



Vintry

Vintry Ward Common Councilman urges the City to build more affordable housing for key workers



Guy's Hospital next to the Shard on the south side of London Bridge

Vintry Ward Common Councilman Tom Hoffman recently urged the City Corporation to build more affordable housing for key workers in the Square Mile, claiming that far too many nurses are leaving the London hospitals because London housing costs are no longer affordable.

Tom Hoffman, who for the past six years has also been a Governor at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital, called upon the City Corporation to include specific targets for key worker housing in its pledge to build 3,700 new homes by 2025. The City Corporation has pledged to deliver 3,700 new homes: 700 on its existing social housing estates, and 3,000 elsewhere. Just 108 new homes have been approved on City Corporation-owned land since the authority made the pledge in October 2015.

Speaking in the Court of Common

Council, Tom Hoffman implored the City to collaborate with Guy's & St Thomas' and Barts & the Royal London hospitals to help free up sites to address the shortage of affordable housing for key workers in London. "I understand that, notwithstanding our commitment to build these new homes, we will have difficulty in building 700 affordable homes within the next four years"

Chairman of the City's Policy & Resources Committee Catherine McGuinness told the Court that they were "at an early stage" in delivering on its housing promise and that it was still unclear how much will be allocated to key workers.

Tom Hoffman continued: "Bearing in mind that far too many nurses are leaving the London hospitals because London housing costs are no longer affordable – and as Guy's & St Thomas' and Barts' and the Royal London are the two

nearest hospitals on which the City would depend for support in the event of a major incident or emergency – he urged the City Corporation to collaborate to the greatest extent possible with these hospitals on our doorstep, by exploring how we can harness our financial muscle to build suitable accommodation on a site or sites that they may be able to make available to address this acute problem."

He concluded: "This isn't an issue exclusive to hospitals and nurses. We are absolutely reliant on key workers to keep the City running. It's imperative we ensure genuinely affordable housing is available to them."

Earlier this year Prime Minister Theresa May vowed to "rewrite the laws on planning", setting local councils tough new targets for affordable housing and giving key

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





Who We Are



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Culture Heritage & Libraries
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Barbican Centre
City of London School for Girls
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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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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

Vintry Ward pays tribute to Bill Fraser for 35 years devoted service to the Ward and the City



The Annual Meeting of all who live or work in Vintry Ward, which is known as the Vintry Wardmote, was held in St James' Garlickhythe Church on Wednesday 21st March 2018. Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley presided, supported by Common Councilmen Tom Hoffman and Rehana Ameer.

The Common Councilmen reported on the major issues that had been addressed by the several City Corporation Committees on which they represent the Ward, and responded to questions from the floor.

Public tribute was paid to Bill Fraser who had served Vintry Ward and the City for 35 years. During the period from 1982 until 2017 he was a member of almost every City Corporation committee. He served as Chairman of the Education Committee, Livery Committee, City Bridge Trust, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, City of London Academy (Southwark),

City of London Multi-Academy Trust, and City Lands & Bridge House Estates. He was Chief Commoner in 2009, and received the OBE from Her Majesty The Queen for services to the City.

Outside the City of London Corporation Bill served as Chairman of the Partnership for Young London, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, and the Horlock Educational Trust. He was President of the City Livery Club, Master of the Gardeners' Company and was twice Chairman of the Vintry & Dowgate Wards' Club, as well as being a liveryman of the Musicians' Company, and Churchwarden of St James Garlickhythe Church.

Few people had matched Bill's service to the City. Bill Fraser recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

We wish Bill Fraser and his wife Penelope a long and happy retirement