



Cripplegate

Hooray for Highwalks!

I am sure many of you have already "discovered" the return of the highwalks around the newly completed London Wall Place development, including the bridge over London Wall that connects the Barbican with the steps leading down to the North Wing of Guildhall. Whatever your view regarding the demolition of the old Podium level between the Barbican and London Wall, I hope that the return of the highwalk is regarded as a positive, along with the landscaping and the much better ground level pavement on the North side of London Wall. The return of the highwalks owes a great deal to resident pressure for that to happen – the City Corporation's then Chief Planning Officer was against the idea of "spindly bridges" but I hope the wisdom of the resident view is now apparent and shared by City Officers who were previously opposed to this. It is good to see such a fine example of how listening to the local residents can be a smart thing to do.

Another example where this idea may apply is the proposed re-purposing of the Barbican's Thomas More House car park as space for an expanded Prep School for the City of London School for Girls. I cannot remember any proposal relating to the Barbican that has generated such a strong and uniformly negative response in my 10 years as Alderman. Even those who may still support this proposal (there are no supporters among the residents that I am aware of) cannot dispute that the proposals involve a very high level of intervention into the built environment of the Barbican and that they have significant negative effects upon resident amenity. It should not come as a surprise to anybody that local residents are upset by the proposal, which is still under consideration by the Governors of the Girls School, and is by no means guaranteed to happen.

Just to add to the Barbican woes, the Barbican Residential Committee will by the time you read this have considered a report proposing significantly increased parking and baggage store costs based on a benchmark of "market



rates" by way of "comparables", although it is debatable as to whether such actually exist.

Taking all of these issues together, it is easy to understand how Barbican residents could feel themselves under attack by the machinery of the City of London Corporation.

At least on the Golden Lane Estate, the newly upgraded and updated Community Centre should have opened, together with the new playground which opened a few weeks ago. A very substantial sum is being invested in the Golden Lane Estate over the next few years, principally on repairs to what is accepted to have been under-investment over a significant period of time. Golden Lane residents who are understandably impatient to see evidence of the money being spent with their own eyes, proposed a Resolution at the Wardmote in March deploring the want of repair and requesting that repairs be accelerated. This was passed

unanimously and the Resolution has now been reviewed by the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and has been referred for a response to the Community & Children's Services Committee. Officers have already indicated informally that it is not possible to so significantly accelerate the repair and refurbishment programme as to complete it within the 2 years requested. The financial resources to proceed are available, however, and it is the tender and City Committee approvals processes which will take time. Clearly, it would not be good to advance the works at such a speed that the results were deficient and unsatisfactory to residents, but Officers and elected Members are all aware that the issue is of the highest priority and subject to very close scrutiny.

Here's hoping for a pleasant and above all peaceful Summer with plenty of good weather.

David Graves
Alderman for the Ward of Cripplegate

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





Cripplegate

Who We Are



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Community & Childrens' Services
Housing Management Sub-Committee
Port Health & Environmental Services
Barbican Centre Board
Standards Committee



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Committee Appointments:
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Barbican Residential Committee
Community & Childrens' Services Committee
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Culture, Heritage & Libraries



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Port Health & Environmental Services
Licensing, Housing Management



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Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee



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Planning & Transportation
Finance Committee



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CONTACT US

To write to any of your Members, to let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter by email in future, or to inform us if you wish to be taken off the distribution list write c/o

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or email
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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.

* Cripplegate Within
**Cripplegate Without

Note 1
The Alderman appoints the Deputies.

Note 2
The Deputies nominate Cripplegate ward members to some committees eg Community and Children's Services and Barbican Residential. Other committees eg. Policy and Resources are filled by a vote of the Common Council.

Note 3
The Common Council is the ultimate decision maker, but it generally accepts the recommendations of its committees. Committees are where most substantive discussion takes place and the role of the Chairman is critical. Most Deputy Chairmen become Chairmen.