



Broad Street

The Role of the Chief Commoner

John Scott JP, CC

The election of a Member as Chief Commoner by his colleagues in the Court of Common Council is the highest honour which the Court can bestow on one of its members. It is remarkable therefore that, after waiting for many decades, the Broad Street Ward should provide two in quick succession, Deputy John Bennett in 2014, and now myself.

The question I am asked most frequently is about the role and its purpose. Originally the Chief, as the holder is

known during their year, chaired the City Lands & Bridge House Estates Committee, the principal committee of the City Corporation which controlled the City's property and revenues. Nowadays the lead committee is the Policy & Resources Committee, chaired by Catherine McGuinness, and so she is seen as the policy leader of the Council whereas the Chief is the civic leader of the Court.

In that capacity an important part of the

job is to promote the policies and values of the City Corporation and increasingly the Chief acts as the fourth pillar of the civic team, supporting the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs in their increasingly busy lives. With 110 livery companies and 25 Ward Clubs, not to mention a massive programme of events both here and abroad, there is no way in which the Lord Mayor can cover the whole ground but, by spreading the burden, the hope is that, while everyone would prefer the Lord Mayor to attend their own event, on occasion they will be content to have a pale substitute, even the Chief Commoner! We are fortunate this year that the Lord Mayor will be attending our own Ward Club lunch in his honour, as befitting a liveryman of the International Bankers based in our Ward.

While the Chief's programme is not as hectic as that of the Lord Mayor, it is definitely a full-time job, sometimes for seven days a week, and it is a great help to have a flat at Guildhall during the year, if only somewhere to change clothes and occasionally relax between engagements. The Chief is ex-officio on every City Corporation committee, of which there are well over 100 when you include sub committees and working parties, and is also responsible for approving all external uses of Guildhall.

A large part of the Chief's role, apart from the ceremonial, is to represent the interests of his fellow Common Councilmen, championing their rights and ensuring that their voice is heard at the highest levels and that they are kept informed of the City Corporation's policies in a rapidly changing world. The Chief is responsible also for internal discipline which is usually done by having a discreet word with the Member who might have unwittingly caused offence as anything more serious is taken through the Code of Conduct procedure.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the job is the variety of people that you

continued on the back page



Chief Commoner with Andrew Mlangeni, compatriot of Nelson Mandela, after his Freedom ceremony



Meet your representatives



Annual ward meetings known as *Wardmotes* will be taking place in each of the City's 25 Wards early next year. Electors are invited to attend the meeting in their ward, which provides an opportunity for them to meet their elected representatives (Alderman and Common Councilmen) and raise any issues they have with them. Details of the meetings are shown below and are also on the City of London website. The wardmotes below were confirmed at the time of writing but as arrangements for others are confirmed these will be added to the web link below. If the arrangements for any of the meetings change, updated information will appear on the website.

Invitations to the meetings will also be sent to all electors.

If you have any queries regarding the meeting in your Ward please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0800 587 5537, electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk or cityoflondon.gov.uk/voting.

Aldgate 18 March, Noon

Church Hall, St Katharine Cree,
86 Leadenhall Street EC3A 3DH

Bread Street 27 March, Noon

Fidelity International, 25 Cannon Street
EC4M 5TA

Broad Street 20 March, Noon

David Burbidge Room, Furniture Makers'
Hall, 12 Austin Friars EC2N 2HE

Candlewick 20 March, Noon

Church of St Clement Eastcheap,
Clement's Lane EC4N 7HB

Castle Baynard 20 March, 6pm

Shoe Lane Library, Hill House, 1 New Little
Street EC4A 3JR

Cheap 21 March, Noon

Drawing Room, Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster
Lane EC2V 6BN

**Coleman Street 26 March, 5.30pm for
5.45pm start**

Drawing Room, Armourers' Hall, 81
Coleman Street EC2R 5BJ

Cordwainer 20 March, Noon

St Mary Aldermay, Watling Street EC4M
9BW

Cripplegate 20 March, 7 for 7.30pm start

Barber-Surgeons Hall, Monkwell Square
EC2Y 5BL

Farringdon Within 20 March, 12.30pm

Court Room, Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane
EC4M 7BR

Lime Street 11 March, Noon

Old Library, Lloyd's Building, 1 Lime Street
EC3M 7HA

Portsoken 20 March, 6pm

Learning Centre, Artizan Street Library and
Community Centre, 1 Artizan Street E1 7AF

Wage boost for workers

A major increase in the number of workers entitled to the London Living Wage was agreed by the City Corporation in October. It will also encourage other firms to follow suit.

The move was unanimously endorsed by the Policy & Resources Committee. The City Corporation decided to strengthen its own Living Wage policy by paying its own staff and its suppliers' staff the new rate, with immediate effect, when the updated London Living Wage is announced in November each year. This is opposed to paying staff the new rate from April the following year, which is the most common approach taken by employers.

The organisation already ensures its own staff, apprentices and suppliers' staff are paid in line with the Living Wage Foundation's (LWF) accreditation terms and conditions.

And the City Corporation has now agreed that all contract

workers delivering two or more hours work for the organisation will be paid at least the Living Wage – which in London is currently £10.20 per hour.

The City Corporation will also look into sponsoring the LWF to help promote the Living Wage across the Square Mile and wider UK, encouraging more firms to adopt the Living Wage policy.

