



Aldersgate

Observations of a new member

I've been asked to put pen to paper and review my first year in office at the coalface as a new Common Councillor.

Since I'm not a professional or even an amateur politician and had no experience of election strategies or the ins and outs of the City, I initially came into the Ward Election process quite cold. Friends were long-term residents, and guided me smoothly onto the learning curve of the City structure, and there is thankfully a lot online from the City Corporation, the Barbican Association and Barbican Life (for instance).

Being unencumbered by any party politics, I stood as an Independent candidate and I'm pleased about that. Unlike other local councils, the majority of Councillors stand as independent candidates. Indeed, one of the reasons I wanted to become a Councillor was to focus on the issues rather than the politics.

I was already clued up on how much residents gave of their free time to help and volunteer on Estate committees and associations, but this really hit home as I was initiated into the City structure officially.

The City Corporation runs a comprehensive induction, designed to introduce new members to the various facets of the City Corporation in bite sized chunks. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was one of the better programs that I've been through, although it was difficult at times to juggle with other commitments.

Also, after taking office (involving a ceremony with robes), and getting down to work, I soon learnt that each Councillor sits on various committees as an active and voting voice. I started on the Markets, Port Health and Environment and Barbican Residents Committees; three exciting groups because they are all busy and actively evolving.

For instance, the Port Health and Environment Committee deals with matters as varied as air pollution to crematoriums to massage parlours. Its remit also includes the Animal



Reception Centre at Heathrow Airport. In fact, this Committee covers a wide area geographically, including the length of the Thames and veterinarian services across London.

I soon settled in to the busy schedule of meetings due mainly to the support from incumbent Councillors in my Ward. Joyce Nash, the Ward Deputy, has been priceless in quickly bringing me up to speed on City processes and has mentored me along the way; always there when I needed advice or a helping hand with her considerable experience.

It was great to see the whole Resident/Councillor/City process in action within weeks of my taking office, as the residents got their teeth into the proposed car park changes and fees in the Barbican Estate. Within days, residents had discussed, mobilised and escalated to Councillors who then raised issues at Committee meetings whereupon the details were reviewed and the direction of the proposal changed.

Part of the Committee process is to go out to site and see situations and processes personally. I enjoyed a visit to the construction site for the Museum of London at the bottom of Smithfield Market; although still a way off from completion, it is fascinating to see the site being regenerated and repurposed into a cornerstone of the 'Culture Mile'.

I moved into the Barbican last year, and as a resident, I am grateful that we have

so many very great volunteers with their years of professional careers behind them who look out of our interests.

Although I am a new Barbican resident, and also a new member of the Aldersgate Ward Club, I have lived in the Aldersgate area for a few years now and I feel that having lived on and off the Barbican Estate, I have a wider perspective and I'm better positioned to understand and appreciate the issues in and around our area.

For instance, I have worked with residents (and the BA) on dealing with the significant increase in tube noise is affecting many of us, particularly at the western end of our ward. The City Corporation has recently agreed to fund a full environmental study of the increase in tube noise and vibration, which will provide us with evidence that will help us to address this issue with TfL.

I put the role of Common Councillor into a little box along with fatherhood. As my Mother used to say "Being a good parent is much harder work than going out to a day job". She meant that with a job, one can switch off (to a certain extent) at the end of the day, but being a Parent/Councillor can be as demanding as the day is long. With both, I feel that the more effort we put into the role, the better will be the outcome.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and for you.

Adrian Bastow

Aldgate Square is open for business (and pleasure)



By the time this ward newsletter is distributed, the new-look Aldgate Square will be open to the public, ahead of its formal public opening on 4 July.

This project has taken several years and involved major changes to the highway layout and public realm improvements. The main aim was regeneration of the

area for the benefit of business and the local community. And the area has had more greenery introduced alongside a new public space and improved lighting – making the area more inviting – a place for people to linger, socialise and enjoy. Safety for road users has been enhanced including new cycle routes and pedestrian access.

A significant new addition is the Portsoken Pavilion, a steel and glass building housing a social enterprise café operated by Kahaila and providing a new hub promoting events, leisure and play.

While Aldgate Square is the centerpiece of this transformational scheme (sitting between Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and St Botolph without Aldgate Church), it has been joined by an

eastern public space at the junction of Middlesex Street and St Botolph Street.

Changes to the traffic layout were completed early in the project timeline. The finished area provides new pedestrian crossing points and allows easier navigation of bus services.

