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CITY ADOPTS NIL POLICY ON SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Following recent public consultation (see last issue) a special meeting of the City's Licensing Committee took place on 30 March which was open to the public, as well as all Court of Common Council members who were able to participate in the discussion. The results of the public consultation (residents and City workers) had been collated and showed that a total of 70% of all respondents felt that the City should adopt an SEV policy and overall a total of 59% said that there are no localities in the City which would be appropriate for SEVs. Moreover, 57% felt that the City should use the policy to set a maximum number of SEVs. At the special meeting, the Licensing Committee recommended the adoption of a NIL policy concerning SEVs, ie that there is no place within the City which is situated in a locality where it would be appropriate to licence SEVs. However, as previously explained, an application for an SEV can still be submitted and will need to be considered on its merits but in the light of the City's policy. The Licensing Committee's recommendation and the outcome of the discussion of the policy will be brought to the full Court of Common Council for final approval in May.

HOLBORN CIRCUS AREA ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Holborn Circus has the third highest accident rate for any road junction in the City. There have been a large number of accidents to pedestrians and cyclists in recent years, including a cyclist fatality. Consultation is now underway over proposals to improve the safety of the junction.

The main proposals are to:

- * Move the Grade II listed Prince Albert Statue westwards to the central reservation to improve sightlines at the junction,
- * Narrow the carriageway around the junction to improve road safety and increase the space for pedestrians; this will also permit improvements to the western gardens of St Andrew's Church,
- * Install new controlled pedestrian crossing points on all arms except Hatton Garden,
- * Provide cyclists with advanced stop lines and lead-in lanes,
- * Change Hatton Garden to operate one-way northbound,
- * Make a new junction between St Andrew Street and New Fetter Lane immediately outside Lloyds Bank.

Some of these proposals may be controversial - particularly making Hatton Garden one-way. The scheme is currently at the concept stage, and funding is not currently available. This would be sought from local Section 106 monies from office developments and from TfL road safety funding. Your views are being sought by the City. Responses should be sent by 14 April to holborncircus@cityoflondon.gov.uk. Details of the proposals may be found by putting "Holborn Circus" in the Quick Search box on the City's Home Page.

1 NEW STREET SQUARE PRESENTATION – MONDAY 18 APRIL 2011, 5.00 PM

Land Securities are currently in pre-application discussions with the Planning Department of the City of London to replace the current office block at 76 Shoe Lane / 1 New Street Square (the International Press Centre). The idea is to replace the existing building with a 16 storey development which would include 700 square meters of retail space. Although the application has yet to be formally submitted, Land Securities will be making a presentation to local people on Monday 18 April at 5.00pm in the management suite of 4 New Street Square. So that Land Securities have an idea of numbers, **if you wish to attend please contact jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk**. We are pleased that Land Securities will be carrying out an Environmental Impact Study. Please attend the presentation if you want to find out more about this development. We will keep you updated.

A BOARDS

Fed up with having to walk around the ever growing number of A-Boards on the pavement? Well we are! Having raised the issue at a recent meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee, we have been assured that enforcement action will be taken, within the rather limited powers currently available to local authorities. If you consider the pavement (footway) is being obstructed by an A-Board please contact the City's Cleansing Department on 020 7606 3110 or e-mail DES.GeneralENQ@cityoflondon.gov.uk Unfortunately they are not allowed to simply tip the offending board into the back of a dust-cart without first warning the business owner.

LICENCE APPLICATION GRANGE ST PAUL'S HOTEL

The Grange St Paul's Hotel has made an application to vary its Premises Licence. The hotel wishes to change its current licence to permit all licensable activities until 0300. Ward members are concerned that were such a change to be made public nuisance may occur, particularly from activities in the sky-bar and roof terrace. We have worked with local residents to ensure that representations have been made to the City by the closing date for comments of 29 March, and have made representations ourselves. We do not see the need for the changes so soon after the granting of a licence to the hotel following a hearing at which all aspects of the current licence were carefully considered. A further hearing will now take place before three members of the Licensing Committee to consider the changes proposed.

TRIAL OF LITTER BINS – LUDGATE CIRCUS / ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Last year, the City Corporation's Port Health and Environmental Services Committee considered and accepted a report which has updated the City's policy for the provision of litter bins within the Square Mile. One of the report's recommendations was for street litter bins to be introduced in areas of high littering subject to trials. Following our recent discussions with the City Corporation Cleansing Operations, trials bins were installed during the middle of March in three areas of the Ward: Ludgate Circus, outside City Thameslink station and in front of St Paul's Cathedral. The bins are emptied three times a day and records will be kept as to how full they are and the general cleanliness in the surrounding area. The trial period will run for approximately eight weeks after which the data will be analyzed and a decision taken as to whether or not to make them a permanent feature. We will keep you informed as to the outcome of this trial.

CYCLE PARKING

The City of London recently produced a draft Cycle Parking Strategy. It notes the considerable increase in cycling in the City, with an estimated 10,000 commuters now cycling to work. However there is a substantial shortfall in cycle parking spaces, with an estimated unmet demand of up to 27,000 places. The strategy looks at options for increasing the number of parking spaces. All new office buildings are required to have cycle parking spaces although the current norm of one space per 160 square meters is considered by many to be inadequate. More on-street spaces will be installed where space can be found. For example, within the last month eight new hoops have been installed in Gough Square. The possibility of installing secure cycle parking within existing City Car Parks is also being examined. As the document has not been published on the City's web-site, if you would like a copy please email jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD

Although just outside the ward, this may be of interest to Castle Baynard residents. The St Paul's area is undergoing a number of major public realm improvements. You will have already seen the relocation of the St Lawrence Jewry Drinking Fountain to the east end of Carter Lane, and the pedestrianisation of parts of Carter Lane. The Coach park to the south of St Paul's closed recently, with coach parking relocated to Angel Street and St Martin's Le Grand for short stay coach parking and to Queen Victoria Street for long stay parking. Starting this month highway works will commence on St Paul's Churchyard. These will include wider footways and a better pedestrian crossing facility to the east of the City Information Centre. Beginning in August the existing coach park will be landscaped to provide a green area with trees, planting and seating, which should substantially enhance the setting of St Paul's Cathedral. We are delighted that this scheme is going ahead, funded mainly from Section 106 monies from local developments. A number of ward members will however continue to press for better crossing arrangements to the west of the Cathedral.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Telling Tales: Stories from Dr Johnson's House 1911-2011. A special exhibition runs from 6 April to 30 July at Dr Johnson's House. Exactly one hundred years ago the House was saved from dereliction. It was restored and brought back to life. The exhibition is included in the normal admission fee and there is a special late night opening (to 8.30 pm) on Thursday 14 April, which will include a mug of tea (Dr Johnson was an inveterate tea drinker).

If you have any comments on this newsletter or matters you want to see covered contact jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk