

Fitzrovia News

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Labour take West End and control of Council

The Labour Party has taken all three seats in the West End ward and a majority of seats across City of Westminster to take control of the council for the first time in its history, *writes Linus Rees*.

Paul Fisher, Jessica Toale, and Patrick Lilley have been elected after a close run battle with the Conservatives who came in second place ahead of the Liberal Democrats in the West End ward.

Labour took 31 out of the 54 seats,

with the Conservatives taking 23 seats.

Fitzrovia is split between the West End ward in the City of Westminster and Bloomsbury ward in the London Borough of Camden.

For the first time in history both east and west Fitzrovia are in Labour electoral wards across two Labour-controlled councils after the Labour Party retained control of Camden and took all three seats in Bloomsbury ward.

An 'overwhelming and sometimes surprising victory' in Camden

Labour tightened its control of Camden as the Conservatives took a hammering, losing their leader and three other councillors — with some putting the blame at the door of Downing Street,

writes Julia Gregory, Local Democracy Reporter.

Council leader Georgia Gould said: "It has been an overwhelming and sometimes surprising victory for Labour."

She said voters elected "the most passionate, diverse group of candidates we have ever seen".

In Bloomsbury ward (which includes Fitzrovia East) the sitting Labour councillors — Sabrina Francis, Adam Harrison, and Rishi Madlani — were returned to their seats with a comfortable majority over the Tories who came in second place in the ward.

Fitzrovia Centre puts 'community' back into the heart of its name

Fitzrovia Community Centre in Foley Street will celebrate its tenth anniversary this month and has given itself a birthday makeover by putting the word "community" back into its official name, as well as giving itself a new logo and website.

Ten years of Fitzrovia community Centre, from 12pm Saturday 25 June. fitzroviacommunitycentre.org

Our summer issue

This two-page edition brings you only a fraction of the articles we publish on our website. See fitzrovia.com for all the stories, and reports on public consultations. You can also subscribe to our free email newsletter, which contains the latest public interest news and public consultations:

newsletter.fitzrovia.com

Fitzrovia News is published in print every three months: at the beginning of March, June, September, and December.

This printed newspaper is always available outside Fitzrovia Community Centre, 2 Foley Street. Browse our nearly complete 48 years of back issues at archive.fitzrovia.com

Apology for disturbance caused by filming

A film production company has apologised to residents and businesses in Fitzrovia for the disruption caused by filming on Tottenham Street and Whitfield Street, *writes Linus Rees*.

In a letter dropped through people's doors, location manager Sam Pickering thanked local residents and businesses for their patience during filming which took place on Wednesday 4 May, and then issued an apology for the disruption and for the lack of advanced notice given about the filming.

"We appreciate and acknowledge the disruption caused by our filming was ultimately greater than had been anticipated or expressed in our notifications and engagement with the community and for that, we would like to apologise," wrote Pickering of Crumpey Productions Ltd.

"It was certainly never our intention to mislead in this matter. We also recognise our notifications to the neighbourhood should have been made further in advance of our filming and preparation dates.

"We have been working with Camden Film Office to make sure lessons are learnt for the future. Our experiences and feedback will inform future filming approval processes for large film crews in this area as well as our own future activity in the borough of Camden."

More news over page. ►

Fitzrovia News is produced by the Fitzrovia Community Newspaper Group, c/o Flat 2, 19 Tottenham Street, London W1T 2AN with support from the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association.

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Noise annoys

As I'm writing this newsletter it is the Jubilee Public Holiday and noisy work should not be happening on Thursday, Friday, Saturday afternoon, or on Sunday, writes *Linus Rees*.

Yet I can hear a circular saw, drilling, and a sanding machine from the construction site opposite. I politely asked the on-site supervisor to stop the noisy work. But he refused and said he was going to carry on with the work. I have made a complaint to Camden Council's noise team and also written to the freeholder of the building.

Unfortunately, noise nuisance from out-of-hours construction work is an all too common experience for residents in Fitzrovia.

If you do suffer from this, please do complain to the council at either camden.gov.uk/noise or westminster.gov.uk/noise giving as many details as you can.

News in brief

The Fitzrovia Arts Festival will run from **12 to 25 June** with a programme of classic and jazz music concerts, exhibitions, poetry readings, talks, and walks. It draws on the talents of the many internationally-acclaimed artists, performers and writers living in a bohemian postcode. See fitzroviaartsfestival.com for full programme.

Camden Council has given the go ahead to make permanent additional contraflow **cycling** schemes in Fitzrovia streets. The contraflow schemes are at **Bedford Avenue, Grafton Way, Huntley Street, Tottenham Street, Warren Street** and **Windmill Street**.

