



Dowgate

2018 Wardmote

In March, Skinners' Hall hosted our Annual Wardmote – meeting of the ward. After the formal proceedings we had presentations and updates on other areas concerning the ward – with the key issues being the Bank on Safety initiative and Air Quality.

Bank On Safety

Iain Simmons from the City of London Corporation focused on the Bank initiative, recent gas street works and the Bloomberg development.

In relation to the Bank On Safety scheme, he has approved two public reports on the scheme, and gave the Wardmote a resumé

- There had been over 4000 responses to the public consultation – the vast majority were supportive
- on safety, there had been a 40% reduction in casualties at Bank, a 33% reduction in the central City, and a 23% reduction across the whole of the City
- air quality had improved in the vicinity of Bank
- all 46 businesses directly affected by the scheme were compliant and happy
- traffic was generally flowing more efficiently across the City. Only some journeys have been marginally affected and the 19 buses which passed through Bank Junction were running 5 – 10 minutes faster, so more attractive to passengers. He reported that taxi drivers had generally been originally opposed to the scheme beforehand. This had changed and generally now most thought it worked well. In June 2018 there will be consideration whether taxis should have greater access to streets adjoining Bank. People with mobility needs were being catered for.

Electors raised concerns about traffic on Cannon Street, particularly for pedestrians. Locals cited gridlock and pollution from standing traffic, especially during 'rush hours'. Concern was also raised about street crossing, buses, delivery vans and tipper trucks. Please alert your local representatives to any concerns you have on this, or more widely.

Air Quality

Mark Wheatley CC responded to our recent resolution on air quality, having recently received a briefing on local air quality from Ruth Calderwood, the City Corporation's Air Quality Manager. In the Ward, Upper Thames Street experiences alarming levels of nitrogen dioxide, though fallen over the past two years. He cited other factors which should aid progress in air quality including the changes to the congestion zone, arrival of emission taxis and increasing number of 'clean' TfL buses. An elector commented that this was a "very positive trajectory".

The Ward Members then spoke a little about their work in the last year.

Henry Pollard, Deputy, spoke about various Committees which he serves on

- from Planning & Transport, he noted the problem of bicycles and those of bicycle rental firms being left abandoned
- on Christ's Hospital he reminded electors of the excellent education – open to children they might know
- the problem of economic crime, was mentioned in regard to the Police Committee and our force's leading work in this area was noted Henry alerted to the opportunity for people to join the economic crime directorate as 'Specials' and invited approaches
- Detailing the work of the Hon. The Irish Society in Northern Ireland, he noted IT hub being developed in the NW of the province.

He mentioned that another Ward Business Forum was planned for later in the year.

Mark Wheatley CC focused on the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and referred to 'Women, Work & Power' a forthcoming initiative, highlighting a concert at Drapers Hall on 20 July.

- Having spoken to Health & Environmental work earlier, he also referred to his work on the Community and Children's Services Committee, which is responsible for housing 10,000 people round London.

London Landmark Half Marathon



Congratulations to the team at Tommy's whose lead-involvement in the inaugural London Landmark Half Marathon on 25th March was a great success. The race inspired nearly 10,000 runners to race through Westminster and the City. The event has raised over £4million for various charities and showcased our wonderful City. It even tracked through Dowgate three times.

- **The Alderman, Alison Gowman**, spoke about her membership of the Property Investment Board and the Police Committee. She also said she was Chair of the City Bridge Trust, which donates £20 million every year in tackling disadvantage in London – a vital part of how the City serves London.
- She also referred to the City Giving Day (25th September) run by the Lord Mayor. Many businesses in the City use this day to celebrate their CSR and charitable giving.

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





Dowgate

Who We Are



Alderman Alison Gowman, Deputy Henry Pollard (on left) and Mark Wheatley CC

Alison Gowman, Alderman

alison.gowman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee appointments: Police; City Bridge Trust (Chairman); Streets & Walkways; Investment; Property and Social Investment Boards; Museum of London; Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, Capital Buildings Committee, Active City Network (Chairman)

Henry Pollard, Deputy

henry.pollard@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee appointments: Police; Investments, Financial Investment Board; Planning & Transportation; Finance; Christ's Hospital Committee, Deputy Chairman and Donation Governor; the Hon the Irish Society, Deputy Governor.

Mark Wheatley, CC

mark.wheatley@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee appointments: Culture, Heritage and Libraries; Port Health & Environmental Services; Community and Children's Services; Policy & Resources

Hon. Ward Clerk Michael Stewart

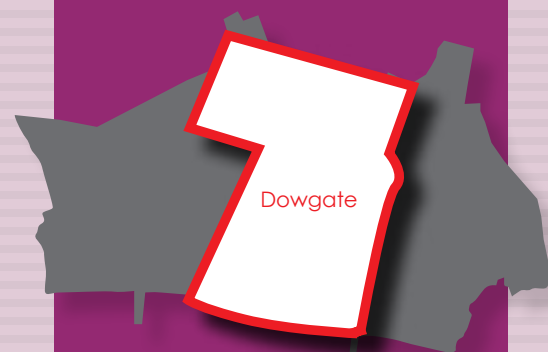
Ward Beadle John Cash

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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Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ

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.

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

Northern Line for 21st Century

Many of you will be aware of the severe congestion on the Bank Station concourse and especially relating to the Northern Line platforms. Bank Station is the third busiest on the network with over 52 million passengers using it each year – many simply as an interchange rather than a start or end point.

London Underground Limited are now working relatively quietly underground to build a new southbound Northern Line tunnel from Bank to Monument thus relieving the strain as well as creating more circulation space and new escalators. Above ground you will have seen the work north of Cannon Street and along King William Street. Below ground the access is at the top of Arthur Street on London Bridge and a very tight opening into the cavernous works below.

Alderman Alison Gowman was given access to the works last month in the company of the Managing Director of London Underground, Mark Wild. Well kitted out for every eventuality the visit displayed the great progress made with the tunnel seemingly stretching all of the kilometre between the two stations already. Some digging out is literally done by hand (the space between the two Northern line tunnels is just big enough for a man to stand and dig) but other work is by diggers – not the tunneling giants used on Crossrail. The tunnels are manually sprayed with a concrete coating.

Work is being undertaken 24/7 with shifts of workers

dedicated round the clock. Whilst everyone is busy the atmosphere below ground is quiet and cathedral like and surprisingly cool even though all visitors have to be fully protected for the visit, as the photograph shows. It is most eerie to be standing on the current Northern Line tunnels as the trains and people pass very close below. You can feel and hear the rumble and the chatter.

The work will include some closures of the Northern Line from April through to August in 2020 and full details will be provided to passengers well in advance. However, on the plus side, the new entrance to Bank within the Bloomberg building in Walbrook is due to open in August 2018.

It is likely that future visits can be arranged and you should contact Alderman Alison Gowman about this.

