

By Amelia Burr

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A NEW square to replace a roundabout has gone out to public consultation this week.

Elephant Square is the latest development to be named after the majestic mammal in the multi-billion pound redevelopment of Elephant and Castle, following in the footsteps of Elephant Park, Elephant One and One the Elephant.

It will cost a total of £154 million to create a new Northern Line station and transform the roundabout and its subterranean subways into a peninsula with a two-way road network running around it and a new public square at its centre.

Southwark Council was this week set to approve payments to TfL over the next fifteen years totalling £63million for the Elephant's transport improvements. This

money is forecast to come out of developers' pockets but once the TfL agreement is signed, the council will have to pay come what may.

"These proposals have been a long time in the pipeline and we are more than confident that payments can be made both through current and future developments, with almost half of the £48m from Elephant and Castle schemes already secured," said Cllr Mark Williams, Southwark's cabinet member

for regeneration, planning and transport.

The iconic Elephant statue, previously atop the Elephant & Castle pub until it was demolished in 1959, will be moved back to its original position in the new square, which boasts a water feature, wide pedestrian crossings and dedicated cycle routes.

Consultation on Elephant Square closes on December 23. For more information about the scheme, please visit www.tfl.gov.uk/elephant.



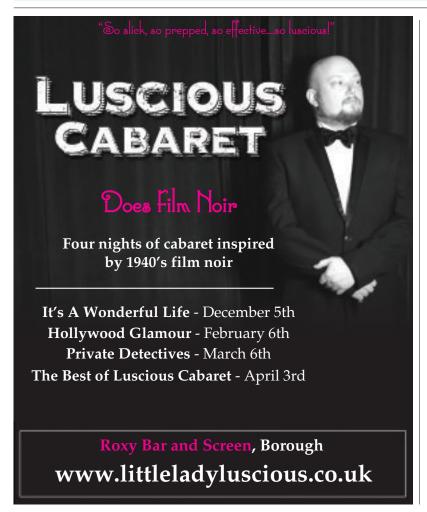
Care home cake-off

PECKHAM: Residents at a care home have been perfecting their Christmas cakes for weeks in preparation for a regional competition to be held today.

Southwark Mayor, Councillor Sunil Chopra, will be among the judges at the competition to be held at Greenhive Care Home in Brayards Road with many entries coming in from other Anchor homes across the region.

Connie Oppong, Greenhive's Home Manager, said: "I know how hard the residents have worked on their cakes – the Greenhive team has been soaking fruit, mixing, baking and decorating for weeks.

"I am really proud of their efforts. Seeing all the cakes displayed at the regional final from all over London will trigger a real festive spirit in the home. Fingers crossed that we will win against fierce competition!"





Simply ship shape

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ROTHERHITHE



Gay deputy head tells story on CBBC

A GAY deputy headteacher who held a "coming out" assembly at his Rotherhithe primary school appeared on CBBC yesterday.

Since Shaun Dellenty, a teacher at Alfred Salter Primary School, told the pupils he has championed the need to speak out against homophobia in the playground.

Mr Dellenty was asked to appear on a programme called Our School to tell his story.

ROTHERHITHE



Hughes measures up apprentices

SIMON HUGHES MP donned a hard hat and hi-vis to meet construction apprentices in Rotherhithe last Wednesday.

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The L&Q building site in Quebec Way is part of an apprenticeship scheme that is open only to the housing association's own residents, which will have offered 60 people employment by the end of the financial year. Over 6,000 apprenticeships have been created in the borough since 2010.