

# intouch

## DEVELOPERS ASKED TO THINK AGAIN

Matt Smith calls for future development proposals to be integrated into the settled urban identity of Spitalfields

## TRANSPARENCY CHARTER

Matt Smith to address demand for more transparency in Town Hall with Charter to deliver open government.

## RESIDENTS DEMAND COMPLIANCE

Appointed auditors must be given access to required documents in order to complete Tower Hamlets investigation.

# BISHOPSGATE GOODSYARD PROPOSALS MUST RESPECT THE IDENTITY OF SPITALFIELDS AND THE LOCAL AREA

**BISHOPSGATE GOODSYARD DEVELOPERS SHOULD GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD** Local Conservatives share residents' concerns about disruption to local area



Bishopsgate Goodsyrd Developers must go back to the drawing board

Local residents have raised concerns about the proposed Bishopsgate Goodsyrd development and the risk of it overshadowing the surrounding area.

Presently the proposed development includes towers ranging from 15 to 46 storeys, contrasting both stylistically and in terms of scale with the surrounding area.

Matt Smith, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bethnal Green and Bow said: "I share the concerns of local residents regarding the proposed Bishopsgate Goodsyrd development".

"Local residents value the distinctive identity of the local area. As indeed do shoppers and tourists who are drawn to Spitalfields because of this distinct character".

"Development needs to work with the grain of Spitalfields, Brick Lane and Shoreditch". "I also note the concern of local businesses who may stand

to lose a local identity which draws shoppers to Spitalfields from all over London. Many local shops and markets reflect the small scale character of Spitalfields".

"Furthermore I am concerned to ensure future proposed developments give proper emphasis to local job creation and Tower Hamlets needs to up its game on this".

"The serious concerns raised by local residents are cause for the proposed Bishopsgate Goodsyrd development to be referred to a public inquiry for consideration by the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities".

"Spitalfields needs a framework for sustainable development. If I am elected as your Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow, I will fight to ensure that future development takes full account of the historic fabric of the local area and creates employment for local job seekers".

## MATT SMITH PUSHES FOR MORE TOWN HALL TRANSPARENCY

Local Conservatives campaign to implement a 'Transparency Charter' as a positive step to improve governance in Tower Hamlets. The Charter would ensure:

- All items of Council expenditure above £500 will be published online;
- We will open up Tower Hamlets Council's books so that residents can see how financial decisions are made;
- We will ensure that a 'Presumption of Openness' is fully applied to Tower Hamlets Council;
- We will cut Council expenditure on legal fees presently spent threatening critics with libel claims;
- We will ensure key Council documents relating to important public decisions, meetings and background papers are published online;
- We will ensure that it is easier to cover more Council meetings;
- We will ensure that Planning and Licensing Committees meet locally so that residents can more easily attend them - with adequate notice.



Matt Smith supporting the Taxpayers' Alliance's War on Waste in Tower Hamlets at a local demonstration (Brick Lane)



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

Promoted by Matt Smith on behalf of Bethnal Green and Bow Conservative Association both of Flat C1, Attlee House, Toynbee Hall, London, E1 6LS. Printed by City Print Design of 2 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LP.

Please give us your contact details so we can keep in touch with you about the issues affecting our area:

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Please return to: Flat C1, Attlee House, Toynbee Hall, London, E1 6LS.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- Display a poster at election time
- Deliver leaflets
- Attend social events
- Join the local Party
- Vote by post
- Stand for Council

### How we use your information

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## MATT SMITH WELCOMES LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONERS TO CLEAN UP TOWER HAMLETS

There have been long standing concerns about a worrying pattern of divisive community politics and alleged mismanagement of public money by the mayoral administration here in Tower Hamlets.

The recent PriceWaterhouseCoopers report concludes that Tower Hamlets has failed in numerous respects to comply with its best value duty;

Hundreds of thousands of pounds in grants were handed to organisations which failed to meet even the most basic criteria to receive public money;

Property was sold without proper process and against internal advice;

Taxpayers' money was spent on unlawful political advertising for the Mayor.

The abuse of taxpayers' money and a culture of cronyism exposes a partisan community politics that seeks to trade favours. This is divisive politics – detrimental to community cohesion in Tower Hamlets.

Residents need to know that decisions are being taken properly in an open and accountable way.

The three Commissioners presently being appointed by the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities Eric Pickles, are experienced and talented professionals, who understand that transparency and accountability are vital to the functioning of local democracy.

By taking control of grant allocation and also the sale and transfer of properties, the three commissioners will go a long way toward restoring the checks and balances lacking in our system.

Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Matt Smith said: "I welcome the Commissioners and hope their work will improve transparency and accountability at Tower Hamlets Council, and begin to restore public confidence in our local democracy.

Tower Hamlets has undoubted challenges, but our neighbouring of Newham shows that there is a better alternative.

As your local MP I would work to hold Tower Hamlets to account for local residents".



Matt Smith with Secretary of State Eric Pickles in Spitalfields (above). Matt Smith supporting the Taxpayers' Alliance's War on Waste and campaigning on Bricklane (below).

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