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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

RECENT BURGLARIES IN THE CITY

Residents should be aware that there has been an increase in the number of domestic burglaries in the City recently. Some of these have been in our Ward and the City police have set up a task force specifically to address this issue. However, residents can help significantly by taking a few simple precautions. Most residential properties in the Ward are multi-occupancy buildings, and the most usual way that burglars gain access to the common areas is either by 'tail-gating', or by speculatively using the entry phone system to identify unoccupied flats and then persuading a resident to let them in.

These incidents often happen during weekday mid afternoons, and ensuring that everyone is aware of this issue, and is vigilant can help prevent this. **The police do NOT expect residents to confront intruders or suspicious people directly but recommend that they call the City Police Control room on 0207 601 2222 if they have concerns.** The City police will respond quickly to all calls.

The City Police Crime Prevention unit is available to visit residential buildings and to provide advice on how to improve security, such as improving doors, locks, alarms and visible CCTV. Contact the City Police Crime Prevention team for more information.

<http://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/CityPolice/Advice/Crime+Prevention/protectingyourproperty.htm>

APPLY FOR YOUR POSTAL VOTE – DEADLINE 5.00 PM WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Polling for the Common Council general election is on 21 March 2013 from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. Voting by post is easy and saves you having to visit the polling station in person. The deadline for postal vote applications is 5.00 pm on Wednesday 6 March and they must be posted or delivered to Electoral Services, Town Clerk's Department, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ. There is a link to download the form on the City Vote 2013 page of our website (www.castle-baynard.org.uk). Forms can also be obtained by e-mailing enquiries@castle-baynard.org.uk or from any Castle Baynard Ward Common Councilman.

NEW STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY AND CODE OF PRACTICE FOR LICENSED PREMISES

As mentioned in the December issue the Licensing Act 2003 requires that licensing policies are reviewed and published every five years but the City Corporation felt the need to review its policy earlier (in 2012 instead of 2016) given the number of recent legislative changes to the Licensing Act 2003 and the changes to the City's licensing service policies and procedures. Following the consultation process last December the new Statement of Licensing Policy has now come into effect on 17 January and introduces a new **Code of Good Practice** and a Traffic Light Risk Assessment. The Code is specifically aimed at reducing problems from licensed premises and ensuring that the night time economy does not interfere with the rights of local residents. Applicants and licensees are expected to make a proactive commitment to preventing problems from occurring through the adoption of this code. It outlines what the City Corporation expects in practical terms from applicants when completing their operating schedules and from licensees when operating their premises under the terms of a premises license.

The new **Traffic Light Risk Assessment** scheme is to run alongside the Code of Good Practice and is a monitoring tool based on a points system where penalty points will be marked against premises for each relevant incident that occurs there. Premise will fall into a green, amber or red zone based on their total penalty points at a given time. As a business accumulates points it will trigger thresholds where certain number of points result in a formal review of its licence. The scheme will also recognize good practice and award credit points where appropriate measures have been implemented to remedy the problem.

We welcome this as we have been working with residents and licensed premises both in the Ward and in one of our neighbouring wards to encourage responsible management; for full details of all of the above please go to: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/licensing/alcohol-and-entertainment/Pages/Licensing-policy.aspx>. If you have any questions please contact the Licensing Team directly on 0207 332 3406 or by email licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk. If you are affected by anti-social behaviour, particularly at night, please contact the City of London police on 0207 606 2222. For noise issues, please contact the Pollution Team on 020 7332 3630 during business hours or 0207 606 3060 outside business hours.

POLLUTION IN THE CITY

Your Castle Baynard Ward Councilmen have been actively pushing for action on air pollution in the Ward, where Ludgate Circus has been identified as being a particular area of concern. Following pressure from the Ward's representatives on Common Council, the City Corporation has re-instated air quality monitoring equipment near to Ludgate Circus, and we are also pleased to see the apparent success of the recent trials of an experimental road surfacing material, in Upper and Lower Thames Street, designed to trap "particulates" and thus reduce pollution created by traffic. The Sunday Times' article last month about the health effects of pollution in the City of London helps to highlight the seriousness of this subject, which we regard as the most important public health issue in this Ward. Your Castle Baynard Ward Team is continuing to press for further action – more information is available on our website: <http://castle-baynard.org.uk>

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

CYCLING MATTERS!

