

# City of London News

# Tower Ward

Oct/Nov 2024

## Tower Ward Update

### from Your Tower Ward Councillors



**Thankfully the pandemic is behind us, but it has changed our city and the way of life for many. Hybrid working is here to stay, and that has altered the foot fall and prospects for the businesses that make our City a vibrant place to live and work.**

In 2022 we wanted to work on – Restoring the City – since then members of your team like James & Marianne have been key to the adoption of Al Fresco dining policies, and encouraging new ventures in the food and hospitality sectors.

We also wanted to – Promote the City – and the whole team have been engaged on that. This means promoting the City for tourism, culture, work and entertainment. Marianne has made a number of contributions to the debates on how to make the City a more attractive place to spend time especially on tackling pollution.

On the business side, Jason continues to lead the Dive In Festival, launched in London in 2015. Dive In is one of the largest diversity, equality and inclusion events in the world, uniting 128,730+ participants from 40+ countries across 866 events on six continents. Today it is a global movement in the insurance sector to support the development of inclusive workplace cultures. It empowers individuals to realise their potential by raising

awareness of the business case and promoting positive action for diversity in all its forms.

James & Aaron have been part of initiatives to promote work with SMEs. Jason and James have been supporting the City of London Corporation preparation for an inaugural Risk Summit proposed taking place in 2025 at the Guildhall. This event will bring together business leaders and industry experts to explore innovative solutions and address the future risks that are top of mind in global boardrooms.

Reg Tech - The UK has long been recognised as a global thought leader in financial regulation. We have been working with colleagues in the Corporation to showcase the benefits of Reg Tech by presenting successful examples of Reg Tech implementation which have helped UK firms to cut compliance costs, be more efficient, and save time and resources.

We are all committed to – Improving our environment – and we recently adopted our City Plan 2040. The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in August 2024. The Local Plan Submission documents and supporting evidence documents can be viewed on the City Corporation's website at: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/planning/planning-policy/city-plan-2040-examination-in-public>





# Reports from Your Team

**James:** "Every year is busy, so I wanted to highlight the amazing cross section of what we have been doing:

"Recently I've been talking to regulators about AI, and in the summer I helped publish our guide to the safe use of AI in the public sector.

"This autumn I was at the launch of the London archives where the oldest document is from King William in 1067! Ever since the archive has been collecting documents, maps, photos, sound and video records of London. I also attended an event to support The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group who treat patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay. I also supported the 100th anniversary of the special status in London of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

"In the summer I hosted the Safety Thirst Awards. The awards, held at Guildhall, are given to licensed cafes, bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants, and events venues across the Square Mile. A record 75 Square Mile licensed venues were accredited for this year's awards, which were first launched in 2006. I also attended the Op Reframe and police welfare events in the City.

"I was also proud as a board member of our plan for SME's to launch this year the SME Strategy - the strategy represents a significant step towards making the City of London the premier destination to start and grow a business. It's important because there are 22,000 SME's in the city and they are the life blood of our future!"



**Marianne:** "It continues to be an absolute pleasure to serve as your resident Common Councillor. Since being re-elected in 2022, I have continually strived to be proactive and accessible, resolving speedily the issues you have brought to my attention.

"I have championed a safer city, supporting schemes to improve pedestrian and cycling safety, a safer night-time economy, and prevention of violence against women and children. I continue to support initiatives which help rough sleepers. I am

proud and delighted to see two projects I conceived and promoted come to fruition: a Hostel for City clients based in Southwark and a new city-based assessment centre. I continue to work with City BIDs and Providence Row to assist the most vulnerable in our Ward. Within the City Corporation, I have championed mental health and suicidal prevention initiatives, and I support Bridge Watch as a volunteer.

"I have supported 'Destination City' which was launched after the pandemic to encourage city workers and visitors back to the City and businesses to relocate here. I assisted the Business Improvement Districts and Central London Alliance to ensure their Summer of Sports programmes were delivered successfully, encouraging more visitors into our Ward which in turn supported our retail and hospitality sector.

"I am very fortunate to live in the Ward of Tower. I will always seek to improve and protect its residents and businesses, for the good of all. I am on hand to help and assist you, so please feel free to contact me whenever you need to."

**Jason:** "When I stood for election two years ago, my pledge was to fight to make Tower Ward a great place to live and work, to promote the City's financial and professional services industry - especially the insurance sector, and to push for a City that was safe, clean, and green.

"Over the last two years, the City has engaged with the insurance sector more widely than ever before. The new Insurance Industry Steering Board, which I chair, is integrating the industry's priorities into all of the work the City and Lord Mayor does to promote the wider FPS sector.

