

Castle Baynard Resident

In this issue:

- *Ward Surgery*
- *Covid-19 Rough Sleeping Update*
- *TfL Congestion Charge and Fare Concession Changes*
- *City Covid-19 Temporary Street Changes*
- *Towards a Plastic Free City*

Check out our website for other news of the ward and further details on newsletter topics!

www.castle-baynard.org.uk

WARD SURGERY (Graham Packham)

We hope that all residents have been keeping safe and well during the Covid-19 lock down. We will be holding an on-line Zoom ward surgery on **July 1 at 6:00pm**. There is no need to book and members of the ward team will be available to answer any questions or discuss any topics of concern. Details on how to join can be found on our team website at:

<http://castle-baynard.org.uk/ward-news/>

To request an electronic copy of this newsletter mail us at enquiries@castle-baynard.org.uk

COVID-19: HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE (Henrika Priest)

Since the lockdown commenced in early March, 92 individuals in the City have received support to access new or existing accommodation. Currently, 48 people referred by the City's outreach team are being accommodated in government funded provision procured by the GLA, and a further 44 have been housed from the streets by the City of London Corporation. They are accommodated in bed spaces which have been procured in hotels, specialist hostels and, in Castle Baynard Ward, the Youth Hostel at St Paul's.



This site can accommodate up to 20 individuals safely within the COVID-19 Public Health England guidelines. The City's outreach team also continues to target entrenched City rough sleepers as a priority, and the number of people now placed in the Youth Hostel at St Paul's is 15. Staff support is being provided by Providence Row Housing Association. Food, cleaning and security services are provided by the City of London.

The Youth Hostel site has proven highly effective at ensuring our most vulnerable and hard-to-reach rough sleepers have accepted an accommodation offer. A specialist infectious disease service – Find & Treat, has visited the YHA and screened all guests for infection, and the City has access to the clinical team at the Greenhouse practice in Hackney who are also visiting residents at the YHA St Paul's.

Regrettably some rough sleepers (currently 13) are continuing to refuse all offers of support and help, but they are visited on a regular basis by the City's commissioned outreach service which deliver shift visits across 6 days per week. An exit planning strategy is currently being developed which will align with the London wide plan, the most important objective will be that no-one who has been placed in emergency accommodation in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis is asked to leave without an offer of support to end their rough sleeping.

Work on all of the above continues at pace and we will keep you updated on the work that we do. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact us at: enquiries@castle-baynard.org.uk

TfL - CONGESTION CHARGES, FARE CONCESSIONS (Catherine McGuinness)

TfL have announced a number of temporary changes which may impact on you. Some are designed to reduce traffic in central London to facilitate travel by foot, bike and bus, others are influenced by TfL's financial problems. Passengers with a 60+ Oyster card, Older Person's Freedom Pass, or English National Concessionary Scheme pass will not be able to use these cards before 09:00 on weekday mornings. These cards will continue to be valid at all other times. Disabled Freedom Pass holders are not affected by these changes, changes are also being made to free travel arrangements for Under 18s.

On Monday 22 June the Congestion Charge increased to £15 per day, with £1 Auto Pay discounts disappplied, and hours of operation extended to between 07:00 and 22:00 seven days a week. **The Residents' Discount will also be closed to new applicants from 1 August.** Ward members have made representations regarding the adverse implications of the congestion charge changes for residents, ward businesses, and the cultural and faith bodies which are such important parts of the City's community.

Your voice on
Common Council:



Ian Luder - Alderman



Chris Boden



Michael Hudson



Angus Knowles-Cutler



Natasha Lloyd-Owen



Catherine McGuinness



Graham Packham



Henrika Priest



Jeremy Simons

Find our details on:

www.castle-baynard.org.uk

STREET CHANGES TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RECOVERY (Graham Packham)

The staged easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions has commenced and it is necessary to implement temporary changes to the City streets to facilitate economic recovery while enabling safe social distancing.

Given the medieval street footprints in parts of the City, many of our pavements are too narrow to maintain safe social distancing. In some streets it is likely that existing arrangements will be a danger to the public. A package of short-term temporary measures has been developed that will focus on safe travelling for pedestrians and cyclists, and supporting City business economic recovery. On-street measures will include timed closures to motor vehicles on some streets, and reallocation of carriageway to space for walking, queueing and cycling and providing priority for buses.

Access for servicing and parking within off street premises will be maintained at all times, where carriageway space is being allocated for walking there will be provisions for taxi pick up and drop off where possible. Access for Red and Blue Badge holders and taxis dropping off or picking up disabled passengers will also be maintained.

The first phase of delivery covered the streets around Bank Junction, Leadenhall and St. Mary Axe. A second phase will cover the wider Square Mile area. An online portal will shortly be available on the Corporation's web site for street users to comment on the specific changes. Please get in touch if you have any comments or questions about these changes. More details about the proposals can be found on the Corporation's web site at: <http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=101568>

TOWARDS A PLASTIC FREE CITY (Jeremy Simons)

Whilst plastics have revolutionized our lives over the past 50 years, they have a serious down-side; they can take centuries to decompose, passing into our oceans and polluting beaches. Microplastics are particularly insidious ending up in marine creatures and entering the human food chain. This is a significant problem in the City as an average City worker during normal times can use over 1,000 pieces of single-use plastic a year at their workplace. Plastic bottles and lids represent ten percent of all the litter found in the River Thames. Cotton buds, plastic straws and other plastic waste litter the foreshore at Square Mile locations such as Queenhithe Dock (pictured).



The City launched A Plastic Free City campaign in July 2018 to encourage businesses to reduce their use of single use plastics. Today 96 businesses representing 90,000 (20%) of the City's workforce, have committed to eliminate single use plastics from their operations. To assist City businesses, Plastic Free City Forums are held with expert speakers, as well as Environmental Best Practice Meetings allowing participants to exchange their ideas.

These efforts have led to reductions of over six hundred thousand plastic bottles, and plastic straws, three and a half million plastic takeaway food bowls, twelve million pieces of plastic cutlery, and nineteen million plastic cups.

The City has also worked to reduce the use of disposable coffee cups and 17 water refill points have now been installed on our streets, in 16 months 127,000 litres of water have been dispensed, equivalent to a quarter of a million half-litre single-use plastic bottles not used.

We all need to think about the amount of plastic waste we produce. Using re-usable containers, bottles and cups, avoiding unnecessary packaging and behaving responsibly. Together we can ensure that the amount of plastic is drastically reduced and does not create long term harm to our environment, and ultimately to ourselves and future generations.