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

BOUNDARY REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR CITY OF LONDON

The Boundary Commission for England is currently reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries and in September produced draft proposals which would seek to break the historic link between the City of London and the City of Westminster by placing the City of London in a new constituency with parts of Islington and Camden. Ward members are very concerned at these proposals, and will be objecting. We urge residents to do the same.

The neighbouring areas of Islington and Camden with which the City would be joined under these proposals have very different issues to contend with. We are very concerned that if these proposals go ahead the needs of Castle Baynard residents, who are few in number, may be overlooked as the local MP understandably concentrates on those areas with greater social problems and greater concentrations of votes. The new MP will also have to look after events in three local authorities and this will further reduce the attention which they can give to City Residents.

For further details see <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>
Or contact Ian Luder or Catherine McGuinness, e-mails ian.luder@cityoflondon.gov.uk or catherine.mcguinness@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Objections should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ, telephone: 020 7276 1102, email address for representations: reviews@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. Please copy to Emmet Regan at The City of London by letter or via email emmet.regan@cityoflondon.gov.uk

ONE NEW STREET SQUARE

Further to our article in Issue 22, at its meeting in early October the City's Planning and Transportation Committee considered the application from Land Securities to demolish the International Press Centre at 76 Shoe Lane and The Merchant Centre at 1 New Street Square and replace them with a 17-storey building which would cover much of the site. The current NCP car park would be removed. Two letters of objection from local residents had been received and were available to members of the committee. The first covered a rights to light issue and the second dealt with demolition and construction methodology.

The committee were concerned about the massing of the proposed building, which comprises two wedge shaped blocks linked together to form a solid rectangular mass. Although lower than the adjacent New Street Square development, the new building will be almost 12 meters higher than the existing Press Centre and will therefore impinge more on the skyline when viewed from the South Bank. Concern was also raised about near views, given the narrowness of some local streets.

Your Members raised the question of late night opening for the A3 unit proposed for the north west corner of the site and the potential nuisance this may cause. We were informed that this would not be a vertical drinking establishment, but a restaurant. This is the site of the former "City Rhodes" restaurant. We also received reassurance that there would be no additional traffic on local roads (ie Printer Street, East Harding Street and Pemberton Row) during the demolition and construction phases. The issues raised by a local resident will be dealt with by conditions set by the City of London. The Planning and Transportation Committee voted to approve the application. The committee also noted that the Greater London Authority had requested that a cycle hire docking station be provided on land within the site.

WEST AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING – THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER @ 1.00 PM

Castle Baynard and the two Farringdon Wards form the west area of the city for ward policing. Community Partnership meetings take place every two to three months and are an opportunity for local people to influence ward priorities. At each meeting feedback is given on current ward priorities as well as crime figures, in particular trends for each category of crime. Following a discussion with both residents and businesses present, priorities are set for the following period.

The current priorities are to target anti-social behaviour particularly around Carthusian Street and Carter Lane after 9pm on Friday and Saturday, and to target traffic offences (for example cycles passing traffic signals at red, motorists stopping in the advance cycle box and the use of non hands-free mobile phones) at the Fleet Street/Fetter Lane, Holborn/Gray's Inn Road and Ludgate Circus junctions.

The next meeting will be held at 1pm on Thursday 8 December at the Grange St Paul's Hotel. All are welcome to attend.

*Your voice on
Common Council:*



Ian Luder



Ray Catt



Nigel Challis



Michael Hudson



William Hunt



Catherine McGuinness



Henrika Priest



Jeremy Simons

*Find our details on
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk*

TABLES, CHAIRS AND OUTSIDE DINING

A number of residents have raised questions about the ability of licensed and other premises to place tables and chairs on the footway. There are a number of inter-related issues. Premises may be licensed for both "on" and "off" sales. Where off-sales are permitted, it is acceptable for customers to consume alcohol on the footway outside, provided they are not causing an obstruction. Where there are residents in the immediate vicinity, there may be a condition on the licence (under the Licensing Act) to restrict off-sales, either by forbidding off-sales in un-sealed containers or preventing them completely after a certain time in the evening.

Both licensed and unlicensed premises can apply to place tables and chairs on the public footway. A notice must be displayed on the premises when the application is made, and objections can be made as for any planning matter. The decision by the City of London on whether to grant a licence for tables and chairs (which is made under the Highways Act) will be influenced by considerations such as the width of the pavement, the local foot-fall and whether an obstruction would occur. For example a recent application by MacDonald's to place tables and chairs on Fleet Street was rejected. Where an application is approved, an evening time restriction may be imposed if there are local residents. In all cases the tables and chairs must be removed each evening.

Given that the majority of applications for tables and chairs on the footway are from premises licensed to sell alcohol, responsibility for these licences has been moved to the department that also deals with alcohol licences. Should an application for tables and chairs be granted, all members of the public may sit at the tables - they do not need to be customers of the premises. The premises owner can not move people on. A further complication is that under the Licensing Act a licensed premises may seek to include part of the public footway in the area defined for the sale of alcohol. This was the case with the recent application made by Brass Mongoose in New Bridge Street. Sales of alcohol into such an area then become on-sales, and are not subject to any restrictions there may be for off-sales.

GREEN WALL FOR NEW STREET SQUARE

We are very pleased with the installation of a new green wall on the management building at New Street Square. The original wall had not done well during dry periods due to problems with the irrigation of the plants. Green wall technology is developing quite rapidly so hopefully the new wall should be able to cope much better with all weathers. With totally new planting it is currently looking splendid. We are grateful to Land Securities for their commitment to the success of the project.

REST OF CITY RESIDENTS' MEETING – THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER @ 6.30 PM

Just a reminder that the next Rest of City Residents' Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 24 November at the City of London School (Asquith Room). Refreshments will be available from 6pm. These meetings are open to all residents who do not live in one of the City's estates, and is your opportunity to raise issues with staff of the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police; for example on crime, safety and the impact of the Olympics. All are welcome to attend, and questions can be submitted in advance to residents@cityoflondon.gov.uk

COMING SOON AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Love in the Pleasure Gardens: Costumed girl band Lady Georgianna performs pop songs from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries on Thursday 8 December at 7pm (doors open at 6.15pm). Featuring Abigail Seabrook (voice), Micaela Schmitz (early keyboards) and Hetti Price (baroque cello). Tickets are £15.00 (£13.00 concessions) to include a glass of wine and a mince pie and can be booked on the House website: www.drjohnson.org/events

Just a reminder that the Dr Johnson Walks continue on the first Wednesday of each month at 3.00pm. Follow in Dr Johnson's footsteps with an experienced City Guide. The walk on 2 November will explore the Fleet Valley, Ludgate Hill and St Paul's Churchyard as Dr Johnson knew them. The walk on 7 December will explore Fleet Street and discover Dr Johnson's acquaintances in the area. The walks cost £5.00 (£4.00 concessions). No booking required – meet outside Dr Johnson's House