

CUSTOM HOUSE & CANNING TOWN »» IN FOCUS

Covering Canning Town North,
South and Custom House

Crossrail is coming



Custom House Station – a view
along Victoria Dock Road

Crossrail, the new high-frequency railway which will link Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west, through central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east, has been given the green light by the Government.

The 118km line will mean that your journey into central London will be much quicker; from the new Crossrail station at Custom House you will be able to travel to Liverpool Street in ten minutes and Heathrow in around 50 minutes.

The central section (from Paddington to Custom House) will be complete by the end of 2018, with work starting this month along the

route of the old North London Line between Royal Victoria Station and North Woolwich Station.

In order to make space below ground to allow for the construction of the main Crossrail tunnels, contractors will need to divert buried utilities along sections of Albert Road and Factory Road.

During the works, which will take place over 15 months, the contractors will be taking measures, such as the use of temporary traffic signals and local diversions, to minimise the disruption and to control traffic flows. Some bus stops may also need to be temporarily suspended.

Work to construct the North

Woolwich portal, where the railway will begin its descent to pass under the Thames in a 2.6km long tunnel en route to Abbey Wood, is scheduled to start in the spring of 2012.

It will also be necessary to refurbish the old Connaught Tunnel, which runs between Royal Victoria Dock and Royal Albert Dock. This work is due to begin in September 2011.

Crossrail will hold a drop-in session in March at the Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre. Read your next In Focus for more details and further updates.

**Visit www.crossrail.co.uk,
email helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk
or call 0345 602 3813 for more
information.**

ACT up and become a volunteer

If you're looking for ways to do something for your community then why not become an Active Community Team (ACT) volunteer.

ACT volunteers work with councillors to bring special events like this year's spring festival to Custom House and Canning Town residents and visitors on Saturday 30 April.

But becoming an ACT volunteer is not just about organising events; you will also be working with your councillors to solve local problems and run community projects such as producing a mural or even starting a community garden, youth group or Neighbourhood Watch group.

Don't worry if that sounds daunting – you will receive induction training and lots of support to help you to play an active role in your community.

To find out more about CH&CT ACT call Tristan Fluerty 020 3373 1265 or email Tristan. fluerty@newham.gov.uk



An apartment block on Rathbone Street being demolished in 2009



REGEN HOUSING UPDATE

Work is continuing on the £3.7bn regeneration project to rejuvenate Custom House and Canning Town.

The Custom House and Canning Town Regeneration Team have been working hard to rehouse tenants since 2004. The next phase of the project is to move people out of area 2 – which stretches from Kennedy Cox House in the west to Edwin Street in the east.

This will be done in phases starting with the properties in McDowall Close and Trinity Street, and at 2-60 and 29-81 Formunt Close. This area has been selected because these blocks are on the edge of the area for development, and moving tenants from them will cause less disruption to remaining residents.

Because of the difficult economic situation, the regeneration team cannot give precise timescales for when the rest of the residents in area 2 will be moved, and tenants will have to wait longer than first assumed, until the regeneration team are able to proceed.

Read your E16 newsletter for updates on upcoming drop-in sessions to find out more or talk to the housing decant team on 020 3373 1443. Read more about regeneration on the next page.

Free advice with Citizens Advice Bureau

If you're struggling with your debts and need advice on how to manage them, have a problem with your landlord or need legal advice, then Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) can help.

There are 394 Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales, which are all registered charities with the same aim to offer free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities.

Your query will be dealt with by staff experienced and qualified in welfare benefits, debt and housing

matters, so you know you're getting the best advice.

If you want to find out whether you qualify for free legal advice, call either of the numbers below or call to make an appointment. Opening hours are from 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

**Newham Citizens Advice Bureau
71a Coolfin Road
Custom House, E16
For debt and welfare benefits
advice call 020 7540 4941/42
For housing advice call
0344 515 1231**

CANNING TOWN REGENERATION: HAVE YOUR SAY



A computer generated image of what Canning Town will look like

Regeneration plans for the redevelopment of Canning Town centre are full steam ahead and developers Bouygues and One Housing Group invite you to come and see their ambitious proposals.

The developer and housing group are holding three public consultations to show you their plans for shops, leisure facilities, quality public spaces and community facilities in the area.

Experts will also be on hand to answer your questions on the proposals, which are aimed at creating a vibrant community in Canning Town.

The plans for this first phase include a new Morrisons supermarket, 179 new homes and ample car parking for both. There are also plans to ensure that the new town centre is environmentally sustainable.

