



Working for a better BISHOPSGATE



January 2025

WELCOME FROM THE BISHOPSGATE WARD COUNCILLORS

Happy New Year and may we extend a warm welcome to those of you who are newly registered voters - in addition to those long-standing friends in the Bishopsgate Ward.

We are pleased to share some of the work we are doing on your behalf in the City of London, but we value your feedback. If there are topics you would like to know more about in future editions, please do let us know.

Your Bishopsgate Ward Councillors



GREAT MENTAL HEALTH DAY

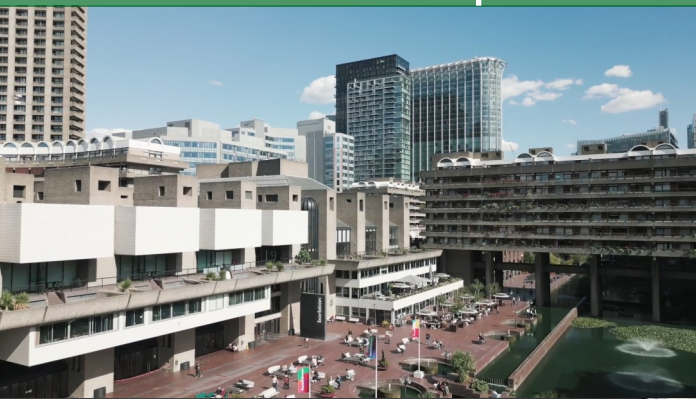
The 31st January is London's 'Great Mental Health Day'. It has the aim of getting Londoners talking about their mental health and, importantly, raising awareness about the support services available year-round. You can find out more at www.thrive.ldn.co.uk or by emailing info@thrivedn.co.uk

14 THINGS TO DO IN THE CITY IN JANUARY

The City of London is bursting with vibrant experiences to kick off the new year in style. From historic explorations to indulgent treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy this January. Dive into Roman history, learn a new skill, or unwind in London's second largest conservatory. Whether you're a history buff, foodie, or culture seeker, here's our guide to some of the best activities in the City of London this month: www.thecityofldn.com

SOMETHING TO REPORT?

Rough Sleeping: www.thestreetlink.org.uk
Noise Pollution: call 0207 606 3030 (24 hrs)
Litter, fly tipping, graffiti, dumped bikes: www.mycity.cityoflondon.gov.uk



INVESTING IN ARTS & CULTURE...

We are pleased to report that the City of London Corporation has approved almost £200 million in funding to commence essential works that will rejuvenate the Barbican Centre.

Celebrated for its Brutalist architecture, the Barbican has been a cornerstone of London's cultural landscape for 40 years. Recognising the need to adapt to contemporary audiences, a Renewal Programme to revitalise the Centre's spaces, enhance its environmental performance, and ensure it remains a welcoming venue for all has been established.

Bishopsgate Councillor Tom Sleight said: "I'm thrilled to share this milestone in the Renewal Programme—an initiative that kicked off during my tenure as Chair of the Barbican Centre Board. The Board engaged in extensive consultations with artists, audiences, and the local community to understand their aspirations for the Centre's future. Our vision was to honour the Barbican's architectural heritage while reimagining its potential for the 21st century."

"This investment will facilitate the development of a comprehensive masterplan, further consultations, and initial infrastructure enhancements aimed at improving the Centre's operational and environmental efficiency over the next two years. The project's momentum is now in the capable hands of the current leadership, and I have full confidence in their ability to bring this vision to fruition."



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ENHANCING OUR GREEN SPACES...

We are delighted to report that the **Jubilee Gardens** on Houndsditch, has now re-opened.

The year-long renovations have been delivered following an £680,000 investment by the City of London Corporation to improve Jubilee Gardens, which can be found next to the Pan Pacific Hotel. The works carried out over the past year have included re-landscaping the gardens to create a more open, inviting, useable, green space that is visually vibrant and environmentally resilient. New trees have been planted, along with the introduction of new seating.

We are also pleased to update you on the progress at **Finsbury Circus Gardens**.

In 2010, the 2-acre Finsbury Circus Gardens were closed to help facilitate construction of Crossrail at Liverpool Street Station. Since then, extensive work has been carried out to the site to make it multi-functional and to improve its biodiversity value.

