

## **BAGC Minutes**

21 November 2013

Present:

Jane Smith, Randall Anderson, Bruce Badger, Robert Barker, David Bradshaw, Garth Leder, Sarah Hudson, Tim Macer, elected members; Gillian Ladilaw, Mountjoy; Brian Parkes, Speed; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; John Whitehead, Breton; Mary Hickman, Andrewes; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; David Graves, Seddon; Janet Wells, John Trundle; Nigel Dixon, Frobisher; Tony Swanson, Lauderdale; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; Gianetta Corley, Gilbert; John Taysum, Bryer.

Apologies:

Cliff Paice, Angela Starling, Simon Ebbins, Mary Bonar, Phil Sharples, Matt Collins.

### **1. Welcomes**

The chair welcomed Mary Hickman, the new house group chair and BA rep for Andrewes, Tony Swanson, the new BA rep for Lauderdale, and Sue Cox observing – Sue had produced a useful cross-referencing spreadsheet of City members and was interested in the job of membership secretary.

### **3. Concrete**

The BA's solicitor is sending another letter to the City solicitor, spelling out the argument. It was suggested that the letter should be copied to the chair of BRC and to Eddie Stevens.

### **6. Membership secretary**

The chair had received two expressions of interest.

### **7. BA/RCC division of labour**

The chair had circulated Tim Macer's table of areas of responsibility for the RCC and the BA. She said that her rule of thumb had always been that the RCC dealt with landlord-tenant issues and the BA with everything else. Tim Macer, RCC chair and also BA deputy chair, had suggested a pragmatic variation, to include in the RCC's remit anything managed by the BEO (eg the Beech Gardens project). Both thought this would clarify things for residents, use resources efficiently and avoid duplicating effort. Randall Anderson suggested tightening up the footnote so that the BA reserved the right to represent its members. Sarah Hudson asked for Sustainability to be added to the BA list. Tim Macer aimed to discuss this more fully at the RCC's AGM in February 2014.

### **8. RTA status for house groups**

Agreed: Tim Macer's suggestion that the BA provide some resources for house groups wanting to become RTAs. Monday's RCC meeting had received the paper on RTA status, achieved by all house groups who applied.

### **9. Consultation: seats on St Giles's Terrace and Ben Jonson Highwalk**

The Streets and Walkways discussion had been delayed till January. The chair speculated this was as residents had voted against and users for; John Tomlinson thought the analysis had arrived late and the City wanted to give people time to read it. **Agreed: JS to ask for the report as early as possible.** Gianetta Corley pointed to rust on the metal work, and bent parts. Bruce Badger said that the seating on Ben Jonson Highwalk was too high for its plinths. If the seating stayed, it would need listed building consent. Regular maintenance is required in all areas.

### **10. Cultural Hub**

The chair summarised that a series of specific plans would emerge over time. Randall Anderson said the real driver was the Museum of London, which wanted to be much bigger, and planned substantial fund-raising. The Arts Centre wanted a set of clear pedestrian routes to itself. The chair thought we needed to monitor the Hub closely since it would affect our environment.

**Agreed: the chair to seek an early meeting with the director of the MoL.**

**Agreed: set up BA working group to monitor the Cultural Hub**, chaired by chair BA: volunteers at and after the meeting: Brian Parkes, Pat Spicer, Robert Barker, Garth Leder, Sarah Hudson, Bruce Badger, Gianetta Corley.

**Agreed: ask for brief to Publica** (consultancy running Barbican Area strategy review).

## **11. Residents' meetings**

The next meeting is on 21 January 2014 with the town clerk, who had asked what residents might want to hear about. Ideas offered included:

- how can residential amenity be defending a largely business city?
- is licensing going to take account of residents' needs?
- how does the City join up thinking, ie draw together the different strands that affect residents?
- do they value residents?
- what do Town Clerks do? – Jargon busting and basics
- what value is there in having residents at all in the City?
- air quality – what plans are there for radical change in terms of traffic management?

Gillian Laidlaw agreed to organise the wine for the meeting and Pat and John would help with serving. The meeting thanked Gillian, Richard, Pat and John for their help with the wine at the Crossrail and the Public Health meetings.

Tim Macer said about 55 people attended the public health meeting, and people said they appreciated these meetings. **Agreed: to ask members what meetings they would like in future.**

The Crossrail meeting had gone well, with about 200 people. A few people had asked to be linked to the video on Youtube. Robert Barker suggested reminding people that if they wanted a settlement deed they needed to ask for one by the end of December.

## **12. Planning**

Robert Barker suggested getting a photo to the planners to display at the meeting that considered the GSMD variation. Garth and Brian Parkes would speak. On 21 Moorfields, Robert Barker said he was anxious that a ramp should be kept, even if in a different location. John Taysum said he was still waiting to hear back from Virgin Active, who had promised on 20<sup>th</sup> June to come back in 3 weeks. **Agreed: this apparent lack of planning permission should not go unnoted. Garth Leder will take this up with Virgin and the BEO.**

Redrow, the developers of the YMCA building, were holding a public meeting and had sought a meeting with the BA. **Agreed: a working party chaired by David Murray, chair of Bunyan House group.**

Other members who volunteered included:

Nigel Dixon (who could bring experience of Frobisher)

John Taysum (Bryer Court)

Janet Wells (John Trundle)

Robert Barker (heritage and access)

Garth Leder (planning subcommittee chair)

During building the relationship with Redrow will be a BA issue. As it nears completion and hand-over to the BEO, it will become a RCC matter.

Mary Hickman said the staircase lighting on the JP Morgan building had got much brighter. Some residents had been in touch with Environmental Health, without much success. Tim Macer had the contact numbers for JP Morgan facilities managers. Also, a couple of councilmen work for JP Morgan. **Agreed: the chair to write on behalf of the BA.**

## **13. Licensing**

Robert Barker wondered if it would be possible to get written into the London Film School's lease that the public should not be in the building beyond 11pm at night. **Agreed: the chair to write to City Surveyors/City Solicitors**

#### **14. Sustainability**

Sarah Hudson recorded her thanks for the publicity for the air quality project. 53 people were using diffusion tubes and 75 people had volunteered altogether, and all the tubes for the first month had been sent off to the lab. She was planning a meeting in January.

#### **16. St Alphage**

Tim Macer reported two meetings, a general one for residents and a core group meeting for specific issues. He'd found Brookfield responsive and willing to make changes where they could. They are thinking further about the restaurant in Wood Street, and plan another open meeting in 8 months.

#### **17. RCC**

The TV/Broadband contract had been signed. The City Solicitors' work on the contract had been good, reported Randall Anderson. The working party will be kept going to monitor the project. The BEO are providing space in the BEO for VFM to have a marketing office.

Beech Street Gardens. The working party date for the soft landscaping is 16/12. Decisions on this will influence the irrigation that is installed.

Underfloor heating. The working party had had three meetings. It was a core group with a wider advisory group, who were copied in on email discussions and documents. So far it had been myth busting – for example, the system is in good condition and in itself efficient. The supplier will probably continue the tariff to the end of the heating season in Spring 2014. Monitoring equipment has been set up in a stack of flats in one terrace block and in two full rings of flats in a tower, to compare actual temperatures to the electrical energy input.

Meeting ended 10.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 23 January.