



Cordwainer

A report from your Ward team: Working with you through 2020's challenges and looking to the recovery

Your Ward team, Alderman Sir Roger Gifford and Common Councillors Sir Michael Snyder, Alex Barr and Tracey Graham were acutely aware at the start of the COVID-19 crisis earlier this year that their multi-faceted civic role would have to adapt. The team's focus therefore moved immediately to one thing, and one thing alone: that of supporting all the Cordwainer community (which is mostly businesses, but also includes a small residential population and rough sleepers) through the pandemic.

Most of the work was in managing the many inbound enquiries on business rates or the package of government grants for small businesses, particularly for the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. With government support evolving through the crisis your team became a central conduit for the distribution and interpretation of that rapidly changing information. Allied to this was analysing the support being offered by the City of London Corporation and making sure that our Ward businesses, where eligible, were able to easily access those support measures, particularly for those businesses that had definitional challenges around the nature of what they did.

Not every business can fall into a neat box, and Cordwainer in particular has a broad tapestry of businesses, a nod perhaps to its entrepreneurial early history. The Ward team was able to articulate this wide variety of business models to those that needed to understand (and release payments). In certain cases this was of relatively small succour, but for some it was a lifeline.



Sir Michael Snyder, Tracey Graham and Alex Barr visiting Ward businesses. Pictured on Bow Lane with Michael, Tracey and Alex are Carina Stasi of Cheaney Shoes and Wahid Azizi of Spacephone.

Roger, Michael, Alex and Tracey are proud of the resilience and adaptability shown by our many smaller businesses, but equally understand that there is some way to go before full recovery. Whilst their weekly crisis management 'Zoom' meetings have now moved to a less frequent basis, their work on behalf of the Ward still carries on daily. The team are well aware that it is not, and won't be 'business as usual' for some time, but are taking encouragement

from current rising City footfall levels, and tube/train passenger volumes. Despite the headlines around the likely continuation of working from home, and September's new restrictions on gatherings, the team have been gladdened to see at first hand some return of trade for those businesses that have partially reopened. Equally they know from their own commercial experience the competitive advantage that networking and physical business meetings can bring, and the culture management advantages of office working.

Cordwainer Ward has always been a dynamic place to do business and the team have been pleased to see some early return of confidence translating into Bow Lane trade, always a litmus test for broader activity. The team's contact details are overleaf and they are very happy to advise on any concern, no matter how small.

New Chairman of Bow Bells Association: James Goolnik

James Goolnik, the founder of award winning Bow Lane Dental Group, and who, in his own words, has been "making the city smile since 2001", has been elected as Chairman of the Bow Bells Association ('BBA'). The BBA was formed c30 years ago and promotes local businesses and organises events to increase public interest and commercial activity, not only in Bow lane, but across the Ward. It encourages input from all businesses in the vicinity, from local bars and restaurants to commercial property, financial services and legal firms. James, never one to shy away from putting in the hard yards (do google his work on the 'Kick Sugar' campaign) is galvanising local traders and keen to focus their collective efforts on three areas to boost trader confidence. These are dialogue with landlords in sharing the pain, increasing confidence for people to return to the City and, lastly, an early focus on Christmas trading initiatives. James can be contacted on james@bowlanedental.com, and would be delighted to speak further on any of these initiatives.



Major City projects continue despite COVID-19

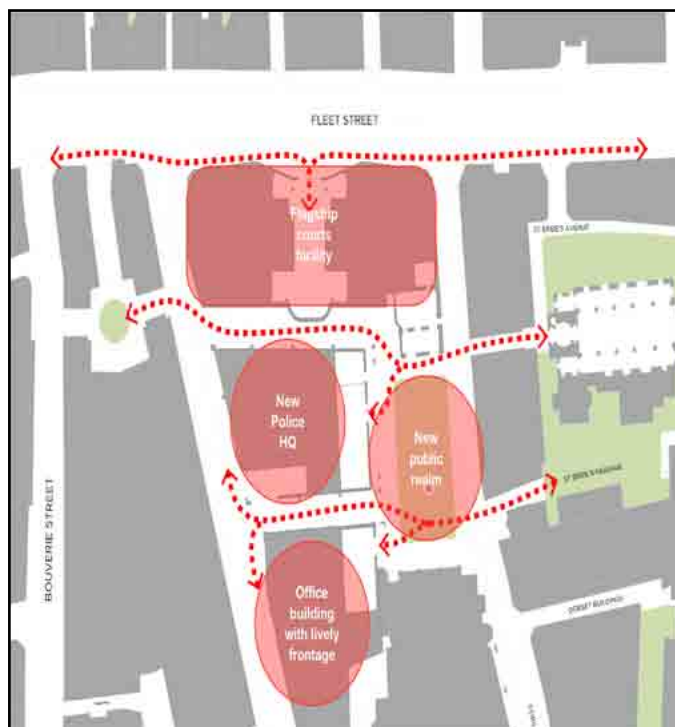
Over the summer the City of London Corporation launched an initial consultation on its plans for a new combined court and police complex on Fleet Street.

The proposals would see a flagship 18 courtroom facility for HM Courts and Tribunal Service and a new state-of-the-art headquarters for the City of London Police, along with a commercial development of offices and retail.

The new court facility, with its main entrance on Fleet Street, will create a high-quality civic frontage on this historic and important London thoroughfare. It will house significantly improved facilities for users and staff.

The City of London Police will be provided with a headquarters to support modern policing in its local and national remit and is being designed in close consultation with officers and staff.

A commercial building is planned for the rear of the site providing office accommodation and space for retail at ground floor level, creating a vibrant street scene on the route down towards the river.



