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BLACFRIARS JUNCTION

We have reported previously on the redevelopment of Blackfriars Station. There has been considerable debate between the City, Transport for London and what are termed "stakeholders" over the design of the new road junction, with numerous iterations in the detailed design. The problem is to cater for the high volume of traffic through the junction, whether vehicular or cycle as well as the need for huge numbers of pedestrians (up to 10,000 in an hour) to exit or enter the new combined Underground / Network Rail station at ground level. The main east-west crossing for pedestrians will be immediately outside Unilever House via a central refuge. There will be additional crossings at the north end of Blackfriars Bridge and also across Queen Victoria Street by the Black Friar public house. Some of the existing subways will remain open. Road traffic coming south down New Bridge Street will not be able to left into Queen Victoria Street. TfL are now proposing that a continuous cycle lane should be provided through the junction in the southbound direction (the current plan does not have a continuous southbound cycle lane), although this has yet to be agreed by all parties. Unfortunately the pedestrian crossing at Watergate will be lost - this has been necessary to ensure that the overall capacity of the junction is not reduced. A copy of TfL's current proposal is available from jeremy.simons@cityoflondon.gov.uk. As announced previously, the underground station is due to reopen late this year.

1 NEW STREET SQUARE

As mentioned in our last issue, Land Securities held a meeting with local people in April to outline their proposed development for 1 New Street Square and 76 Shoe Lane. The proposed building would be slightly taller than the existing Press Centre tower with the main facade facing Little New Street. The existing NCP car-park would disappear. A small amount of retail/restaurant space would be provided. Full information on the application can be found on the City of London's web site under planning application 11/00211/FULMAJ. At the meeting the impact on the local community was discussed, particularly during the demolition of the existing buildings, in particular the need to keep noise to a minimum by demolishing the existing building floor by floor and avoiding impact piling methods. Dust will also be a potential problem. Demolition and construction vehicles should be carefully managed, with access arrangements agreed with the City of London. The developer, which is the same as for the main New Street Square development, has expressed its intention to continue to work in partnership with local businesses and residents.

LICENCE APPLICATION - GRANGE ST PAUL'S HOTEL

As reported, The Grange St Paul's Hotel applied to vary its premises licence to extend its current licensing hours to 03.00 am. Before this was considered, members from the wards of Castle Baynard and Farringdon Within organized a meeting with The Grange St Paul's to provide an opportunity for local residents and members to discuss the reasons behind the hotel's application and the concerns that had been raised by objectors. The Grange explained that the main reason for the application was to cut down on the number of temporary event notices for events beyond the set terminal licence hour. During the meeting, they made it very clear that the extension would only be used for pre-booked banqueting events as and when required, and reassured those present that the use of the roof terrace would not extend beyond 11.00 pm. The Grange noted residents' deep concerns regarding current public nuisance problems in the area but stressed that it was not their intention to disturb either their own hotel guests or local residents; they also stressed that they are keen to maintain good neighbourly relations. On Tuesday 24 May, the Licensing Sub-committee at the hearing granted the variation to the Grange St Paul's premises licence.

CITY OF LONDON AIR QUALITY CAMPAIGN

The City of London has recently launched a new air quality campaign designed to encourage businesses to help reduce pollution. Air quality in parts of the square mile are amongst the worst in Europe. Emissions from taxis, buses and delivery vehicles contribute greatly to the high level of pollutants NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) and PM₁₀ (very small particulates). For example in Upper Thames Street the daily acceptable level of PM₁₀ was exceeded on 52 days during 2010. Within our Ward a particular black spot with poor air quality is the junction at Ludgate Circus. As part of the new campaign city businesses will be encouraged to reduce the emission of pollutants from their buildings, for example those associated with heating or cooling systems, to reduce the emissions associated with transport deliveries and to assess the transport choices of their employees. The City of London Air Quality Strategy can be found on the City's web site by typing "CityAir" into the Quick Search box.

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

*Your voice on
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LONDON RIVER PARK

London River Park Ltd are proposing to apply for planning permission for a floating walkway along the north bank of the River Thames, in two sections from the east of Blackfriars Bridge to the east of Customs House. Further information can be found on www.londonriverpark.org. Ward members will be watching this proposal closely. Since the river will shortly be obstructed in this area by the work on the Thames Tunnel, reported in previous issues, we have a number of questions. In particular how would fire and rescue boats access riverside buildings? Would navigation be impaired? What impact would there be on the ecology of river life? What are the noise and light implications for those living or working near the river? Will the refuse collection point at Walbrook Wharf still be accessible and will the City's refuse continue to be removed by river rather than by increasing lorry journeys and pollution?

OUTCOME: TRIAL OF LITTER BINS – LUDGATE CIRCUS / CITY THAMESLINK / ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

As reported in the April issue, trials bins were installed in March in three areas of the Ward: Ludgate Circus, outside City Thameslink station and in front of St Paul's Cathedral. Bins were also installed near Millennium Bridge, in the ward of Queenhithe. Before installation, a baseline for general street cleanliness in the areas was established followed by monitoring of the street cleansing environment and the impact on the overall street cleaning operation with the introduction of the trial bins. The results showed that the bins enhanced the street cleansing operation at Ludgate Circus, City Thameslink and Millennium Bridge and it has therefore been confirmed that the bins will be continued at these locations unless circumstances change. However, the two trial bins at St Paul's Cathedral will be removed, due to a combination of reasons, namely: a number of reports have been received of fly tipping in and around the bins which has also included additional waste coming from tour buses. There has been significant staining around the bins which has been impossible to remove in some cases. Moreover, the bins have been overflowing on a regular basis. All of this has made it difficult for the Street Environment Operatives working in the area to properly maintain the area. The justification for the introduction of bins was that they should enhance the street cleansing operation and enable the street cleansing service to operate more effectively; unfortunately that has not been the case around St Paul's.

BRIDEWELL THEATRE – SUMMER PROGRAMME

The programme at the Bridewell Theatre for the next few months features the following shows:

Lunchbox Theatre

All lunchbox theatre performances start at 1.00 pm prompt and are about 45 minutes long. Don't forget that you can get tickets until 11.00 am on the day of the performance at a £1.00 advance booking discount. On the door you can buy tickets at full price from 12.00 noon at the theatre box office.

- ▶ The Man of Mode (A Single Leaf): 31 May – 24 June.

Evening Programme

- ▶ The Wedding Singer (Centrestage London): 14 – 18 June.
- ▶ Lucky Stiff (The RBS Theatre Company): 21 – 25 June.
- ▶ Jake's Women (Tower Theatre Company): 28 June – 2 July.
- ▶ The Boy Friend (Tower Theatre): 5 – 9 July.
- ▶ Opera Scenes (Morley Opera School): 13 – 16 July
- ▶ Arcadia (SEDOS): 19 – 23 July.
- ▶ Trivial Pursuits (Spread Eagle Players): 28 – 30 July.

For ticket purchases, you can buy in advance from St Bride Foundation reception (020 7353 3331) or online www.stbridefoundation.org/bridewelltheatre.