

## **BAGC meeting 7 April 2016 Minutes**

### **1. Presentation on the City's bid for a Low Emissions Neighbourhood**

Jon Avern, director of Port Health, and Ben Kennedy, the officer working on the bid, attended.

*Several residents from the air champions group also attended this part of the meeting*

JA explained that the City had been successful in bidding for £25k from TFL last year to work up a bid for a low emissions neighbourhood. The bid builds on existing work within the City and has tried to respond to the requests of residents and members to be more radical. If successful TFL would provide up to £1m and would expect matched funding from the City. The extra funding would bring forward schemes that are being planned anyway. The bid needs to be in by 18 April and the winners (2 out of 9 authorities) would be announced in late June. There would be 3 years to put the proposals in place – the first year would involve working out details to meet specific criteria and there would be full consultation. What the City wanted was resident endorsement for the LEN

Ben Kennedy then outlined what was in the document. This was a marketing document not the full bid document. Lots of things are already in the area strategy. The core area is around the Barbican and that was driven resident's enthusiasm for some action and the work of the citizen scientists. There has to be stakeholder support. The City hoped that the LEN could be a pilot area for testing things that if successful could then be rolled out in the City

The elements were communications and engagement; working with businesses to reduce emissions; fast tracking ultra low emission buses, clean technologies in buildings and on building sites. Ideally Beech Street would only be available for through traffic if the vehicles were low emission. Residents and deliveries would be allowed; more greening; off street chargers – and some on street chargers eg at taxi ranks.

In response Sarah Hudson said the document was short on commitments, facts and figures and she wasn't clear what we would get for the £1m+. She had thought it was going to be a bigger area. Many of these things had been talked about for some time – where was the commitment? She supported the bid but wanted to see more specifics.

#### ***Responses to comments/questions***

*The area was scaled back because the money wouldn't stretch that far. If the measures work they will be rolled out across the City. There will be specific measures in the final document – TFL will want to negotiate some. The commitment to these things is there; winning the bid would enable them to happen faster*

*Freight consolidation is looking promising; car parks have been identified*

*The City would welcome specific ideas on places to green*

*Plan is to increase enforceability on idling engines (though there are lots of exemptions)*

*There is no plan to reduce bus services in the LEN – just to make the buses low or zero emission. Nor is there an intention to reduce bus services in the City generally*

*Part of communications will be to offer different routes to people on high pollution days/ immediate partial road closures/ encouraging more walking and cycling*

*TFL is looking for reductions of 20-25% in Nox in specific locations. City thinks it can do better than that in Beech Street*

*City already doing a lot of work with construction companies – if the bid is successful there will be more resources for that work*

*The City is committed to doing these things anyway (particularly Port Health and Planning)*

At the end of the meeting the BAGC resolved to support the bid. It urged the City to pursue with vigour the strategic aims underlying the bid and was looking forward to detailed consultation and engagement with the detail.

In addition the chair would write to the City in the event of the bid not being successful asking them to implement all these measures anyway.

## **Formal business**

Present:

Jane Smith, Robert Barker, Randall Anderson, Helen Kay, David Bradshaw, Sarah Hudson, elected members; Jenny Addison, Frobisher; Helen Hudson, Defoe; Gillian Laidlaw, Mountjoy; Averil Baldwin, Thomas More; David Graves, Seddon; John Schrader, Gilbert, Richard Collins, Lambert Jones; Janet Wells, John Trundle; John Whitehead, Breton; Mary Hickman, Andrewes; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; Graham Wallace, RCC; Tony Swanson, treasurer

### **1. Apologies**

Tim Macer, Bruce Badger, Paul Clifford, John Tomlinson, Brian Parkes, Kai Virtanen  
John Taysum, Mary Bonar

### **3. Minutes of meeting on 28 January 2015**

Approved.

### **4. Matters arising**

The chair said she and the treasurer and membership secretary had not yet resolved the issue of the remaining Santander standing orders

### **5. Centre for Music proposals**

See report for update. Chair said she had chased the town clerk for proposals on resident consultation.

She planned to call a cultural hub working party meeting soon and floated the idea that the BA might need to authorise some spending on professional fees. The working party would bring back specific proposals

### **6. Community Centre**

See report. Meeting had gone well. The next move is a survey of residents in the area

## **7. BA AGM**

Logistics for the AGM were agreed.

## **8. Planning update**

Fred Rogers is chairing a Bernard Morgan House Liaison committee, which also includes people from Golden Lane and Fortune Park etc. The developers are promising another public meeting – and a meeting with the liaison group beforehand but they are hazy on dates. At the first public meeting they were proposing a 13 story building going right up to the property line. They have modified their plans a bit since then, apparently.

There is a liaison meeting over 21 Moorfields next week because they want to increase the height of the building. The developers have written to some residents offering right to light compensation.

Randall Anderson and David Bradshaw will raise at the planning committee this proposal to increase the height.

## **9. Licensing update**

Robert Barker said that WeWork still hadn't produced their promised management plan – the house group has been pressing since September and the licensing committee said it was necessary. He will discuss it with Willoughby

Gilbert House residents were due to have a meeting with the Arts Centre about nuisance behaviour in the restaurants. Robert Barker proposed to send in advance of that meeting the City's code of good practice for licensed premises and also a copy of the Town Clerk's statement that he expected City organisations to behave as responsibly as commercial ones. This was agreed

## **10. Treasurer's report**

Tony Swanson said that he was meeting the auditor the next day. The accounts for the AGM would include the information from the previous year

## **11. Community Fair**

It was decided not to have a stall at the fair this year. The membership secretary had said that he didn't need it for recruiting members.

## **12. Social secretary**

Still no offers. The chair asked members of the GC to ask around in their houses

## **13. RCC Update**

No update.

## **14. Updates from other committees**

Security: There was no update on the CCTV installation, though it was still being planned

## **15. AoB**

At Shakespeare Tower's AGM new lighting in Cripplegate Street had been commented on as being much brighter.

Randall Anderson said that the City was planning to renew all its street lighting with LEDs That would probably include the Highwalks – there was a request for consultation

Sarah Hudson said that whenever possible street lighting should be solar powered

Helen Hudson asked about bad behaviour by contractors, and a request that the BEO should let house officers know when landlord's permission had been given so they could let house committees know. It was suggested she should contact Michael Bennett, who was finalising the guidance for residents on alterations.

**15 Next meeting**

5 May 2016 – after the AGM, to elect officers

Meeting ended 9.30 pm