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Find our details on www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

WARD SURGERY TO DISCUSS THAMES TUNNEL PROJECT

As reported in our last issue, Thames Water are currently consulting over proposals for their Thames Tunnel project. See www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk for more details. After heavy rain untreated sewage may be discharged directly into the River Thames. Unlike more recent systems, London's Victorian sewage system collects both sewage and rainwater. This results in the periodic discharge of excess flows into the River Thames. In an average year this amounts to around 39 million cubic meters. The project aims to capture this sewage from over 50 "combined sewer overflows" (CSOs) and transfer it to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works. It is proposed that a tunnel up to 32 km in length be constructed, mainly following the route of the River Thames. The first stage of public consultation is now underway and an exhibition outlining the proposals took place at Fishmongers' Hall in late September.

A major site lies in our Ward, on the Blackfriars Bridge foreshore. It is proposed to build a vertical shaft in a "build-out" into the river from the current embankment, between Temple Avenue and Carmelite Street. Construction is due to start around 2013, with construction at each site lasting around three to four years. The project is due for completion in 2020. The Blackfriars shaft would divert sewage from the Fleet River/Sewer and also a second sewer into the new tunnel which would run below the River Thames.

The Blackfriars site will not be used for the construction of the main tunnel - it is proposed this should be done from major sites at Nine Elms and Kings Stairs Garden (Rotherhithe). At Blackfriars the only spoil will come from the vertical shaft down to the main tunnel. This shaft will have an external diameter of 24 meters and a depth of around 50 meters, so still quite a lot of material! At present Thames Water are unable to say how much of this material would be removed by lorry and how much by river barge. On completion of the work, a build-out of around 30 meters into the river would remain, with a building to provide ventilation and filtration approximately 10 meters high and a ventilation column as high as 15 meters. A second build-out into the river, of around 5-6 meters, would lead from the shaft site downstream to a point beneath Blackfriars Bridge to provide the link from the Fleet Sewer.

The proposed works may have a number of knock-on effects. There may be traffic disruption while the work is in progress. The build-outs would lead to a significant narrowing of the river and may cause an increase to river flow speeds and hence additional scouring. There may also be an impact on navigation, with the possibility that it may be necessary to move Blackfriars Pier further downstream, perhaps to a site near the City of London School. We would also need reassurances that the filtration system on the site to treat air vented from the main tunnel would be efficient and would not result in odours in the vicinity.

Elected members will be pressing for removal of spoil during the building process by barge so far as possible, to minimize heavy lorry movements and traffic disruption. We will also be pressing for an attractive design for the finished shaft site.

So that you can learn more about the proposals and how they may affect the Ward, we have arranged for representatives of Thames Water to attend our next Ward Meeting. This will take place at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 23 November at Unilever House, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DY. We are grateful to Unilever for their hospitality.

This is your opportunity to ask questions and provide a local input into the planning of this major project, and also to raise with your elected members any other issues of current concern.

It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers in advance, so if you plan to come [please RSVP to catherine.mcguinness@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.mcguinness@cityoflondon.gov.uk) (tel 079 0987 6115).

WARD SURGERY ON THAMES TUNNEL PROJECT: 6.00 PM, TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2010, AT UNILEVER HOUSE, 100 VICTORIA EMBANKMENT

CASTLE BAYNARD ARTWORK

The Planning Committee recently gave permission for the temporary installation of an artwork on the parapet of White Lion Hill. The installation would consist of a slender mesh LED screen measuring 1 meter high by 24 meters in width. It would be attached to the concrete parapet forming the southern side of the White Lion Hill road bridge to the east of Blackfriars Station, and would be visible from the River. A continuous film would run depicting the "flow of movement" in an abstract way as a lo-fi digital animation. The installation would run for a maximum of three months and be turned off between 01.00 and 07.00 daily. The maximum illumination will be less than 600 lumens per square meter (a single street lamp is 2700 lumens). We are intrigued by this proposal to lighten-up this part of the ward and look forward to its installation.

PRE-PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF MICRO-CELL ENHANCEMENT EQUIPMENT IN TUDOR STREET

We have been informed of a forthcoming application on behalf of the mobile company O2 to install micro-cell enhancement equipment in Tudor Street. To overcome congestion and provide additional capacity in the vicinity, a small antenna would be installed on the south side of Tudor Street to the east of John Carpenter Street immediately opposite the end of Dorset Rise. The antenna would be located on a 5.5 meter pole, with an adjacent cabinet on the footway 1443 mm high, 1750 mm wide and 452 mm deep. This is a low power device to deal with a particular traffic "hot-spot" at this location. Residents with questions may find the following link helpful:

<http://www.mobilemastinfo.com>

BLACKFRIARS STATION CLOSED

Trains will run through and not stop at Blackfriars from 20 November 2010 to 16 January 2011 inclusive. Network Rail has to close the station as part of the project to rebuild it to span the Thames so that longer trains can stop at the station and overcrowding on trains be reduced.

The reason for the closure is that Network Rail is now nearing the point when it needs to start work on the west side of the bridge, where trains currently run. So far it has been working on strengthening the eastern side of the bridge. In order to work on the west side the rail tracks have to be moved from the west side of the bridge to the east and new platforms opened.

Network Rail is doing as much work as possible up front. However, there will come a point when contractors cannot go any further without removing the platform footbridge and north end of platform 4 which will be in the way.

Their website explains that this is why the station has to close for eight weeks - there will simply be no way for customers or staff to get on and off or even around the station in safety.

For more information see www.thameslinkprogramme.co.uk

CONSULTATION ON SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

The City of London Corporation will shortly be consulting on the approach that it should take towards the licensing of sexual entertainment venues. Under new legislation which the City of London Corporation has adopted, it is permitted to have a policy on the number of such venues which may operate within its area. For the ward of Castle Baynard we will be pressing for a policy that the appropriate number is "nil", i.e. that although the authority will review all applications on their merits they will do so with a presumption that the area is inappropriate for venues of this type.

The reasons that we will press for this is the number of residents spread across the ward, the fact that there are at least four places of worship within the Ward, including St Paul's Cathedral, and the inclusion within the Ward of the St Bride's Institute, which regularly hosts educational visits and activities from schools and young people. Nowhere within the Ward will be very far from one of these.

We will advise you when the consultation is launched and would like to hear your views. Please contact Henrika Priest on henrika.priest@cityoflondon.gov.uk or at the Members' Room, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

WHAT'S ON IN CASTLE BAYNARD

Thomas Paine in Lewes 1768-1774

A prelude to American Independence: An illustrated lecture by Paul Myles

Thursday 18 November 7.00 pm at Dr Johnson's House

Very little was known about Founding Father Thomas Paine's life in England prior to his departure to America. Even less was known about the time he spent in the Sussex town of Lewes. Paine's intriguing story brings him into contact with prominent eighteenth-century characters such as George Lewis Scott, Benjamin Franklin and Oliver Goldsmith. This talk includes some rare eighteenth-century images of Paine, Lewes and London.

Tickets: £12/£10 concession includes a glass of wine. Places are limited and tickets must be booked in advance. Send a cheque made payable to 'Dr Johnson's House Trust Ltd' to Dr Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE or telephone 020 7353 3745 to reserve your place.