



SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

Direct Line
020 7367 6727

Email
Andrew.nunn@southwark.anglican.org

London Bridge
London
SE1 9DA

T 020 7367 6700
F 020 7367 6730
E cathedral@southwark.anglican.org
W www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk

Rebecca Towers
Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Southwark Council
PO Box 64529
London
SE1P 5LX

7th March 2014



Dear Rebecca

Public access to Cathedral Square, Montague Close, SE1

I am writing in response to your email of 24th February 2014 concerning the proposal to install gates across the entrance to Cathedral Square in Montague Close.

The Cathedral Chapter discussed this proposal at their meeting in November 2013 and also sought the views of the Fabric Advisory Committee whose remit includes consideration of the setting of the cathedral.

The Chapter agreed that the level of nuisance to the residents of Minerva House was a serious issue that needs addressing. However, it did not share the view that gating and fencing off the square was the best solution. It would reduce access to what is a public space and could set a precedent for other sites in the borough to be similarly treated at a time when it is acknowledged that there is a deficiency in public space in this area. There was also concern that the installation of fences and gates would lead to a tunnel effect in this part of Montague Close as they would directly face the Cathedral's own gates and railings on the other side of the road. This would also militate against the movement towards increased openness in public spaces which has done much to revive the Bankside area in recent years.

The Chapter urges the Council to consider new ways to control the level of disturbance to residents as a matter of priority as the needs of residents in our parish are a matter of concern to us. We realise this has been an ongoing issue for residents for some time, and when the Chapter first discussed it in 2010 we, like local residents, hoped that ameliorative measures (Community Wardens, the Substance Abuse Team, a regular police presence) would help. These intermediate measures having been found ineffective, we recognise that more a decisive solution now needs to be found – perhaps in the re-ordering of Cathedral Square as a park or garden, to make it less attractive to drinkers or vagrants. The Cathedral Chapter will be happy to work with the Council and local residents in any way it can to assist with finding a solution.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Nunn
Dean

Dean
The Very Revd Andrew Nunn
Canons Residentiary
Canon Bruce Saunders
Canon Leanne Roberts
Canon Gilly Myers
Canon Dr Stephen Hance

Succentor
The Revd Stephen Stavrou