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# Castle Baynard Resident

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## Ward Boundary Review

As reported in Issue 12, the City is currently undertaking a ward boundary review.

A number of concerns and questions regarding this were raised at the Ward Mote on Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> and it was suggested that we should produce a special edition of this newsletter describing the current proposals.

The review has been prompted by an undertaking given to Parliament in 1999, when the City's electoral system was changed to widen the electorate. It follows a major review in 2003, when Castle Baynard changed enormously, losing a small amount of its historical area but gaining a huge amount more.

The present review has been presented as a "stock take" of the current arrangements rather than a further wholesale change. The proposals for Castle Baynard Ward are however far-reaching and in our view devastating, taking the historic heart out of the Ward.

Three options are suggested:

- (a) Taking the land north of Queen Victoria Street and east of St Andrew's Hill out of the ward and transferring it to the neighbouring ward of Bread Street. This would remove St Paul's Cathedral, the historic youth hostel building, the College of Arms, the site of the King's Wardrobe, and the ward church St Andrew by the Wardrobe, and many historic streets and lanes. It would leave virtually nothing from the historic area of the Ward, and would throw into question whether the remaining area justified the Castle Baynard name. This is however the review panel's preferred option.
- (b) Taking the land north of Carter Lane and east of St Andrew's Hill out of the Ward. This would leave St Andrew by the Wardrobe and the College of Arms in the ward but we would still lose St Paul's Cathedral, which has been part of the ward for many centuries.
- (c) Taking numbers 1 - 4 St Paul's Churchyard out of the Ward. This would transfer sufficient votes to the neighbouring ward of Bread Street to improve its elector/member ratio, but is not recommended by the panel.

See [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/wardboundaryreview](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/wardboundaryreview) for more details.

Ward members are extremely unhappy at these proposals and are opposing them.

Options (a) and (b) are in our view completely unthinkable, taking away the main historical features from the Ward, and (c) would lose a block with long associations with the Ward. We do not see the need for a major adjustment of this kind, especially to a ward which underwent greater changes than any other ward in the previous review. Nor has there been any demand for this: none of the responses received to the first round of consultation called for Bread Street to be expanded and Castle Baynard reduced in this way

The City rightly prides itself on combining modern local government and services with tradition and history. Castle Baynard Ward has one of the richest histories of the wards of the City, having been for many years described as the City's "premier" ward. Overleaf we reprint an article which first appeared in Issue 10, summarising that history.

If you have views on this, please respond to the consultation. Responses must be received by 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the address is [wardboundaryreview@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:wardboundaryreview@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

The Castle Baynard Ward Club is also vigorously opposing these proposals. See [www.cbwc.org.uk](http://www.cbwc.org.uk)

## Castle Baynard Resident

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### What is Castle Baynard Ward?

Castle Baynard is one of the twenty five wards into which for many centuries the 677 acres comprising the City of London have been divided. Wards are thought to have originated in Anglo Saxon times, when the community met together at "Wardmoots" to elect an "Eolderman" to represent them in the Government of the City.

In a Deed dated AD 111 reference is made to an Alderman of the Ward and the property referred to is identifiable as being within the current Castle Baynard Ward boundary. A few years later St Paul's Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace were within this boundary and it was described as the Ward of the Bishop and referred to as the "Premier" City Ward.

Ralph de Baynard, who came over with William the Conqueror, built the first Castle. In the reign of King John, the Castle was owned by Robert Fitz Walter, a Baron, but he was ordered to demolish it by the King. Subsequently he became leader of the Barons who forced King John to sign the Magna Carta. It was re-built to the east of the site of the first castle by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, before he died in 1445. Edward IV was living there when summoned to be King in 1461. It was here that Richard, the succeeding Duke of Gloucester, assumed the regal title of Richard III in 1483 after allegedly murdering his two nephew princes in the Tower. It was later occupied by Henry VII, who again re-built it. Three of Henry VIII's Queens lived at the Castle for a time – Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Anne of Cleves. Queen Elizabeth I and Charles II are recorded as having visited there during their reigns. In the Great Fire of 1666 the Castle was largely destroyed and was eventually demolished at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century.

The Ward includes the parish church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, whose name is derived from the King's Great Wardrobe built in the Ward by Sir John Beauchamp KG, in which were stored the King's robes used on state occasions. It also embraces the College of Arms, founded by Richard III in 1484, located in a fine building unchanged since the 1680s. In 2004 the Ward was extended to embrace part of the Farringdon Without Ward area and now includes the historic parish church of St Bride's and the sites of Bridewell Palace and the former Carmelite Monastery of Whitefriars.

### Policing Priorities for the Ward

A recent West Area Community Partnership Meeting discussed local policing priorities for the west area of the City, including Castle Baynard. Local residents expressed particular concern about anti-social behaviour associated with licenced premises, especially those which run what are termed "promoted events" (events where musical entertainment is provided by disc jockeys who are not employees of the licence holder and the event is promoted to the general public). The meeting heard that the number of domestic burglaries in the last two months had fallen to zero. Questions were also asked about motoring and cycling offences, particularly motorists occupying the advance cycle stop box at traffic lights. The police will continue to focus on the junctions at Ludgate Circus and Fleet Street / Fetter Lane, but will now give additional attention to the Holborn Circus junction.

The priorities for the west area of the City are now:

- \* to address anti-social behaviour around licensed premises in Fleet Street and Carter Lane, particularly between 8pm and 11pm (unchanged),
- \* to address traffic offences involving both vehicular traffic (particularly the advance cycle stop box) and pedal cycles at Ludgate Circus, the junction of Fleet Street with Fetter Lane and at Holborn Circus (amended),
- \* to address anti-social behaviour associated with promoted events at licenced premises in the Hosier Lane, West Smithfield and Old Bailey areas (new).

The Community Partnership Meetings are your opportunity to set policing priorities for your part of the City. The next meeting will be at 1pm on Thursday 20 May. Please contact us nearer the time for further details. See also [www.cityoflondon.police.uk/citypolice/safercitywards](http://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/citypolice/safercitywards)

*If you have any comments on this newsletter or matters you want to see covered contact [jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk)*