

## **BAGC Minutes**

12 March 2015

### Present:

Jane Smith, Tim Macer, Robert Barker, Sarah Hudson, elected members; Trevor Kavanagh, Speed; Gianetta Corley, Gilbert; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; John Hamilton, Frobisher; Fred Rogers, Breton; Bruce Badger, Ben Jonson; Helen Hudson, Defoe; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones; Janet Wells, John Trundle; Helen Kay, Willoughby; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; David Murray, Bunyan; Averil Baldwin, Thomas More; Nigel Dixon, asst. treasurer.

### Apologies:

Randall Anderson, Garth Leder, Cliff Paice, Kai Virtanen, Tony Croot, Brian Parkes, John Whitehead, Gillian Laidlaw, David Graves, David Bradshaw, Natalie Robinson, Mary Bonar, Angela Starling, Jenny Addison, John Taysum, John Tomlinson.

### **1. Welcomes**

Fred Rogers from Breton; John Hamilton from Frobisher, Trevor Kavanagh from Speed.

### **2. Making our meetings more interesting**

Sarah Hudson, who had suggested the idea, said that discussing themes at BAGC meetings – and inviting any member to come – would open the BAGC to a wider demographic and get others involved. The discussion included:

Need for preparation and information in advance with links to relevant policy papers etc

Mustn't wipe out the need for discussion on BA routine work

Need to be more welcoming and inviting to residents

Risk of too many meetings and falling attendance

BA often seen to be negative

There was general support for the idea. The chair suggested that we should try one or two and see how they went. They would need preparation so we probably couldn't sustain one every meeting.

Averil Baldwin volunteered to do the first one on the Good Neighbours scheme Thomas More House group had set up. That was agreed. She and the chair would liaise about dates, content, publicity.

### **3. London Film School**

The chair suggested that the BA should not, in principle, object to the LFS's forthcoming planning application. Residents' main concern was the construction phase, which isn't a planning matter; many residents were very supportive of the Film School coming to the Barbican; so far little in the application seemed objectionable, and the school had agreed to suitable conditions on the timing of morning and evening deliveries. If the BA objected to everything, people wouldn't take it seriously. House Groups and individual residents would, of course, make their own decisions. The discussion included:

Pressure to work 24 hours (though the Breton representative didn't expect a problem)

The need for a visitor management plan

Early engagement with Environmental Health (advice from Bunyan)

Suggestion that noisy works inside the residential blocks should be synchronised with school works

There was support for the BA not necessarily objecting but Bruce Badger suggested reviewing our stance once we have seen the application.

### **4. Community Infrastructure Levy**

Sarah said the new CIL (funds paid by developers) can be used for a much broader range of projects than s106. A community group could bid for substantial funds, if its case were strong. It was suggested that we compile a wish list:

Community space

Youth club

Connection to combined heat and power

And ask members at the AGM for further ideas

Tim Macer reported that John Lumley CC was working, with support from RCC and BA members, on a community centre.

## **5. Membership**

Approved: increase to membership fees for cheque payers to £8. Managing House Group membership lists alongside BA membership would be too complicated, but the BA's new website should have a page for House Group content. Volunteers to look after pages included:

Sustainability – Sarah Hudson

Concrete – Jane Smith

Security – David Bradshaw

Crossrail – Jane Smith

Cultural hub – Jane Smith

St Alphage/London Wall – Tim Macer

Tim Macer said we needed to build up a bank of images. The chair said she would ask for some in the newsletter and at the AGM – from the many keen photographers on the estate.

## **6. New chair of planning subcommittee**

The chair said that Garth Leder had decided to step down as chair of planning and not seek election at the AGM. She was sorry because Garth had done an excellent job. The committee minuted its thanks to Garth.

She asked for expressions of interest in the planning chairmanship – an important role. To make the role more manageable, at least one other resident, was willing to help, but we still needed someone to lead the team. Helen Kay expressed an interest and will talk to Garth.

## **7. Accounts**

Received. Cliff Paice will stand down as treasurer at the AGM. The chair thanked him for an excellent job and the committee minuted its thanks to Cliff.

## **8. AGM**

The guest speaker will be Henry Colthurst, deputy chairman of the City's education board, to speak on what the City is doing about education. The publicity for the AGM needs to highlight this – to attract parents with young children.

The chair will write a report for distribution. All subcommittee and working-group chairs will be on the front table to answer questions. It was agreed that the chair should give brief highlights of the year, and pose the questions we want asked.

Notes – the chair will ask Garth whether he might do these as his final task for us

Roving mikes – Richard and Sarah

Wine – Gillian, Pat and John

The chair will write to elected members and ask if they are willing to stand again.

## **9. Meetings for residents**

The City's Community Safety Team has offered to speak at House Group AGMs. The chair invited members to suggest topics for big meetings. She also suggested that when the Town Clerk comes back to speak, we should invite Golden Lane residents as well. Members suggested a second wave of publicity near the date on the BEO's email broadcast.

## **10. Subcommittee reports**

*Planning* Report attached

*Security* Update from David Bradshaw:

“The Corporation of London is proposing to extend CCTV coverage of the Barbican and surrounding area. The scheme is strongly supported by the City of London Police. I have been assured that no cost will fall on Barbican or Golden Lane residents. A proposal paper detailing the

scheme will be formally discussed with the Corporation's Police Committee on 26th March. The BESC has recommended that the proposal paper should be circulated as soon as available to all House Group Chairs so that they can seek the views of their committees and residents. The BESC is in favour of the scheme provided there is no cost to residents and that residents' privacy can be adequately addressed."

Many questions were raised. The chair suggested deciding how to survey residents once the paper had appeared. Tim Macer thought CCTV could be contentious with many different views: he favoured an estate-wide consultation.

**Roofs** Robert Barker said his subcommittee was now checking the apportionments for Breton and Ben Jonson.

**Cultural hub** The chair said she would circulate a note from the group's meeting with Nick Kenyon and Sharon Ament. Tim Macer reported that the Barbican Area Strategy consultation will mount an exhibition from May to July, from which the City wants written feedback.

**Fann Street working party** David Murray said that the developers had agreed to all the residents' proposals, so the planning application (to convert the former YMCA building to flats) was not opposed. External landscaping has not yet been resolved, nor access to the wildlife gardens, but he thought it was time to change the nature of the working party and he would step down as chair. The contractors would start on site in May 2015 and works would continue to 2018.

### **11. London Underground**

Richard Collins said he was still pursuing a meeting with London Underground. Residents have discovered the floating slab track does not extend all the way under Brandon Mews and the noise has recently got worse.

### **12. RCC**

Nothing to report.

### **13. AoB**

**Blooming Barbican Balconies** Sarah Hudson alerted people to a day on 11 April, to encourage people to plant their balconies. There will be plants and compost, and skips to take away old compost, and people to help those who need it. She asked people to tell their House Groups and for volunteers to help.

**Frobisher drainage** John Hamilton reported a good outcome to the Frobisher drainage saga: the City will pay for the major part of the works to downpipes and windows. The City is dealing separately with water penetration through the roof, which is still under guarantee.

### **14. Next meetings:**

21 April: AGM

30 April: officer election meeting

Meeting ended 9.30pm