social events which is the largest ballroom in Essex. When entering the room your attention is held by the intricate detailing of the architecture of the room, creating an atmosphere of grandeur.



Upon the higher floors of the building are more smaller court rooms used for cases to be heard privately such as family court as well as access to the gallery of the court rooms

Unfortunately this building has also seen tragedy within its time. In February 1856 the Shire Hall was holding court on a high profile and controversial trial of five men charged with murder committed whilst poaching. Due to the strong public interest the court was held in the assembly room on the upper floors. Due to the unprecedented amount of people that entered the stairwell to hear the case the stair balustrades on the third flight of stairs gave way leading to the stone steps breaking away and both people and masonry falling onto the people below. Sadly there was one fatality with four others seriously injured and numerous others with minor injuries. As the court was still being heard in the assembly room the court, witnesses and prisoners had to leave via a window onto the roof of a nearby building and a ladder.



The Shire Hall is a Grade II* Listed building by central government and was listed in May 1949. The building remains a vital part of Chelmsford's history and an integral part of the project.

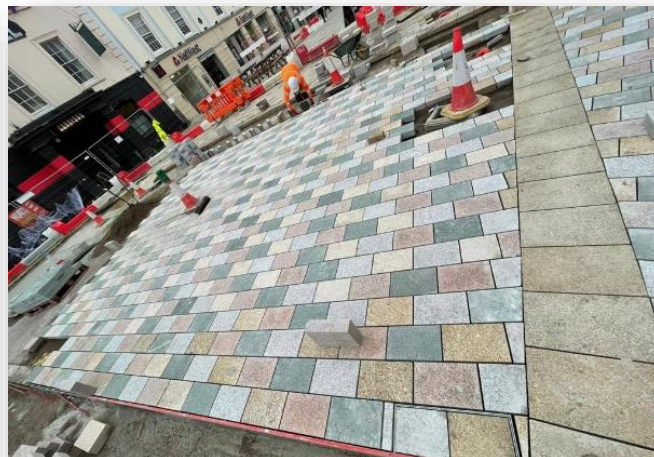
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Tindal Square – Safe walking routes

The diagram below shows the safe walking routes over the next fortnight whilst the works to the central and northern parts of the work area are completed. Please note access to businesses will be always maintained.



For further information regarding the project please visit:

www.essexhighways.org/tindal-square

For general enquiries please email: tindalsquare@chelmsford.gov.uk