Further consultation is expected to be carried out this autumn before a planning application is submitted in late 2020. You can keep up to date with the latest developments on the project website www.fleetstreetestate.co.uk

Also during the summer, the City Corporation asked for feedback on the initial concepts to re-imagine the Grade II* listed East and West Smithfield buildings and the Grade II Rotunda, should the meat market relocate. The east and west buildings are currently home to Smithfield meat market which the City Corporation has submitted an outline planning application to co-locate alongside Billingsgate and New Spitalfields markets to a new site in Dagenham Dock. Parliamentary approval is required to move the three markets and a further iteration of the Smithfield concept designs will support this process.

More information
www.wholesalemarkets.co.uk/smithfield

Register to vote in City elections

If you're a City worker, you may spend more time in the office than you do at home... so why not have the same say on services in the Square Mile as you have where you live?

Staff in City businesses and organisations can join residents and vote in the City of London Corporation's elections.

The City is unique in residents and workers being able to register to vote for local ward councillors.

This means they can have a voice on areas including air quality, cycling, personal security, green spaces, commuting and transport.

As far as possible, the appointed voters should reflect the diversity of the organisation's employees. This includes gender, ethnicity and seniority. The right to be appointed as a voter is open to staff at all levels – from chief executive to entry-level employees and even regular contractors –

so that the voters are truly representative of the whole City.

The City Corporation has sent registration forms to all eligible organisations. If you want to find out if your company has a named contact to help you register to vote, please get in touch on 0800 587 5537 or electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/workervote



Have your say on City landmarks



People are being asked to give their views on statues, street and building names and other landmarks in the City of London with historic links to slavery and racism in all its forms.

The City of London Corporation has launched a three-month consultative exercise asking people which landmarks they think are a problem and what action they would like to see taken.

The survey is being promoted by the City Corporation's Tackling Racism Taskforce, set up in June with the aim of considering what action the organisation can take to tackle racism in all its forms.

It comes as organisations across London and the UK review the cultural legacy of slavery and colonialism in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement.

People can take part in the consultative exercise, which runs until Tuesday, 24 November, online at cityoflondon.gov.uk/historiclandmarksconsultation or by writing to: Tackling Racism Taskforce, City of London Corporation, Guildhall, PO Box 270, London EC2P 2EJ

New mental health centre opens

A new counselling and psychotherapy centre for workers and residents in the City of London and neighbouring boroughs is due to open in October,



Supported by the City of London Corporation, the City Wellbeing Centre will provide access to both longer and shorter-term talking therapies not easily available through the NHS in recent years. The charity, Tavistock Relationships, has been commissioned to provide a range of services from the centre.

As a non-profit making organization, Tavistock Relationship will look to make its services accessible to all, by providing therapy on the basis of what individuals and couples can afford and, in this way, it will play an important part in tackling health inequalities within the City.

Located at 75-77 Middlesex Street E1 7DA, the Centre will provide a range of counselling and psychotherapy services to individuals, couples and groups with mental health concerns and relationship difficulties.

www.citywellbeingcentre.org

Call for firms to enter environmental awards

City firms cutting back on single-use plastics and committing to improve London's air quality are being urged to enter London's top environmental gongs.

The City Corporation, which runs the Clean City Awards, wants to hear from firms of all sizes and sectors across the Square Mile.

The scheme, now in its 26th year, rewards businesses leading the way in improving environmental performance – be it by reducing their plastic use, taking action to cut their carbon emissions or just going that extra mile to be more environmentally friendly.

There are four award categories:

- Resource and Circular Economy
- Plastic Free City
- Air Quality and Climate Action
- Communication and Engagement

There is also a chance to apply for and win the Chairman's Cup, which looks at organisation's environmental and sustainability performance, and behaviour change during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Applications are open until 16 October 2020.

To sign up, apply and find out more information please visit www.ccaslondon.co.uk



Who We Are



Alderman Sir Roger Gifford

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Committee Appointments:

Port Health and Environmental Services



**Sir Michael Snyder
Ward Deputy**

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Committee Appointments:

Policy and Resources
Finance
City of London Girls School
Capital Buildings Committee (Chairman)



Alex Barr

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Committee Appointments:

Port Health and Environmental Services
City of London School
Audit and Risk Management (Chairman)
Police Pensions



Tracey Graham

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Committee Appointments:

Planning and Transportation
Culture, Heritage & Libraries
City of London Freemen's School
Establishment

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

Beauty Essence on BBC



Longstanding ward business, *Beauty Essence* was featured on the BBC in August with owner Mary Gillmore and her colleagues Kaye and Shauna featured. Mary talked extensively about the challenges she and the team had faced, the furlough decisions that had to be taken and the huge challenges in trying to secure rent breaks. Commenting on the BBC piece on social media, Tracey Graham noted Mary's superb job in explaining the very real issues being faced by SME's in the City, and praised Mary's heartfelt resilience and very human determination to succeed. Mary has also subsequently launched her own 'pay it forward' scheme, and your Ward team are very happy to flag that here with this quick link: www.tiny.cc/34stsz

St Mary Le Bow update – open for worship and business

The Revd. George Bush, Rector of St Mary Le Bow, has reminded us all that the Government's latest advice (issued 8 September) on restrictions around social gatherings specifically exempts public worship. As such, Morning and Evening Prayer continue to be said – and publicly, Monday to Friday at 8.30a.m. and 5.30p.m. (except on Thursday when we note that it is also online). Additionally, every Wednesday the Eucharist is celebrated at 1.05p.m. A reminder too that the Church is also home to The Café Below, run by Anthony Middleton, which is very much open, as is the flower stall too in the Churchyard. Both are trading bravely and please do pop in to 'say it with flowers' and sample one of Anthony's excellent cappuccinos. George is always around and would always welcome seeing you.