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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

CITY VOTE 2013

Thank you to all of you who voted, whoever you voted for. For results and further details see over. A number of issues were raised with us during the election period and we will follow these up.

PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION – COS BAR

The Cos Bar has applied to vary its premises licence to extend its current licensing hours to 03.00 am on Fridays and Saturdays which includes permissions for live music (inc DJs), recorded music, dancing and the sale of alcohol and for late night refreshments. Due to its close proximity to residential buildings and the residential nature of the area itself, a record number of objections have been received which include those from your elected members; a hearing has been set for Tuesday 21 May.

STREETWORKS

Residents will have noticed the serious disruption to traffic around the Ward at the moment. This is the result of a number of initiatives, all happening at the same time, including:

- The closure of Stonecutter Street, intended to achieve much-needed environmental (including air quality and noise) and road safety improvements
- Work on Holborn Viaduct
- Restrictions on traffic along Fetter Lane while redevelopment of the old "Mirror" building progresses

Unfortunately it is set to get worse in the short term, as work is planned to start on Holborn Circus in July 2013 to simplify the junction and improve safety - see below.

We can't promise an easy answer but are watching this closely and doing what we can to ensure that electors' interests are protected.

HOLBORN CIRCUS

In our last issue we mentioned that Holborn Circus is due for a major redesign. Work will start in July this year, with completion anticipated by March 2014.

This is much needed. During 2011 (the last year for which figures are available from TfL) there were nine accidents at the junction, of which three were serious necessitating an overnight stay in hospital. Improvements were first mooted in 2004 (not all traffic schemes take nine years to implement!) and will simplify the junction, greatly improving pedestrian safety and reducing vehicle accidents.

Hopefully traffic will now flow more smoothly through the junction. Prince Albert, previously marooned in the centre of a busy junction, will now be able to be cleaned and maintained properly and additional open space provided outside St Andrew Holborn church. Eighty per cent of the funding for the scheme is coming from TfL, ten per cent from Section 106 planning monies, and ten per cent from the off-street parking charges reserve.

We support this long awaited scheme and look forward to its implementation.

For further information and the finally agreed layout for the junction see our website, <http://castle-baynard.org.uk>.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN NEW STREET SQUARE

In particular there are specific problems at the moment around New Street Square. Following the closure of Stonecutter Street to motorised vehicles, extra traffic is attempting to leave the area via East Harding Street, Pemberton Row and West Harding Street. In addition, delivery vehicles are parking on narrow streets to make their deliveries, rather than using designated underground loading bays. This results in frequent snarl-ups, with streets blocked in both directions, vehicles mounting kerbs and increased pollution.

Following earlier representations from us, the City Corporation is finally undertaking a local traffic survey promised since 2004. This will examine the need for traffic measures, for example one-way working or a point closure order, to protect the amenity of local residents – many of the apartments in Pemberton House have rooms directly on the street. We will be examining the results carefully, but it is clear to us that measures need to be taken urgently and we will be pressing for this.

Castle Baynard Resident

May 2013

Your voice on
Common Council:



Ian Luder



Chris Boden



Ray Catt



Nigel Challis



Michael Hudson



Catherine McGuinness



Graham Packham



Henrika Priest



Jeremy Simons

Find our details on:

www.castle-baynard.org.uk
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the election were as follows: Muhammad Al-Hussaini – 39; Chris Boden – 208 (elected); Ray Catt – 190 (elected); Nigel Challis – 193 (elected); Richard Harrington – 50; Michael Hudson – 197 (elected); Catherine McGuinness – 213 (elected); Graham Packham – 206 (elected); Henrika Priest – 225 (elected); Jeremy Simons – 209 (elected). This means two new members join the Castle Baynard team: Chris Boden and Graham Packham.

Chris Boden is an Accountant by training and has spent his entire working life in the City. He is a Partner in the Charles Gee & Company Partnership; Chairman of C&H (Hauliers) Ltd (the country's largest newsprint transporter) and Managing Director of Charles Gee Group Ltd based in Knightbridge Street, and has worked in the Ward for the last 20 years. Chris is also a member of the Baltic Exchange and a member of the Federation of Small Businesses. For seven years Chris was a Borough Councillor in Kent and for three of those years was the Councillor in charge of the Borough Council's finances. He lives in the City next to Bart's Hospital, just outside the ward.

Graham Packham is an IT specialist who has spent most of his working career in international roles at Mars and latterly PwC. Graham has lived in the Ward since 2003 and established the Residents' Association for the development where he lives and serves as its Chairman. The Association has mounted two successful objections to planning applications to establish a night club in the basement of their block, and the premises is now utilized for non-licensed purposes. In addition, Graham and other fellow residents have prepared numerous submissions to the Corporation on various planning applications and policy consultation drafts. Graham was very active in supporting the Ward's successful campaign to amend the last City ward boundary reorganization proposals in order to retain the Ward's historic buildings and currently serves as Deputy Chairman of the Castle Baynard Ward Club.

RETIRING COMMON COUNCILMAN



William Hunt, who has served Castle Baynard as a Common Councilman since 2004, did not stand for election. We thank him for all his work for the Ward and wish him well. As a herald at the College of Arms in Queen Victoria Street he will remain closely involved with the Ward community.

JOHNSON'S NEIGHBOURHOOD: PAST AND PRESENT

Thursday 20 June 2013 6.30 - 8pm: Don't miss this opportunity to see 19th and 20th century watercolours and photographs of Dr Johnson's neighbourhood, exhibited exclusively for this one evening. View images of the area which explore the local courtyards and the Inns of Court where Johnson would roam and call home. Meet the current locals of Castle Baynard and the City over a glass of wine. Tickets £5 from drjohnsonhouse.org/events or FREE for Castle Baynard residents (please bring proof of address).

BRIDEWELL THEATRE – SUMMER PROGRAMME

The programme at the Bridewell Theatre features the following shows for the next few months. For ticket purchases, please go online www.stbridefoundation.org/bridewelltheatre or telephone 020 7353 3331 for information on how to book.

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 £1.00 advance booking discount. On the door you can buy tickets at full price from 12.00 noon at the theatre box office:

- ▶ Postcard from London (The London Ballet Company): 18 June – 5 July

Evening Programme

- ▶ May '08 (Guildhall School of Music and Drama): 20 – 23 May
- ▶ "Let's do it" – A Celebration of Cole Porter and his Contemporaries (Test of Time Productions): 25 May
- ▶ Autobahn (Spread Eagle Players): 30 May – 1 June
- ▶ The Doctor's Dilemma (Tower Theatre Company): 4 – 8 June
- ▶ Lia's Guide to Winning the Lottery (The MTA): 12 – 15 June
- ▶ Moby Dick! The Musical (Centre Stage London): 18 – 22 June
- ▶ Speaking in Tongues (Tower Theatre Company): 2 – 6 July
- ▶ Enron (SEDOS): 10 – 14 July
- ▶ Autobahn (Spread Eagle Players): 16 – 20 July
- ▶ A Man of No Importance (SEDOS): 23 – 27 July