

June 2009

Issue 9

Castle Baynard Resident

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Your voice on Common Council

Ray Catt

Nigel Challis

Michael Hudson

William Hunt

Catherine
McGuinness

Henrika Priest

Jeremy Simons

Find our details on
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

ICE CREAM VANS

Street trading is prohibited in the City of London except at one or two sites. During warm weather itinerant ice-cream vans are a problem in the St Paul's area and near to the Millennium Bridge. The vans run their engines continuously, annoying local businesses, and often do not display price-lists, charging high prices to tourists. They may also cause an obstruction to the highway. Although several bits of legislation can be used against them, the law may be difficult to enforce or requires the use of considerable police resources.

We have raised this problem at a number of the City's committees and are pressing for the early introduction of legislation with real bite, with penalties set at a reasonable level to deter these operators.

CLARITY 121 HOLBORN

A licensing hearing took place on Monday 18 May at Camden Town Hall where Clarity Leisure Limited was seeking a new premises licence for a range of licensable activities such as dancing, live music, films and plays, with opening hours running from 09.00 to 06.30 am Mondays to Sundays. In total, 112 representations had been made which included a large number of residents living above and around 121 Holborn, local businesses, residents and members from the Ward of Castle Baynard and the Police and Health & Safety Responsible Authorities.

Of particular concern was the fact that the venue would have a capacity of over 1,000 which undoubtedly would result in an increase in noise and alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and have a detrimental impact on the local area, something which the residents living on the north side of Fleet Street felt would affect them as well. At the end of the hearing, the applicant withdrew the application.

FIRE AT THE COLLEGE OF ARMS

Fire broke out on the second floor of the west wing of the College of Arms on the morning of 5 February. Eight fire appliances attended and the forty fire-fighters took three and a half hours to bring the fire under control. Queen Victoria Street was closed for much of the day. Flames went up through the third floor and through the roof, and, although the firemen rigged up tarpaulins to channel much of the water out of the windows, the ceilings of the two floors below the seat of the blaze have had to be taken down. There was also extensive smoke damage to the second and third floors in both the west and the central wings.

Fortunately, no-one was injured, and the paintings and framed documents on the walls in all but the room in which the fire started were saved. Whilst the contents of some of the offices were lost, the official records of the College - arms and pedigrees of the gentry from the Middle Ages to the present day - are housed in another wing and were unaffected. The task of repairing the Grade I listed building began immediately and should be completed by Christmas. It is necessary, for example, for the lath and plaster ceilings to be replaced with similar materials and not with plasterboard.

The College, a self governing and self financing part of the Royal Household, moved in 1555 from Upper Thames Street to its present site, to a building destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. The present building was erected in the years following, originally with four sides and its entrance via an archway in Godliman Street. The fourth side was sacrificed to make way for Queen Victoria Street in the 1860s.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST PAUL'S

In Issue 3 we raised the issue of delays to traffic caused by the pedestrian crossing in front of St Paul's Cathedral. During busy periods traffic backs up down Ludgate Hill and into Fleet Street, due to the almost continuous flow of people using the crossing. Of the two new refuges promised - opposite Dean's Court and further down Ludgate Hill to "spread the load" of pedestrians, the Dean's Court refuge is now in place. We have again asked questions on your behalf at City committees and have been informed that a light controlled crossing would not be appropriate in front of St Paul's Cathedral due to the iconic nature of the building. We will continue to press the City to find a solution to the tailbacks here.

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WARD COMMITTEES

Each Ward of the City has one or more representatives on what are termed "Ward Committees", responsible for many of the City's activities, the system ensuring that each Ward is involved in decision making, with ward members able to provide a voice for local residents and businesses. For the 2009/2010 period, committee responsibilities are as follows:

- **City Land and Bridge House Estates Committee: William Hunt**
Responsible for the City's property portfolio and five London bridges, including Tower Bridge.
- **Finance Committee: Ray Catt**
Responsible for the City's finances.
- **Planning and Transportation Committee: Michael Hudson and Jeremy Simons**
Responsible for planning decisions, local area plans and the City's streets and walkways.
- **Port Health and Environmental Services: Nigel Challis and Jeremy Simons**
Responsible for cleansing, refuse collection, public conveniences, trading standards, public health and the City's Cemetery.
- **Markets Committee: Michael Hudson**
Responsible for Smithfield, Billingsgate and Spitafields Markets.
- **Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery Committee: Henrika Priest**
Responsible for the City's Libraries, the Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Art Gallery.
- **Community and Children's Services: Catherine McGuinness**
Responsible for social services, children, older people and education.

In addition there are numerous other committees and sub-committees. Details of our responsibilities can be found on the City's web-site. Click on "About Us" then "Committee Information".

MORE ISSUES YOU HAVE RAISED WITH US

Q: What can I do if I am disturbed by noise or disturbance from a nearby licensed premises?

A: With the increasing amount of night time activity in the City, the Department of Environmental Services now has a night time inspector employed between 10pm and 6am, working on a rota basis to cover all days of the week. His job is to record problems such as noisy gatherings, evidence of vomiting and urination, whether queuing is taking place, the use of door supervisors, whether bottles and glasses are outside premises etc. Problem premises will then be visited by licensing enforcement officers.

If you have problems with noise at night, please call the Department of Environmental Services on 020 7332 3630. If you are concerned at anti-social behaviour outside licensed premises or excessive noise call the City Police on 020 7601 2222. Violent behaviour, whether inside or outside premises, should be reported to the police on 999.

Q: How do I park my bicycle without it being removed?

A: Please try to avoid chaining your cycle to railings or in other places where it may cause an obstruction. Cycles left outside offices on private land may be removed. Also avoid attaching your cycle to a tree. By far the safest place is a City of London cycle rack. A handy map showing locations is given in the city's Cycling Guide. This can be downloaded from the City's web site. And do remember to use a lock of minimum "Silver" security standard. If you use a lock of "Bronze" standard or below, your insurance company may not pay-out if you cycle is stolen.

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL

The City of London Festival will be held 19 June – 9 July and includes a number of events within the Ward. See www.colf.org for details.

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