‘Meet Keith’

Hello

I’m Keith Bottomley. I’m standing pretty much in the centre of Bridge Ward in the City of London. Like the other Wards in the city it has a fascinating and important history. It is in fact officially known at the Ward of Bridge and Bridge Without, ‘without’ (or outside the London Wall) referring to an area south of the river that used to be part of the Ward between 1550 and 1978 although in practice it stopped being part of the ward in late Victorian times.

Bridge is bounded by the [River Thames](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Thames) to the south; Swan Lane and [Gracechurch Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gracechurch_Street) to the west; [Fenchurch Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fenchurch_Street) to the north; and Rood Lane and Lovat Lane to the east. The ward includes [Fishmongers' Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worshipful_Company_of_Fishmongers), [St. Magnus-the-Martyr church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Magnus-the-Martyr), the [Monument to the Great Fire of London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monument_to_the_Great_Fire_of_London), and the full span of London Bridge.

I’ve lived and worked in and around the city for the past 18 years. I live 10 minutes walk from here by the Globe Theatre on Southwark Bridge. I’m a banking and communications professional.

Since moving to London I’ve been fascinated by how the City works, its rich history and the important business of making sure that London and its people and businesses are able to make the absolute most of the many opportunities that the City it brings.

John Owen Ward who represented the Ward for many years has sadly had to resign recently and I plan to put my name forward to represent the Ward as a Councilor.

There’s a lot going on in the Ward. There’s a lot of construction. The new Walkie Talkie has just opened and construction on the East-West Cycle Superhighway, which will run along Upper and Lower Thames street, starts next month. The City Corporation are also consulting on the Riverside Strategy. As a riverside Ward that’s important to Bridge. How will the needs of both business the many people who travel to and work in the City each day be balanced and better met? How can better access to the river be achieved with more open space to enjoy the wonderful riverside views?

I’m very keen to understand what the issues are for businesses and the people who live and work in the Ward so I’m conducting a survey to find out. Do let me know what you think. You can access the survey via my website keithbottomley.com

I’ll be communicating the findings over the coming weeks.

The date of the by-election isn’t confirmed yet and as soon as it is I will be putting my nomination in. I think I have the energy, experience and enthusiasm to do a good job. I can commit to it full time.

If you have a view or something to share please get in touch at keith.bottomley.com.

Until next time, goodbye.