The £6m project to redesign the space is due to complete towards the end of Q1 2024, when it will be re-opened to the public in time for the warmer summer months. £3.5m was paid for by Crossrail, with the surplus being covered by the City of London Corporation. Finsbury Circus Gardens is by far the largest open space in the Square Mile and much-enjoyed by both residents and workers in Bishopsgate.



ADDRESSING ISSUES WITH DOCKLESS E-BIKES...

The City of London Corporation recognises that dockless e-bikes are a useful form of public transport in our dense urban environment. However, many footpaths, like Bishopsgate Plaza and Wormwood Street, are now littered with e-bikes, which have become trip hazards, particularly for those with accessibility needs.

Your Bishopsgate Councillors have been working with Transport for London and other London Boroughs to develop a pan-London contract to improve public safety through better operational management and to enforce changes in user behaviour. The City Corporation will also increase the number of marked bays for rental bikes in 2025 and have created a new issue reporting tool so that operators can be alerted to trouble spots.

Sadly, the City Corporation doesn't have legal powers to take action against operators at this time, but the government's new 'English Devolution White Paper' contains wording around empowering Local Transport Authorities to regulate on-street micromobility schemes, which should enable local areas to shape schemes according to local needs and avoid scenes like those we see daily on.

There is some way to go before this becomes law, but it's a step in the right direction to addressing this issue which may of you have spoken to us about.



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KEEPING BISHOPSGATE SAFE...

Ensuring Bishopsgate remains safe for residents, workers and visitors is our top priority. Over the busy festive season, we have been working with police, security, licensing and health teams to provide reassurance through high-visibility patrols at Broadgate Circle, Bishopsgate and inside Liverpool Street Station.

Officers have performed targeted engagement with licensed premises to perform due diligence on security professionals, checking CCTV is operational and testing the 'Ask for Angela' initiative. Early support has also been offered those who are inebriated.

Overall, the City of London is a low crime area. In Bishopsgate, theft is the biggest crime type. That includes shoplifting, mobile phone theft, bike theft, theft of a motor vehicle and all other theft which includes bag theft, dippers and distraction thefts.

To address this, the City Police are working on a range of overt and covert operations. In addition, 8 Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) were issued to individuals in the 3 months. CBOs are only ever issued to prolific offenders, and it bans them from specific acts and locations which are likely to lead to offences. With their removal from the equation, crime should start to decrease. Drug related crime has increased, however, the increased detection has been caused by proactive traffic stops by Police.



LIVERPOOL STREET STATION RE-DEVELOPMENT UPDATE...

Following the opening of the Elizabeth Line at Liverpool Street Station in May 2022, passenger numbers have continued to increase. Liverpool Street Station now serves 94.5m passengers annually and is the UK's busiest train station.

To address this, Network Rail have been considering re-development options to ensure the station is able to continue to provide a world-class experience for its passengers. Several designs have been explored and we expect a formal planning application to be submitted early in 2025.

Some of the reasons they list for redevelopment include increasing the size of the concourse to ease congestion, step free access across the station and London Underground to improve accessibility, the introduction of 8 new lifts and 4 new escalators, more ticket barriers to reduce queuing, new toilets (including family facilities) on each level of the station and better signage and connectivity to buses.

We welcome the views of local stakeholders as part of the planning consultation process, but to comply with planning rules, Members will be unable to comment publicly on individual applications until they have been presented with all the facts at the Planning Committee.

For those interested in keeping up to date with Network Rail's plans, you can take a look at www.timeforliverpoolstreet.co.uk



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MEET YOUR BISHOPSGATE WARD ACTION TEAM...

We appreciate the City of London can feel a bit overwhelming at times, and difficult to navigate. Our team have decades of knowledge and experience living and working in the area, so don't hesitate to reach out if you have something you would like our help with. Quite often, if we don't know the answer, we will know someone who does!



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MEET SOME OF OUR LOCAL ACTION TEAM VOLUNTEERS...



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JOIN THE LOCAL ACTION TEAM?

If you are interested in getting more involved in the work we do to improve the lives of Bishopsgate residents, workers and visitors, then please do get in touch at betterbishopsgate@gmail.com