



St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter September 2018

St Helens Festival Saturday 15th September

This year's festival promises some excellent live music as well as the usual stalls, games for children, and dogs show. The event runs from 2pm to 7pm.

While you are there, have a think about what it would be like if the short section of St Helens Gardens outside the church was closed off to traffic on a few other summer Saturdays each year?

This was one of the ideas we suggested in the StQW Neighbourhood Plan. The street could be resurfaced to signal that this is a pedestrian friendly area at all times, and closed on occasions. The traffic diversion involves only a little extra distance for motorists.

Local architect Gennaro Picardi created this image of a St Helens 'pedestrian plaza' for inclusion in our Plan. The Council was willing at the time to carry out some local consultation on the idea, before trying out a few days of closure to test how well it worked.



The equivalent of several events like the Festival would be too much to organise. A Farmers Market would need a bigger catchment area and a new one nearby is anyway opening later this month (Saturday's at the Spanish School, 317-318 Portobello Rd).

Any views welcome, especially from the shops and residents who might be inconvenienced by a few extra car-free Saturdays in the street.

The Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service are holding an open evening on Wed 12th September from 4-7pm. This is being held in the lower ground floor at St Charles Hospital in Exmoor Street (entrance via community garden outside the main St Charles building).

Imperial College campus - two more buildings to come

Construction work at Imperial's northern site in Wood Lane continues, with the Michael Uren bio-medical centre rising rapidly, floor by floor.

The 35 storey tower is now complete, and will be occupied next year. It featured in a Guardian piece on the 10 Worst Skyscrapers in London, by the paper's design and architecture critic Oliver Wainwright. His description ran *The lumbering west-London cousin of Richard Rogers' Cheesegrater, the Imperial West will stand as an angular wedge on the skyline, a terracotta Dalek looming above the terraced streets of north Kensington.*

The lower third of the tower is destined for Imperial staff, at 'less than market rents'. The remainder of the 192 apartments may also end up rented to staff rather than put on the market.

The College has a further application in with Hammersmith and Fulham Council for two more buildings, on the Wood Lane frontage. These have grown in size and height since the original 2013 planning approval. The taller building will be nine storeys. The view looking south along Wood Lane, when these are completed, will be as below.



We might have hoped for better buildings from a university of global class. And we are still having to press hard to get the promised underpass built between Latimer Road and the new campus. The timetable of completion by late 2019 looks likely to slip back further.