The project has introduced two-way traffic on Aldgate High Street, St Botolph Street, a section of Middlesex Street and Minories. It has already had a significant impact by helping to bring air pollution at the nearby Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School below the legal annual limit for the first time since monitoring began in 2003.
cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatearea

Stop press: An Aldgate Square Festival will be held on 15-17 June celebrating all the area has to offer including music, activities, talks, performances and a children's area.

It's free to enter and open to all.
cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatesquarefestival



City small businesses: do you qualify for rate relief?

The City Corporation is encouraging small businesses to check if they are missing out on business rate tax relief.

If you're a City business whose sole or main property has a rateable value of £12,000-£15,000 you could be eligible to get a reduction in your business rates of up to 100%. Properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less get a 100% reduction in their rates bill.

If you meet the eligibility criteria and aren't currently in receipt of rate relief, please contact the City Corporation business rates section.

Find out if your business qualifies and apply via:
cityoflondon.gov.uk/raterelief



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Data Protection legislation in the UK has changed, with the introduction of the GDPR on 25 May 2018 and a new Data Protection Act. This new legislation is designed to enhance the rights of individuals regarding the use of their personal data by bringing data protection compliance into the modern digital age.

It also introduces new, rigorous, requirements for all organisations, in relation to the reasons for processing personal data, and the manner in which it is processed.

The City Corporation has been busy over the last few months, reviewing and updating its data protection policies and procedures, and taking all necessary steps to ensure it fully complies with the new legal requirements for processing the personal data of its customers, clients and staff (data subjects).

Updated information, including our new data protection policy and full privacy notice, is available at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy
or by emailing information.officer@cityoflondon.gov.uk



High fibre for the City



Until recently broadband speeds in the City have been amongst the slowest in the UK, affecting small business tenants who cannot afford dedicated fibre optic leased lines.

However Openreach is now seeking to roll out "Fibre To The Premises" to every building in the Square Mile **at no cost to the landlord**, offering faster speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second at affordable prices for businesses and residents.

Openreach will use existing ducting to access buildings, avoiding street works to install the new fibre infrastructure into basements. This work will require landlord consent in the form of wayleave and Openreach will need to undertake a quick building survey.

Openreach will undertake a phased roll out across the City shown on the map.

Residents and business tenants interested should visit
cityoflondon.gov.uk/fibrebroadband
or contact cpat@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Car park spaces at Smithfield Rotunda

Did you know? You can hire car parking spaces during weekdays and weekends at a reasonable cost.

Smithfield Rotunda, located in West Smithfield is manned 24 hours per day, with good lighting and within easy walking distance for most of the recipients of this newsletter.

For more information on hiring and pricing details, please contact the Smithfield.Market@cityoflondon.gov.uk





Aldersgate

Who We Are

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Committee Appointments:

Policy and Resources, Establishment, Markets, Barbican Residential, Community and Children's Services, Port Health and Environmental Health Services and Health and Well Being (Chairman)

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Committee Appointments:

Culture Heritage & Libraries, Planning and Transportation, Open Spaces & West Ham Park, Epping Forest & Commons, Barbican Residential, Establishment, Community & Children's Services

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Committee Appointments:

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CONTACT US

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We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Aldersgate Wardmote

A well attended ward mote was held on March 20, 2018. The main issues raised were:

- 1) an intruder on the 36th floor of Lauderdale Tower. In addition to the obvious security concern, issues discussed included responsibility of the police and the estate office.
- 2) the issue of anti-social behaviour which took a number of different forms, skateboarding and practising parkour which created significant noise. CCTV and public space protection orders were discussed.
- 3) It was reported that the London Living wage was not paid to some of the workers

- 4) Golden Lane Estate and particularly Crescent House have not been well maintained. It was agreed that this was true but a substantial program of investment had begun and should begin to show results shortly.
- 5) Culture Mile and its potential effect on residential amenity was discussed.

The recent Beech Street event had been

reasonably well managed but there were significant lessons to be learned if such events were to be repeated.

- 6) Exclusion of the Wildlife Garden from the proposed conservation areas was discussed. It was agreed that it should be included as an important part of the conservation area.
- 7) Tudor Rose court residents raised the issue of mosquitos and the proposed changes to their service charges. Ward mote resolutions on both subjects were proposed and passed. These have been reported to Common Council for action.
- 8) Finally, the potential expansion of the City of London School for Girls into Thomas More car park was discussed and generally opposed.