

exhibition road newsletter

Issue 5:
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Keeping you informed

Keeping an eye on things

The Council's Cabinet Member and lead members for Transport were in Exhibition Road last month monitoring progress and checking on how the new layout is working.

Councillors Nicholas Paget-Brown, Mrs Frances Taylor, Dr Ian Hanham and Andrew Lamont started their tour by watching how traffic and pedestrians used the new road system and crossings in South Kensington. The Councillors then moved on to inspect the quality of the new paved areas with lively discussion about the future use of the new public spaces.



Councillors Mrs Frances Taylor, Andrew Lamont, Nicholas Paget-Brown and Dr Ian Hanham inspect new paving with Tot Brill, Executive Director of Transport, Environment and Leisure Services

After admiring the new patterned granite at the southern end of Exhibition Road they went to the Hyde Park end of the road to see the granite being laid.

Councillor Paget-Brown said "I am delighted with the progress. The scheme is really coming along and we can begin to see how the finished road will look. The new spaces offer exciting opportunities and we need to consider carefully how they will be used in the future."



Councillors discuss the new road layout with Tot Brill and Mahmood Siddiqi, Head of Highways and Traffic

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Exhibition Road model at the V&A

A large scale model of Exhibition Road, showing how the road will look at the end of the project, is part of a fascinating exhibition of architectural studies at the V&A. Eight internationally renowned architects present their concept designs for a hypothetical redevelopment of the V&A's Boilerhouse Yard. The designs, comprising architectural models and plan, respond to a brief

to create temporary exhibition space below ground and a courtyard at street level leading on to Exhibition Road.

The exhibition is on until 19 September and admission is free. Whilst you're there why not go and see the spectacular wardrobe of Grace Kelly in the Grace Kelly: style icon exhibition.

Guide Dogs joins forces with Royal Borough

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has reached an agreement with the Council. The Judicial Review proceedings initiated by Guide Dogs have now been put on ice following productive talks.

Guide Dogs have agreed to work closely with the Council and other disability organisations to continue earlier research to confirm the effectiveness of the corduroy paving, being used to mark the pedestrian and traffic zones, under certain conditions in real world trials on Exhibition Road.

Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, the Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said: "We have always believed that it is our duty to make Exhibition Road a fitting setting for the world class institutions it houses and accessible to everyone,

including blind and partially sighted people as well as people in wheelchairs; parents with children, teenagers; older people and people with restricted mobility. To that end we have worked with Guide Dogs and other disability groups since the inception of the project to get the best outcome for everyone."

Richard Leaman, Chief Executive of Guide Dogs continues: "Guide Dogs welcomes the Royal Borough's commitment to ensuring that the development is as safe as possible for all pedestrians – including blind and partially sighted people. By working together, we should be able to ensure that Exhibition Road meets the needs of everyone – so being truly fit for the 21st century. This is a landmark agreement – our vision is that this partnership will herald a new approach to the development of street design."



A face on the street

Barney Hamilton is the most important man on site – he's the general foreman. Barney is in charge of the section foremen, engineers and the labour force, about 45 staff altogether. He takes personal responsibility for site safety and does all the site inductions himself to make sure Balfour Beatty keeps up its excellent site safety record. As well as hiring the labour, Barney negotiates deals for all the equipment and plant on site. Barney, who is originally from Monaghan in Ireland, has been with Balfours for nearly 20 years and is known for his sunny disposition.

Next month we will reveal what you had to say about the future of South Kensington. Did you want the new public spaces to be lively or relaxed? What hopes and aspirations did you have for the area?

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.



MAYOR OF LONDON

City of Westminster