

## **BAGC meeting 26 November 2015 Minutes**

Present:

Jane Smith, Robert Barker, Tim Macer, Helen Kay, Randall Anderson, elected members; Brian Parkes, Speed; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; Jenny Addison, Frobisher; Helen Hudson, Defoe; Mary Hickman, Andrewes; Andy Hawkins, Mountjoy; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan

### **1. Apologies**

Janet Wells, John Taysum, Kai Virtanen, Tony Swanson, Bruce Badger, Mary Bonar, Paul Clifford, Tony Croot, Richard Collins, John Whitehead, Averil Baldwin, David Bradshaw

2. The chair welcomed Andy Hawkins, standing in for Mountjoy

### **3. Minutes of meeting on 26 September 2015**

The second sentence should have read "In discussion there was much support for Richard's argument and Mary Hickman supported it strongly but the majority felt that it was beyond the BA's remit."

### **4. Barbican Station closure**

The BAGC voted 10 to 2 to put in a submission. The council then supported the recommendation of the working party to support option 3.

Points to make included

- The unacceptability of night time working that could be heard by residents
- The desire that construction work even in option 3 should be confined to reasonable daylight hours (as close to normal construction working times so long as it didn't prolong the closure)
- The need to control deliveries to reasonable hours so they did not disturb people

It was suggested the BA should ask the City to smarten up the staircase to John Trundle Highwalk

### **4. London Underground**

Update by Richard Collins on discussions with London underground about improvements to the track to reduce noise. Received.

### **5. CCTV installation**

Tim Macer reported that the Police had got the message that the cameras needed to be as small and unobtrusive as possible; they will need conduits to carry power and data and these would be painted to match the surface they were crossing. At the drop in sessions that Police had said they were talking to the planners and wanted to see what was available on the market before going back to the planners definitively. They were receptive to feedback from residents about best positioning of cameras, and they demonstrated the way they mask out any ability to see inside windows.

The police had offered to come back and talk to residents when they had firmer proposals.

### **6. Consultation on cycleways**

Tim supported the principle of the quietways but was concerned in particular about the junction of the corner of Fore Street and Moor Lane. This needed better design to prevent

cycles and vehicles coming round the corner too fast and to stop collisions between cyclists and pedestrians on the pavement. He was also keen that the Moor Lane tree planting should go ahead and not be put off yet again.

Agreed that Jane Smith, Tim Macer, and Helen Kay would draft the BA's response

### **7. Flat refurbishments**

See report by Helen Kay

Tim Macer said that the SLA working party would review the revised guidance for residents that went out to all residents and new purchasers. It was clear it was the long leaseholder's responsibility to get the necessary consents. If a resident thinks that they have not been got or are concerned about working being done they should refer to the planners (for listed building consent) or building control (for structural works).

Helen Kay agreed to follow up on the issue of builders' waste being dumped in the Garchey bay under Defoe, and then her note can go on the BA's website

### **8. Planning update**

Helen Kay said there were working groups meeting contractors on London Wall Place, 21 Moorfields, 60 Aldersgate Street, and Blake tower. Tim Macer mentioned that he had seen some proposals for the gardens at LWP – these would go out for consultation shortly, along with the surrounding street works. He thought they looked good.

The chair had written to Annie Hampson, chief planning officer about the Wagamama door making the point that if a mere door could trump residential amenity (and get a condition aimed at protecting residential amenity removed) then there was not much purpose in having policies to protect residential amenity in the Local Plan.

### **9. Treasurer's report**

The treasurer had nothing to report

### **10 Membership report**

Kai Virtanen had reported that membership numbers looked healthy.

### **11. Social secretary**

Tony Croot had given his apologies but was looking for ideas for future events. It was suggested he should repeat the previous ones, which had been successful.

### **12. Licensing update**

Robert Barker had discussed the issue of the terraces at Moor Place being used by WeWork for after work drinks parties with the legal adviser to the licensing panel. A benefit of membership of WeWork (which offered office space/facilities to other individuals and organisations) was "free beer" and parties. But the premises has no premises licence. The legal adviser to the Licensing Panel had said that because it was not *selling* alcohol it did not need a licence. The only other route was noise and nuisance. He suggested a management plan. Helen Kay said that the buildings manager was already talking to people in Willoughby about that and they had engaged environmental health. [Since the meeting the building manager has said that he had agreed with Wework that the terraces would not be used outside Monday to Friday 9 am – 6pm]

### **13. Events on public space.**

The chair reported that she had had a discussion with Peter Lisley, assistant town clerk for communities, about this, who had responded with the email that she had circulated for AoB. While it provided useful information, that wasn't quite what we were looking for so she would go back for a further discussion.

### **14. Consultation on waste collections in Wallside**

Deferred for Mary Bonar to describe the issue

### **15. Update on VFM/BT**

BT were working on optical fibre in Golden Lane, under pressure from the City. Randall Anderson said we shouldn't expect them to look at the Barbican for at least a year. They were piloting it on Golden Lane to see what the take up was. Tim Macer reported that VFM said they wouldn't do the TV upgrade until they had finished installing broadband. Members described issues with VFM's broadband breaks in the service every so often. Tim Macer said there would be SLAs once they had completed the installation. He said he would pursue the idea of convening a monitoring group through the RCC and contact the people on the original working party to see if they would participate. The RCC's February AGM could consider it, and that would fit in with VFM finishing their broadband installation in February.

### **16. RCC update**

Nothing to add

### **17. BA subcommittees**

No reports

### **18. AoB**

Sarah Hudson said that a consultant was preparing a bid for funding for an air quality improvement project in our area of the City and that the BAGC would get a chance to see what the bid was suggesting. In the meantime the consultant wanted ideas. It was agreed that the environmental sustainability group should talk to the consultant and suggest ideas. Sarah added that one new problem was firms getting standby generators because of concerns about the robustness of the electricity supply; that was clearly bad for air quality

The chair suggested asking Carolyn Dwyer, the new director of the built environment, to speak at our AGM. There was a lot going on with streetworks and road configurations and with the Barbican Area strategy that she could talk about. This was agreed

**AGM date is confirmed as 28 April 2016**

The chair also apologised for having to move the March BAGC meeting from 31 March to 7 April

### **19. Future meetings**

28 January 2016 = next meeting

7 April 2016

28 April 2016 = AGM  
5 May 2016 – officer election meeting

Meeting ended 9.35