"As a member of the City of London Police Authority Board, I am able to push for greater engagement with residents and workers as well as enhanced focus on crime prevention and ensuring the City remains a safe place to work and visit. "I am also working hard with the

City Planning team to find a long-term solution to dockless bikes being left on our footpaths. We need more areas for bikes to park and more penalties to discourage bad behaviour."



**Aaron:** "When I stood for election in Tower Ward in 2022, I ran on three themes that summarised what businesses and residents had been telling me: revitalise, champion and engage.

"Over the last two years, I am pleased that we have made strides on all three. Works are well underway to rejuvenate the public realm around 50 Fenchurch Street and it will soon be joined by exciting new developments on Mark Lane/Byward Street, Jewry Street and Minories that will make the area safer, greener, more welcoming and modern.

"I am delighted to have connected SMEs in the Ward with City Corporation and Mansion House initiatives and engaged collaboratively with our corporates in insurance, FPS and hospitality sectors which have helped them fulfil their business goals. I am also proud to have championed our residents and businesses several times and pleased that many of our representations have been successful and your voices continue to be heard.

"There is more to do of course including ensuring more proactive steps are taken to resolve all noise and antisocial behaviour issues and attract more investment, developments and businesses that fit and contribute to our community. Alongside my colleagues, I will continue to work tirelessly for you

so Tower Ward remains a place we are proud to work and live."







# Your Tower Ward Team 2024

## Tower Team



**Marianne Fredericks** has been a resident of Tower Ward from more than 20 years. She has served as a Common Councillor since 2008, when first asked to stand and represent the Ward. She is consistently proactive in tackling both residents' and businesses' concerns. She ensures your voices are heard. She served on the City Corporation's governing Policy & Resources Committee for over 10

years. She has previously been Chair of Licensing, the Health & Wellbeing Board, Streets & Walkways, and the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Committee. Marianne is a Governor at Aldgate and Christ's Hospital Schools. She sits on the Aldgate BID Board as City observer and works closely with EC BID and the Riverside BID, to ensure Tower Ward's needs are fully represented. Bringing first-hand knowledge of what is happening in our Ward and her extensive experience of navigating the City's committees, Marianne is committed to seeking the best outcomes for Tower Ward's residents and businesses.

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**James Tumbridge** has been one of your councillors since 2009. A lawyer specialising in tech and brand issues, who has also advised the Government on trade policy. He helped draft the first public policy use document on AI, and has been supporting the development of Fintech, and Insurtech businesses, alongside being part of the SME board, all vital intellectual developments to

keep our City at the global forefront of tertiary services. In the past term James was Chairman of the Licensing Committee, and served on the policy and finance committees. He was also part of the committee looking at how to get the right balance in the age of hybrid working, so the City remains vibrant, as we optimise opportunities for workers. James is keen to promote London as an international centre for legal and financial services, and to support small business vital to the life of the square mile.

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**Aaron D'Souza** has been a Councillor for Tower Ward since 2022. He has lived and worked in and around the City for over 10 years. Since being elected, Aaron has been Tower Ward's representative on the Community and Children's Services, and Culture, Libraries and Heritage Committees. He was also part of the Finance Committee and has also been a member of the Audit and Risk and Digital Services

Committees. Aaron is a Manager at American Express in the office of the Chief Customer Officer of American Express International supporting with strategy and business planning. He was previously a consultant and Chief of Staff to the CEO in the financial services and TMT sectors. Aaron is Trustee of UK Youth and Member of the Guild of Young Freemen. Aaron holds a BA from Queen Mary, University of London and MBA from Judge Business School, University of Cambridge.

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**Jason Groves** has worked in the City's insurance industry for over 25 years and is a senior communications executive at Marsh McLennan. He has been based in Tower Ward for the last 19 years. As part of his role, Jason works with organisations around the world to raise awareness of the key risk issues facing the global economy such as climate change, cyber risk, the energy transition, and global supply chain disruption as well as pension and investment policies.

Jason is the Chair of Dive In – the annual festival for promoting greater diversity and inclusion in the global insurance sector and Executive Sponsor of the London market's Gender Inclusion Network. He is active in promoting the London insurance market to the rest of the world and currently sits as a member of the CBI's and TheCityUK's international competitiveness boards.

Jason is Master-elect of the Company of Communicators and among his charitable activities, he serves as Chairman of the London Piano Festival, a Trustee of the Cathedral Music Trust, and on the Advisory Board of the Australia Studies Institute at Kings College London.

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