To find out more, come along to one of the public consultation sessions on:

- **Wednesday 16 February,**
1-5pm at The Hub,
123 Star Lane, E16
- **Thursday 17 February,**
4-9pm at The Place,
2 Silvertown Way, E16
- **Saturday 19 February,**
10.30am-1.30pm at The Place,
2 Silvertown Way, E16



Roadworks update

Last June In Focus reported details of major work on the A13 roundabout as part of the Canning Town and Custom House regeneration project.

This work will lead to the closure of the two eastern slip roads and

traffic will have to enter and exit the A13 from different routes. Drivers will be able to join the A13 from the Barking Road onto Beckton Road.

The westbound section of Barking Road from Beckton Road is closed until July to allow work to improve

the road surface, drainage and layouts to be carried out.

A new exit route for traffic leaving the A13 at Canning Town is being created, connecting Rathbone Street to the A13. As a result, Rathbone Street and Hallsville Road are being reconstructed, resurfaced and turned into a 20mph zone, with raised tables to slow traffic. Work is expected to be completed by March this year.

Other roads within the new route will also have work carried out to improve the drainage, layout and road surface.

For a full list of affected roads visit www.newham.gov.uk or to see a map of the works visit www.elgin.gov.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON... BRIDGE HOUSE 2

If you grew up in Canning Town in the 1970s and 1980s you would have known that The Bridge House pub in Barking Road was the place to be for the best live music around.

Famous acts like Depeche Mode, The Police, U2 and even The Rolling Stones played here and it was the first pub of its kind with a recording studio. It was demolished in the late 1980s but a new venue, The Bridge House 2, was opened in Bidder Street three years ago by two local lads who want to carry on that music legacy.

The idea was born from the men's passion for music; Tony Nicholls has 'dabbled in music' and Tony Cook, a drummer by trade, has played for bands like Iron Maiden.

Tony Nicholls reckons The Bridge House 2 is "Newham's premier live music venue". Like the original venue, it's got a recording studio and works with up and coming local bands as well as bands from around the country.

"There's a lot of raw talent in Newham and we want to tap into it



(l-r) Tony Nicholls and Jack Mason are spreading the word about Newham's premier music venue

and create something that will be a lasting legacy for the community," says Tony.

One of the hotly-tipped bands that he's currently working with is home-grown EastEnd Promises, who are recording their second album at The Bridge House 2.

The venue hosts live bands from all over the UK and abroad, between Thursday and Sunday, and it has an eclectic line-up.

And to spread the word about this hive of live music is Jack Mason. "My job is to let people know what we do," says Jack.

Visit www.bridgehouse2.com for a full listing of gigs. Check out EastEnd Promises who play on Friday 25 February. Doors: £5.

WHAT'S ON CUSTOM HOUSE AND CANNING TOWN

FREE boxercise for all ages and abilities

Every Wednesday and Friday
5-6pm

Peacock Gymnasium

Caxton Street, E16

Call Danny Lutaaya for more information on 0795 1627 066 or email coach@malaikayouthproject.org.uk

Storytelling for under 5s - interactive storytelling using props to bring books alive

Every Monday 10-11am

Canning Town Library

Barking Road, E16

Call 020 7476 2696 for more details

For even more things to do check out the What's On calendar on the Newham website, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events: www.newham.gov.uk/whatson

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 1265 or email tristan.fluerty@newham.gov.uk

To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. marie.collier@newham.gov.uk



Marie Collier



Clive Furness



Paul Schafer



Bryan Collier



Michael Nicholas



Alan Taylor



Patricia Holland



Gavin Pearson



Conor McAuley

Canning Town North Ward

Cllr Collier and

Cllr Schafer

Every Monday
(alternating)

10am

7a Avondale Court
Avondale Road
Canning Town, E16

Cllr Furness

First and third

Friday of the month
6-7pm

Helping Hands

42 Balaam Street, E13

Canning Town South Ward

Cllr Collier

Second and fourth Monday
of the month

10am-12pm Canning Town
Local Service Centre
3 Beckton Road, E16

Cllr Nicholas

First and third Thursday
of the month

10.30am-12.30pm

Keir Hardie Methodist Church
14 Plymouth Road, E16

Cllr Taylor

First and third Thursday
of the month

6-7.30pm

Trinity Community Centre
Bothwell Close, E16

Custom House Ward

First Saturday of the month

Cllr Holland

Second Saturday of the month

Cllr Pearson

Third Saturday of the month

Cllr McAuley

10-11am

St Joachim's Catholic School
Shipman Road
Custom House, E16

Need to talk to Mayor Sir Robin Wales? Being an elected mayor, Sir Robin is directly accountable to you. Look out for Question Time times and dates in the Newham Mag, visit www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 3373 0437.