The move means that the City Corporation has committed to going above and beyond its obligations of being an accredited Living Wage employer to ensure all its workers get fair pay.

The City of London Corporation's charitable funder, City Bridge Trust, was awarded the London Living Wage accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation in recognition of its implementation of the London Living Wage policy across its funding relationships with voluntary organisations.



Have your say on the new Transport Strategy...

For the first time in its almost 1000-year history, the City of London Corporation has developed a long-term Transport Strategy that will set the framework for future investment in the Square Mile's streets.

Under these proposals, the next 25-years of transport investment in the City would see:

Pedestrians as priority:

Planning, infrastructure and safety changes will be developed by first prioritising the needs of people walking, while seeking to minimise any impact on essential traffic.

A congestion charge that's fit for purpose:

We aim to support and champion the next generation in road user charging for Central London as part of a range of measures to proactively seek to reduce motor traffic by 25% by 2030 and 50% by 2044.

Fewer vehicles on City streets:

A street hierarchy is proposed to encourage drivers to use the right street for the right journey. Vehicles that do not have a final destination in the City will be directed away from pedestrian priority areas.

The City as UK pioneers for a zero emission future:

The City of London Corporation would champion Britain's first large scale Zero Emission Zone to cover central London and, in the interim, introduce local zero emission zones covering the Eastern City Cluster and Barbican and Golden Lane.



Vision Zero achieved at 15mph:

The introduction of a City-wide 15mph speed limit, subject to approval by the Department for Transport, aims to reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions as we strive to eliminate death and serious injury from our streets.

Consolidation is key:

Deliveries make up a quarter of vehicles on City streets. The aim is to reduce this by 15% by 2030 with off-site consolidation, timed access and loading restrictions.

The Strategy includes further proposals which address accessibility issues for those with mobility needs, on street security, improving the cycling experience, transformative public realm principles, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and emerging technology.

For background on the Strategy and find out about drop-in sessions, visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/transportstrategy To view the proposals and provide your comments, visit www.citystreets.london before 13 January.

...and on the new Local Plan for the City

The City Corporation is consulting on its draft Local Plan which sets out the future development of the Square Mile.

It looks forward to 2036 and provides guidance on what types of development

and activities are likely to take place and where.

The draft City Plan 2036 can be viewed in City libraries and the Planning Reception Area at Guildhall.

There will also be several events and drop-in sessions with display material and officers in attendance to answer questions.

More information:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityplan2036 or call 020 7332 1846

Get on the register – final call!

Whether you're a resident or a worker, there's still time to get on our electoral register.

If you're receiving this ward newsletter you're already on the register but you have to re-register each year to stay on. 16 December is the absolute deadline and if you have received registration forms but have not yet registered, they need completing and returning to vote in any elections that might take place in your ward.

More information is available from the Electoral Registration Office (see details opposite).

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**

Bank experiment made permanent

The 16-month experimental safety scheme at the Bank junction is now permanent.

The Court of Common Council, the City Corporation's most senior decision-making body, made the final decision in September on the Bank on Safety scheme after months of rigorous scrutiny and consideration by a range of City Corporation committees.

With over 4,200 responses to the consultation, the wide-ranging needs of local road users and other stakeholders were considered along with the operational needs of the Square Mile.

The scheme, first implemented in May 2017 on an experimental basis, restricts vehicle access to Bank junction to buses and cyclists only, Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm.

The Bank on Safety experimental scheme is part of All Change at Bank, an improvements programme which describes the City Corporation's broader aspirations and long-term proposals for Bank junction.



Broad Street

Who We Are



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John Scott CC

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Committee Appointments:

Markets
Gresham (City Side)
Standards

Committee Appointments:

Culture Heritage & Libraries
City of London Freemen's School
Gresham (City Side)
Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Deputy Chairman)
Port Health & Environmental Services

Committee Appointments:

Capital Buildings
Christ's Hospital
Education Board
Finance
Gresham (City Side)
Investment
Liverty
Planning & Transportation (Chairman)
Police
Policy & Resources (Vice Chairman)
Property Investment Board

Committee Appointments:

Chief Commoner
Christ's Hospital
Gresham (City Side)
Guildhall Club (Deputy Chairman)
Hospitality WP (Chairman)
Markets
Museum of London

Ward Constables

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PC Mike Bainbridge

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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

Member Services
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Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ

or email
col-eb-fc@cityoflondon.gov.uk



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



**Pearly Kings and Queens
at their traditional event in
Guildhall Yard**

continued from the front page

meet from all walks of life. They range from Kings and Queens, both real and of the Pearly variety, to Government Ministers, stars of the cultural and sporting worlds, and school students being rewarded for stellar performances. It is often the less spectacular events which are the most moving, as when a group of very handicapped pupils from schools in deprived areas of the East End received their trophies from the Countess of Wessex on behalf of the London Children's Flower Society.

At the time of writing I am just over half way through my term and I can say already that it has been a huge honour and privilege to hold the office of Chief Commoner, supported and indeed enabled, by my wife Claire. Sadly, the Chief is not for life but only for a year and on 25th April 2019 I hand over to my colleague Deputy Tom Hoffman MBE. Hopefully the Ward of Broad Street will continue to go from strength to strength with the possibility of future Sheriffs and even a Lord Mayor among our number. One day I might even write about my latest job as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, but that story is for another day.