

# Pontefract Vision 2028



## Pontefract Newsletter - No. 2 - Spring 2019

### Welcome to the Pontefract Newsletter!

The Pontefract newsletter provides an update on the delivery of the Pontefract Vision 2028. The Vision ([www.wakefield.gov.uk/pontevision](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/pontevision)) sets out the future aspirations of the town. In this edition, we inform you about what has been achieved and things to look forward to in the future. You can expect news on current projects, future projects and upcoming events.

### Highlights

- Tour De Yorkshire coming to Pontefract in May.
- Pontefract castle re-opening this Easter.
- Planning permission secured at the Leisure and Wellbeing Hub.
- Former Magistrates Court has been turned into an Antiques Centre.
- Couplands Bakers & Hays Travel Agents have taken units at Salter Row.

## Five Towns Leisure & Wellbeing Hub

APRIL 2019 - AUTUMN 2020



### Work starts on the new £20 Million Leisure and Wellbeing Hub!

Work has begun to build the largest leisure hub of its kind in the Wakefield district!

This new, state-of-the-art leisure facility will have something for everyone, regardless of age or ability. It is not only about keeping fit but also aims to give residents the chance to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Facilities will include a 10-lane swimming pool, studio pool with moveable floor, and a splash pad water confidence area. The large water space available will enable people of all abilities to engage with water based activities, from the first steps a toddler may take into water to a muscle mobility session aimed at keeping older people more independent.

The hub will also have a 115 station gym, two exercise studios and a dedicated spin studio. A café and a meeting room which can be booked for community events will create further opportunities for people to get together. Referral rooms will be available for private discussions with onsite specialist advisors for anyone who wishes to seek support with physical activity or weight management.

Outside there will be four tennis courts, a wellbeing garden, an interactive play area and a full size floodlit 3G Artificial Grass pitch. The flagship leisure facility is due to open in autumn 2020.

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## Tour De Yorkshire 2019!

One of the region's most popular sporting events will be taking place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May! The second stage of the race will take place in Pontefract on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The course will cover 617.5km (or 384 miles) over 4 stages. Stage 1 of the women's race will also pass through Pontefract. It's free to watch from anywhere along the route and the race will be broadcast on ITV4. If you're a fan of cycling, this is definitely worth a watch!



## New Antiques Centre opened in Former Magistrates Court!

The Grade II listed building which was built in 1807 has now been turned into an antiques centre! Having been closed since 2013 and allowing significant investment, the former court is home to antiques, home interiors, fine art and collectables, as well as a classic tearoom. Delivered by Harrogate-based company Weatherell Investments LLP, the ground floor is fully occupied and Pontefract is becoming a well-known destination for antiques. The Magistrates Market is helping small businesses and supporting entrepreneurs in the antique and collectibles market.



## Pontefract Castle opening in Easter!

Re-opening at our St George's event on Sun 21<sup>st</sup> and Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The £3.5 million Key to the North Project has been taking place since 2015 and as it nears completion, new areas of the site will be accessible. This includes the Sally Port (unseen for hundreds or years), new paths & walkways and the opportunity to admire the imposing stonework. Benches have been dotted around the site which are more accessible and safety handrails and fences have been added. The huge amount of conservation has helped conserve the heritage for future generations. In addition, work was identified to stabilise the King's Tower. This is taking place on the exterior of the tower and is due to be completed in the summer. Other work taking place in coming weeks includes landscaping and planting. The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England and Wakefield Council.



## Food, Arts and Craft Market!

On the first Friday of every month from March to December a Food, Arts and Crafts market will be held at the Pontefract Market. It will be open from 9am – 4pm. Home-baked goods, assorted crafts, jewellery items and street entertainment are just some of the amazing things you can look forward to at the Food, Arts and Craft market.



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The next Pontefract Newsletter (Edition No.3) will be available in Summer 2019. For more information please contact: [majorprojects@Wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@Wakefield.gov.uk)