Cycling Permeability: After supportive feedback from consultation, the City is introducing further cycle permeability measures through the City which would permit cycling in both directions in one-way streets, including a number within the Ward (Carmelite Street, Tallis Street and Bride Lane). Ward members welcome this development, though encourage cyclists to exercise their new rights responsibly. Electors regularly complain to us about cyclists who ignore red lights or cycle on pavements and motorists who turn left without using their indicators putting cyclists at risk.

Dangers to Cyclists: We are concerned at a recent TfL report that construction lorries are disproportionately to blame for cyclists' deaths. Ward members have sought a report at the City Corporation's Streets and Walkways Committee and are pressing the City to include a requirement in its "Considerate Contractor" code that contractors working in the City should ensure that their delivery lorry drivers have cycling awareness training. We are also urging the City to sign up to the London Cycling Campaign "Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling" pledge.

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

The City Corporation has issued a Draft Local Plan for consultation which sets out the strategy for shaping the future of the City up to 2026. It builds on the City's Core Strategy 2011, and sets out policies that will be used when making decisions on planning applications. This is your opportunity to have your say on the new plan before it is finalised. You can see the plan at the Guildhall, in City libraries and on www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/localplan. There are two meetings taking place where you can ask questions, talk to City planners and give your views: Monday 18 February 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm (Guildhall: Livery Hall); Tuesday 26 February 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm (Guildhall: Old Library). Comments should be sent by 11 March to: City Planning Officer, Department of the Built Environment, City of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall EC2P 2EJ or to: localplan@cityoflondon.gov.uk

POSTAL DELIVERIES

Recently a number of alternative postal providers have started delivering their own mail directly to residents in the City. Previously alternative providers used the Royal Mail for the "last-mile" delivery. We have received several reports, mainly from blocks of apartments, where items including those marked Private and Confidential have been dumped in the street, because access has not been gained to blocks where letter boxes are inside the building. The senders of the mail, which may be banks and other large organisations are unaware that their mail is not being delivered. This is not a matter for the Royal Mail, as they are not involved, but for the regulator of postal services, Ofcom. We have raised the issue with the Town Clerk, as this would appear to be a more general problem for the City's residents.

JUNCTIONS AND CROSSINGS

In previous issues we have reported on a number of schemes within the Ward. Perhaps the longest running saga concerns the pedestrian crossing in front of St Paul's. We now understand that detailed proposals are likely to be tabled to the City's Streets and Walkways Committee in April of this year for the installation of light controlled crossings at the junction with Ave Maria Lane. We would welcome this development which we have been pressing for.

Transport for London have become increasingly concerned at the number of accidents, particularly to pedestrians and cyclists at major junctions. They have now initiated the "Better Junctions" programme to improve safety at 100 locations across the London area. Within the City of London, Holborn Circus has the highest number of total casualties and Ludgate Circus the third highest total (Bank Junction is second). Transport for London are proposing to fund improvements to five City junctions. At Blackfriars they are proposing some alterations to the lane markings to the north-bound carriageway leading off the bridge. At Ludgate Circus proposals are expected to be received from Transport for London by the end of 2013 for implementation during 2014. This will be separate from the City's own "Fleet Street Corridor" scheme we mentioned in Issue 29, which is a longer term project.

Holborn Circus Junction is already ear-marked for a major redesign, as we have reported on several occasions. This involves simplifying the junction, moving Prince Albert to the west and increasing the open space by St Andrew Holborn church. The design now includes a right turn at the north end of St Andrew Street for access to Holborn Circus. The final designs are likely to be published in April. This much delayed scheme, funded by Transport for London, should finally be implemented during the financial year 2013/2014.

WHAT'S ON AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Have I Got News For Thee: An illustrated talk with songs by musician and broadcaster Lucie Skeaping, with Douglas Wootton playing lute and cittern. Tuesday 14 March at 7.30 pm. The comical ballads sung in the streets, taverns and theatres from Shakespeare's time also acted as the tabloid press of the day, serving up a heady mix of gossip, politics, scandal and romantic fiction. Lucie Skeaping shows how these little ditties tell us more about the time than the history books do. Tickets £10, to include a glass of wine, from www.drjohnsonhouse.org/events or from the House.