

Friday, April 20, 2012

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In regards to: SoHo Reconstruction Phase II CWC Meeting April, 23 2012

Councillor Harold Usher
Chair of the Civic Works Committee

Dear Councillor Usher,

It has been my great pleasure these last several years to see the vibrancy and life returning to a neighbourhood I have called home since my birth.

Guided by the able hands of so many personnel from the City of London, in elected as well as non elected positions, I have really felt a sense of our neighbourhood being important to the growth of the City.

This plan began years ago, with a series of meetings hosted by the City to determine the future of SoHo. These meetings were attended by as many as seventy residents at a time, all with dreams and aspirations for their neighbourhood.

These thoughts were given form, on paper and in countless presentations to ourselves and City Council by the capable hands and flourishing minds of the men and women in Planning, Parks and Recreation, and too many other departments to name.

At it's completion, this vision will cement the status of SoHo as the gateway to our downtown as well as connect us as a community with the grand vision for our City's core. We will offer needed retail and residential boosts to the downtown economy, and allow the rest of the city to reconnect with a section of our Thames River long unseen by the residents of the downtown.

The first step in this process begins this summer with the reconstruction of the infrastructure beneath Horton Street. However, the crowning jewel of this endeavour will be the second phase which will really put a "face" on the work being done beneath the ground. It will demonstrate, in real terms of stone and leaf, the commitment to change and grow shared by the City of London as a whole and the residents of SoHo.

As a long time resident, I fully support Phase Two and wish us all the greatest of luck and prosperity in future that this endeavour will grant us.

Best Regards
Mark D Woodward