

Keeping you informed

## Norman Baker MP visits Exhibition Road

Norman Baker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Transport visited Exhibition Road on a very cold and snowy day at the end of last month. Mr Baker was joined by Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Council and Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown, Cabinet Member for Transportation, Environment and Leisure for a tour along the whole length of the road. They walked on the new granite paving at the top end of the road and discussed the traffic management arrangements and progress of the work before finishing their tour at the new paved square outside South Kensington station.



*From left to right Norman Baker MP, Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown, Tot Brill*



Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell said "I was pleased to show the Minister the progress that has been made on the project. Despite revisions caused to the timetable because of National Grid work, you can already see the shape of the new street which I believe will do justice to the world-class institutions in the area and benefit local residents, borough residents and visitors to the area."

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## Christmas working on site

Work on site will continue as normal until 17 December. On 20 and 21 December Balfour Beatty's will reduce the size of all their work areas as much as possible and finish work early afternoon on Tuesday 21 December. They will leave the site secure until they return to work on Wednesday 5 January. Two members of staff will carry out periodic checks of the site throughout the holidays.



## Real world testing

Earlier this year we told you that we were going to work with Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to ensure Exhibition Road is truly accessible to everyone. Guide Dogs have voiced their concerns about the effectiveness of the corduroy tactile paving being used to mark the pedestrian zones. Even though the corduroy paving has been vigorously tested under laboratory conditions they are anxious that it may not perform as well in real life in certain circumstances. To make sure we are absolutely confident that it will do its job, we have appointed consultants to carry out real world testing in situ in Exhibition Road.

They will test whether the corduroy paving can be detected in an on-street environment by people who are blind or partially sighted especially when approached from an acute angle, and that it is easy to pass over by people with mobility impairments. A group of volunteers, including members of the Exhibition Road Access Group will be carrying out the tests on 16 and 17 December, weather permitting, and completing them in mid February next year.

**This newsletter is delivered to all homes, businesses and organisations in the Exhibition Road area. Every month we will let you know how the project is progressing, as well as introducing you to some of the people and the work they are carrying out on this £25 million project.**



## A face on the street

I'm Tot Brill, and I'm the Exhibition Road project's Senior Responsible Officer. That's project management speak for

the person at the top of the buck stopping ladder. My job is to make sure the project is delivered on time, to budget and to the specification agreed by the Royal Borough's Cabinet.

Exhibition Road takes up a lot of my day, but it's not the only thing I do. I'm also responsible for the Royal Borough's environment work: waste collection; recycling; street cleaning; our commercial waste business; licensing – bars, restaurants, entertainments, tables and chairs and off licences; carbon reduction initiatives. And leisure and culture: parks; sports; leisure centres; arts; Leighton House and Linley Sanbourne House; Opera Holland Park; support to the Notting Hill Carnival, arts and artists. And, of course, Transport and Highways: parking enforcement; road, bridge and pavement repairs and improvements; road safety and street lighting.

In all of this, as in Exhibition Road I'm supported by talented, dedicated and hard working staff, who live and breathe to make sure that residents get the very best services and service in London.

This time next year we'll be all but finished in Exhibition Road, and by Christmas 2012 the new road will be on its way to being another outstanding feature in the wealth of beauty that makes Kensington such a desirable and gorgeous place.

Have a merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year 2011