The home furnishing store **Heal's** plans to take over the neighbouring shop space vacated by **Habitat** on **Tottenham Court Road** after a major refurbishment of the building is complete, according to a planning application lodged with Camden Council.

As many as 16 London **bus routes** could be axed completely as TfL begins a six-week consultation on the future of the capital's bus services.

Fire fighters were called to a basement bar in **Newman Passage** in April after a possible electrical fault caused a fire to start.

Licensing applications

Westminster: Tenmaru, 50 Margaret Street, W1. Seeks permission for the sale of alcohol on the premises from 11am to 11pm, Monday to Saturday; and from 12noon to 10pm on Sunday. See Westminster council licensing register.

Planning applications

Camden Council registered 39 planning applications during May 2022 in Bloomsbury ward, which includes Fitzrovia East.

Included in the monthly list are applications for planning and listed building consent for the the **Heal's Building on Tottenham Court Road**; listed building consent at **33 Fitzroy Square, 36 Percy Street**; alterations to **27 Goodge Street**; discharge of condition 18 for demolition of office building at **95-100 Tottenham Court Road and 76-80 Whitfield Street, and 7 flats at 88 Whitfield Street**, and construction of a new building; tables and chairs at **15 Tottenham Street, 28 Rathbone Place, and 1 Percy Street**, and **44 Charlotte Street** at the corner of Goodge Street; alterations to the rear of **70 New Oxford Street**; numerous tree works; change of use and conversion of the first, second and third floors to create a self-contained, two-bedroom dwelling at **49 Tottenham Court Road**; conversion from office to residential use at **3 Warren Mews**.

See: planningrecords.camden.gov.uk for details and the latest applications.

Westminster Council validated 14 planning applications during May 2022 in Fitzrovia West.

Included a major redevelopment at **95 New Cavendish Street** (on the corner of **Bolsover Street** and **Great Titchfield Street**); seven air conditioning units at **66-68 Margaret Street**; replacement shop front at **18 Wells Street**; amendments to alterations at **40 Mortimer Street** (includes 42-44 Great Titchfield Street); variation to alterations at **14-16 Great Portland Street**; and alterations at **50 Bolsover Street**.

See idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk

Advice for responding

Residents should check camden.gov.uk/public-licensing-register and idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk for the latest applications.

Residents in Westminster can contact licensingadvice.org for free advice, and should also email the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association fna@fitzrovia.org.uk

In Camden email the Charlotte Street Association at csafitzrovia@yahoo.co.uk where they can also seek advice.

It is also a good idea to contact your ward councillors well before the closing dates with your concerns about any planning or licensing applications.

Fitzrovia News publishes the latest planning and licensing applications on our website: fitzrovianews.com

Free housing and welfare advice for residents

The Fitzrovia Advice Service, run by Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, is able to help residents in Fitzrovia with private and social housing problems, housing and council tax benefits, disability benefits, Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance, pensions and Pension Credit, Working and Child Tax Credits, fuel poverty; and help with benefit, passport and other forms.

Advice is available to Camden and Westminster residents by telephone and email only, three days a week, and for speakers of English, Bengali, Sylheti, Urdu and Hindi.

Contact 020 3984 6364; or email: advice@fitzrovia.org.uk

Neighbourhood listings

Covid-19 advice and vaccine information is available from Camden and Westminster councils. See Camden.gov.uk/coronavirus and Westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus Covid-19 booster jabs are likely to be offered to most adults this winter.

Fitzrovia Community Centre has a number of activities available throughout the week for children and adults. They have books, board games, and a community garden. You can find out more about what they offer from their website or by paying a visit to their building at 2 Foley Street or call 020 7580 8680.

All Souls C of E Primary School, Foley Street takes children from ages 3 to 11. See allsoulsprimary.co.uk for more.

Fitzrovia Youth in Action is a local charity for young people. They provide a number of activities. See fya.org.uk or call at Basement 66-68 Warren Street or call 020 7388 7399.

Rainbow Angels Nursery Fitzrovia is a new nursery located at 54A Whitfield Street, Fitzrovia. More information at rainbowangels.co.uk

Age UK provides services for people over 50 years old. In Camden call 020 7239 0400 or visit ageuk.org.uk/camden; in Westminster call 020 3004 5610 or visit ageuk.org.uk/westminster

American International Church offers services including worship, a soup kitchen for the homeless and those in need as well as rooms for hire. See amchurch.co.uk, call 020 7580 2791, or visit 79A Tottenham Court Road.

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