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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

COS BAR PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION – UPDATE

The hearing took place on Tuesday 21 May on Cos Bar’s application for a variation to their premises licence to extend their current terminal hour on Friday and Saturday from 01.00 hours to 03.00 hours. Despite objections by residents and elected members, the Licensing Sub-Committee granted the application, but (as offered by Cos Bar at the hearing) subject to limiting the extension till 3.00 am to Saturdays only (ie until 3.00 am Sunday morning), that live music be removed as a licensable activity and there are to be no off sales, ie no drinking outside. Moreover, a number of conditions were imposed by the Sub-committee, promoted events must be notified to the police in advance, amplified music can only be played through Cos Bar’s own PA system, an incident log must be kept, prominent signage is to be displayed asking customers to leave quietly, telephone contact numbers must be made available to nearby residents and CCTV cameras must be installed at public entry and exit points. Following the hearing, members have met residents living next door to Cos Bar to discuss way forward and what to do if any problems arise with regard to noise or anti-social behaviour. All residents have been given the relevant numbers for City of London police (020 7601 2222 – 24 hours) and the City Corporation Pollution Team (020 7606 3030 (out of hours) or 020 7332 3630 during business hours). The Cos Bar owners have also offered to engage with your elected members and local residents, and this offer is being taken up by your elected members.

ICE CREAM VANS – NOT LICENSED IN THE CITY OF LONDON!

Summer is here again, and with it the problem of unlicensed ice cream vendors. These vans which sit with their engines running causing noise nuisance and pollution, with low standards of food hygiene and charging tourists exorbitant prices, have led to numerous complaints to us over the years. As reported in previous newsletters we have been working hard to encourage the Corporation and the City police to tackle this problem. As a result, several prosecutions have been brought, but unfortunately the vendors seem to view the consequent fines as just another expense of the trade. We are now advised that the only effective course is to seek an injunction, as was successfully obtained at our instigation against a previous vendor operating in the City, but that for this statements will be needed from local businesses and residents about the detrimental effect the ice cream vans are having on the community. **If you are willing to give such a statement, please contact the Corporation on 020 7332 3630.** At our request, information is now being displayed on the electronic information displays on the ReNew recycling bins that ice cream vans are not permitted to operate in the City.

LATE NIGHT LEVY CONSULTATION – DEADLINE 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gives licensing authorities the power to charge a levy to licensees who are licensed to sell alcohol late at night. If implemented, this levy would be an additional fee to be charged to those premises licensed to sell alcohol during the supply period, which must begin at or after midnight and end at or before 6.00 am. The amount of the levy has been set by regulation and is calculated according to a premises’ rateable value. The money raised is to be used as a contribution towards the costs of policing the late-night economy.

Data provided by the City of London Police indicates that the majority of alcohol related violent crimes are committed between the hours of midnight and 5.00 am. Just over 50% of violent crimes committed in the City are alcohol related, and between midnight and 6.00 am 80% of violent crimes committed are alcohol related. Before a decision is taken the City Corporation is undertaking a public consultation. If a levy is introduced it will begin from April 2014 and 70% of the money raised would go to the City of London police.

This is your opportunity to have a say in this matter – the online questionnaire can be downloaded from this page: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/licensing/alcohol-and-entertainment/Pages/Late-night-levy-consultation.aspx>. You can also complete the survey in writing – the questions can be found on pages 9 – 12 of the consultation document on the same page (see above). Completed questionnaires should be sent to: Levy Consultation, Licensing Team, Walbrook Wharf, 78-83 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3TD or you can email it to licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk. **The consultation deadline is Friday 6 September.**

CLEAN STREETS APP– “LOVE THE SQUARE MILE”

The City Corporation’s “Love the Square Mile” App enables you to report any issue with the street environment – waste bags left on the streets outside the time banding hours, graffiti, fly posters or fly tipping, damage to street furniture or any other street cleansing issues using <http://lovethesquaremile.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>. Alternatively, you can always telephone the City Corporation on 020 7606 3030 or email street.cleansing@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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

BIG BELLY BINS AND MORE RENEW BINS - IMPROVING THE CITY'S STREETS

A couple of the bins that were introduced in the ward following requests by your elected members have been replaced by so called Big Belly Bins – one in Ludgate Circus and one by City Thameslink station. A total of 26 of these have recently been installed across the City so far. They have a solar powered internal compactor which crushes the rubbish so each bin can hold up to eight times the volume of a normal litter bin. Other benefits are that as the litter is contained inside the bin it doesn't get blown about by the wind and they have a sensor inside that tells the Cleansing Department when they are almost full by sending an email which is a more efficient use of staff resources.

As reported in a previous newsletter the City introduced a new type of recycling bin – ReNew – which had information displays on the side providing extra channels of communication from the City or the City of London police. They are used on the basis of high footfall location to maximise the availability of on-street recycling and there are now about 100 bins across the City. An impressive 12 tonnes of material is recycled every month from these bins and although there are items that get thrown into these bins which are not recyclable, the overall contamination rate is very low at 5%.

STREETWORKS

In our last issue we mentioned the large number of street works underway or planned for Castle Baynard. We have now written to the Assistant Director (Highways) in the City of London Corporation to express our concern that the large number of road restrictions and weekend closures is having an increasingly unacceptable impact on residents and businesses in the ward. We have been informed that it is the City's policy to ensure that where a route is closed, a parallel route will remain open, for example both Fleet Street and Holborn will not be closed at the same time. Also that there is a degree of co-ordination between the City and TfL to ensure, for example, that elements of the Holborn Circus scheme which will cause disruption will not take place until the Crossrail works in Farringdon Road are completed. Within the City, there will be co-ordination between the Holborn Circus scheme and the Holborn Viaduct works now nearing completion to keep disruption to a minimum. The City provides a regular weekly Traffic Management bulletin. If you wish to be put on the circulation list please email: traffic.management@cityoflondon.gov.uk

LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS – WHAT HAPPENS?

A licence application must be advertised on the actual premises and the notice you would see is blue and usually displayed in a window. For example, for a new premises licence the notice needs to be displayed for 28 days. It must also be advertised in a local newspaper and on the Corporation of London's website where you can view the public notices for all applications during the consultation period. It is possible to subscribe to an email notification of applications received – please send your request to licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Any individual can make a representation – both in support or opposition of a licence application – be it a resident or a business as well as what is known as a responsible authority, eg the police, fire authority, environmental health authority or the licensing authority itself. When making an objection, it will assist your case if it is evidence based and linked to the premises in question and if you can show that the granting of an application would not promote one of the four licensing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. All representations must be sent to the Licensing Authority, ie Corporation of London within the statutory time limit.

It's important to remember that when making a representation, the Corporation must provide the applicant with copies of all representations including the names and addresses. These would only be withheld if there are fears of intimidation or violence. For opposed applications, other than for minor variations, the Corporation must hold a hearing unless all relevant parties can come to an agreement beforehand and then agree that a hearing is unnecessary. The Corporation will write to anyone who has put through a representation to inform them of the hearing and the hearing must be held in public within 20 working days of the last day for representation and normally finishes on the same day. After the hearing, the decision will be sent to anyone who has made a representation.

More information about this process and a specific document about what happens before and during the hearings and licensing in general can be found at <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/licensing/beer-and-entertainment>. We always look out for any licence applications made within the ward and are happy to discuss any concerns or assist you in any way that we can.