News from 104

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

t 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



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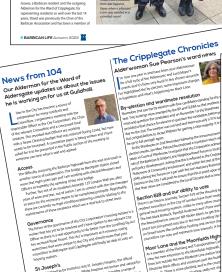
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Challenging





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