

News from 104

Our Alderman for the Ward of Aldersgate updates us on a busy quarter.

It is bad news for our Ward and our planet that the Secretary of State did not call in the Planning Application for the former Museum of London/Bastion House site. The proposed scheme being in breach of local, London and national policies.

Two significant post-war heritage assets could now be demolished and replaced by buildings that are unacceptable for such an historic site. I have spoken to members of the Barbican Quarter Action team and will continue to support them in this 'David and Goliath' struggle.



Nonetheless, I thank everyone who attended the Planning Committee meeting, even though the majority of its Members voted for the demolition of these buildings without even bothering to discuss the matter. Thanks also to everyone who wrote to the Secretary of State, as I did on behalf of all Aldersgate councillors, asking him to 'call-in' the planning application.

Litter

Moving to more positive news, I was glad to see the City of London Corporation reinstate some £1million to the street cleaning budget. Litter is a problem that I have highlighted previously, and Officers now need to hire and train more staff, rework team rosters and review processes to ensure we get a million pounds worth of cleanliness from that extra spend.

In related news, congratulations to BE Offices, who have an office in Beech Street, for winning the Chairman's Cup (Small Site) at the Clean City Awards Scheme. This reflected its volunteer uptake increasing by a staggering 528 percent last year to help with community gardening and other projects, as well as helping three other London sites reduce emissions.

Policing

It was a pleasure to chair a well-attended meeting, organised by your Aldersgate councillors, where local voters met the City of London's Police Commissioner, Peter O'Doherty. The Commissioner gave a fascinating update on his Officers' work as the National Lead Force for Fraud, and the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for economic, cyber and business crime.

Questions for the Police Commissioner had a focus on road safety and reflected concerns about inconsiderate cycling. It has since been announced that more than 8,600 people have been given advice by the City of London Police Cycle Response Unit as part of its educate, engage and enforce approach. And enforcement has led to nearly one thousand cyclists receiving fixed penalty notices for going through red lights in a nine month period.



Ward Meeting

It was great to see a full house at our annual meeting for voters with their councillors (the Wardmote) at Ironmongers' Hall. To ensure that the relevant City Corporation committees look at matters of interest to our Ward and report back, we passed two resolutions.

The first resolution asks the City Corporation to fully implement its Considerate Lighting Charter. The Charter aims to reduce light pollution from office buildings that leave their lights on when the buildings are unoccupied.

The second resolution called for greater support for the residents of Tudor Rose Court, the only residential facility for elderly people in the City, in their dealings with their managing agent.

Lord Mayor

Tudor Rose Court residents were able to highlight their challenges, and the repair



work needed on the Golden Lane Estate, during the first official visit to our Ward by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. It was a pleasure to welcome Michael and Elisabeth Mainelli to Aldersgate and introduce them to residents.

Our visitors and I then walked the short distance to St Pancras Clinical Research which is situated beneath Bunyan Court in the Barbican. The Lord Mayor was originally a research scientist and he met with the team at St Pancras to find out more about their work in assisting with the development of medicines for difficult to treat diseases.

Surgeries

Sticking with a medical term, there are now monthly Ward surgeries in the Barbican Library where Aldersgate electors can meet their councillors. I hosted the first surgery with councillor Naresh Sonpar. Follow-up from that meeting includes City Officers actioning a matter that had been outstanding for a year, and obtaining an explanation regarding the noise from fire alarm testing.

Last but by no means least, please join me in welcoming Dan Sanders who now leads the Barbican Estate management team. Dan is a property management professional whose knowledge and expertise is exactly what the Barbican Estate requires. I look forward to supporting Dan and his colleagues as they work to make a positive difference to the efficiency and the effectiveness with which our homes are managed.

As always, if you have any questions about my work as your Alderman, just drop me a line at christopher.makin@cityoflondon.gov.uk and I'll try my best to provide some answers.

Christopher Makin

104th Alderman for the Ward of Aldersgate

Communicating with you, Working for you

News from 104

Welcome to our newly elected Alderman for Aidersgate, and his quarterly column to keep us updated about his work at Guildhall.

F I bring that to everyone who would be, and worked with me, to secure my election as Alderman for the Ward of Aidersgate. As the first Alderman for the ward since 1911, I feel it is my duty to introduce to you the new Alderman for the ward. My immediate predecessor was Nick Azzari, who served the Ward for 25 consecutive years, including as Lord Mayor of London.

Decisions
I'm now over the extensive range of committees where the City makes its decisions. Like all Aldermen, I am a member of the Court of Aldermen, it's General Purposes Committee, Nominations Committee and the Court of Common Council. I am also a member of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, plus the Committee administering St Wilfrid's Gowen's Trust and am in the process of becoming a governor of the City of London Freeman's School.

Challenging
When I was introduced to the Court of Common Council in July I tried to do a positive note, emphasising how pleased I was that the City of London Corporation had acknowledged the need for its relationship with its residents to be reset. Will be supporting that process, and pushing the City to do so at what it hears from residents in addition to listening to what we have to say.

Change
The Court of Aldermen has 25 elected members plus the Recorder of London, the lead judge at the Old Bailey. Members of the City are changing as elections postponed due to Covid take place and a number of incumbents are resigning, offering the opportunity for new perspectives as well as new faces.

Access
The officer attending the Barbican highway from the east and south is a member of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee plus other working parties. Please join in sharing David's free copy contributions to date - and banking him in advance for however he chooses to contribute in the future.

News from 104

Our Alderman for the Ward of Aidersgate updates us on some surprising news.

Civic life
In addition to our role as Aldermen, we have a lot to do in our spare time. I'm a member of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee plus other working parties. Please join in sharing David's free copy contributions to date - and banking him in advance for however he chooses to contribute in the future.

Civil life
The Barbican Arts Centre has revealed its 2024 application to erect towers on the site of the old Barbican Theatre. The towers would be 10 stories high and would contain offices, shops, and a public space. The application is being considered by the City of London Corporation's Planning Committee.

Outnumbered
I was outnumbered when the Court of Aldermen voted to approve a convention that would allow members of the Court to stand in office for an additional six months after their six-year term. The Court can now vote on members' terms of office for an indefinite period. This would allow members to stand in office for an indefinite period.

Meetings
The annual meeting for voters in the Ward of Aidersgate will be held at the Barbican Arts Centre on Wednesday, 20th March 2025. The meeting will be held at 7pm and will be open to all residents who are on the Electoral Register for the Ward.

News from 104

Our quarterly update from the 104th Alderman for Aidersgate about his work for us at Guildhall.

What is an Alderman?
The Alderman for the Ward of Aidersgate is elected by the residents of the ward. The Alderman represents the ward at the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council. The Alderman is responsible for representing the interests of the residents of the ward.

Do the Aldermen have similar backgrounds?
The Aldermen for the Ward of Aidersgate have a diverse range of backgrounds. Some are professionals, some are retired, and some are self-employed. The Aldermen represent the interests of the residents of the ward.

Do you have to be a member of a Livery Company?
No, you do not. There is a long history of livery companies in London, but you do not need to be a member of one to be an Alderman. The livery companies are a separate part of London's history.

Does the City pay for your Alderman's clothing?
No, the City does not. The Alderman is responsible for their own clothing. The City does provide a small allowance for the Alderman's expenses.

What is your relationship with the Ward Club?
The Ward Club is a social club for the residents of the ward. The Alderman is a member of the club and represents the residents of the ward at the club's meetings.

Do you stand for election in order to become Lord Mayor?
No, you do not. The Lord Mayor is elected by the Court of Aldermen. The Alderman is responsible for representing the residents of the ward.

What is the history of the Barbican?
The Barbican is a large residential and commercial development in the City of London. It was built in the 1960s and 1970s. The Barbican is a unique example of modernist architecture.

What is the Barbican's future?
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