

New Chair, Same Challenges

Bar to Barbican

As this is my first Chair's Corner, I should introduce myself in my new role. My name is Adam Hogg. I trained as a brewer and spent over forty years in the drinks industry, culminating in setting up and running a pub company.

Before living in the Barbican Estate, I chaired the residents' company that was set up to purchase and manage the freehold of a listed Art Deco block of 48 flats in Highgate. I have lived in modern buildings for most of my life and have, in consequence, a passion for great modern architecture. I first moved into Shakespeare Tower in 2003 and rented there for eight years. Geoffrey Powell, of the Barbican architects, Chamberlain Powell and Bon, was a family friend. He had died some four years before I moved here, too late, alas, for me to thank him for having done such a brilliant job.

In 2014, I bought a flat in Andrewes House and moved in three years ago, with the intention of spending the rest of my life here. Every day, as I look out of my window onto the lake or walk around the Estate, I remind myself that I am living in one of the finest urban developments in Europe.

The Barbican Estate is Grade II Listed, in a Conservation Area and singled out in the City of London's Local Plan as being of

CHAIR'S CORNER



Adam Hogg

special historic interest. Yet there is no single body responsible for maintaining its integrity. It would appear that the only people who defend it are its residents. As an unrepentant "NIMBY" on Barbican matters, I want to contribute to ensuring that its design, structures and ambience

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

CHAIR'S CORNER Pages 1 to 3
New Chair, Same Challenges

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS' CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
Building a Better Future Page 3

SECURITY AND SAFETY Pages 3 & 4
Addressing Alleged Antisocial Behaviour, City of London Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCE Pages 4 & 5
London Recharged: Aspirational or Delusional? London, My London

PLANNING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT Pages 5 to 7
Planning Update, The Planning and Transportation Committee (PTC): a case study in poor governance, A Threat to the Barbican from Within and Round and About

WILDLIFE AND GARDENS Page 7
The City of London Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026, New Life in the Garden

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT
Tuesday Club Page 7

BA DISCOUNT SCHEME Page 8

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Female kestrel honours Lambert Jones Mews

New Chair, Same Challenges

Continued from page 1

are preserved, enhanced and kept up-to-date. When I returned to live here as a lessee, I realised that I should be participating. For the past two years, I have been Chairman of the Andrewes House Group and Deputy Chairman of the Barbican Estate Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC).

My predecessor, Jane Smith, held the post as Barbican Association (BA) Chair for the past twelve years; she has done an exceptional job, and taking over is a daunting task. Throughout Jane's period of office, she has been the voice of the BA; the City listened to her, though they did not always pay sufficient attention. When she asked if I would be interested in putting myself forward to chair the BA, I was extremely hesitant, because she would be a difficult act to follow. She has agreed to hold my hand over the next year, to offer me guidance, for which I am grateful. I aspire to working as hard as Jane but for not so long.

Why it's Worth Bothering

What does the BA do? There is confusion among some residents as to its role and the roles of the RCC and the Barbican Estate Office (BEO).

In the early days of the Estate, when all occupants rented their flats from the City, the BA was the only organisation to represent Barbican tenants to their landlord, the City of London Corporation. "Right to buy" led to the numbers of residents renting reducing to less than 5%. Now, the BA represents the interests of all residents and lessees on matters that do not relate to their leases. It looks at issues that might affect Estate residents including, but not limited to planning matters, air quality and the governance of the City (*more on these topics below*). It is governed by a General Council (GC), comprising nine elected members and representatives from each House Group.

Following a ballot of lessees in 2003, the RCC was set up as a consultative body, to interface with the City's Barbican Residential Committee, which was charged with the management of the residential and commercial aspects of the Estate. Its membership consists of House Group Representatives and officers from the BEO.

The BEO, in effect our Managing Agent and itself a City department, is supported by City departments and manages the day-to-day running of the Estate, services and collection of charges, in accordance with the terms of our leases.

The BA and the RCC work closely together; the BA Chairman has a seat on the RCC and the RCC Chair is on the BA General Council.

The Barbican Estate comprises over 2000 homes; its residents make up about half of the total residents in the City of London. We are an important group and, as the impact of Covid-19 becomes more apparent, are likely to be more so. To date, the City has paid scant attention to the views of its residents, preferring to listen to the needs of the business community; we should encourage this to change. Currently, BA membership is held by just over half of the homes, so the Association has a strong voice. It would be stronger if it represented more, which is why I want to encourage all who live here to sign up for membership. For £5.00 a year, you are eligible for discounts in over fifty local restaurants, trades and services. Moreover, you are supporting the organisation which looks after your interests. It is the "go-to" body for the City, when the latter launches consultations. The City listens but does not always hear; the louder we are, the more likely it is to hear.

The Challenges Faced

We have been busy; we have recently been consulted and acted on the following:

- **Expansion of the City of London Girls' School**, about which, for the moment at least, along with our ward councillors, we contributed to the withdrawal of their proposals.
- Regarding **licensing applications**, our submissions on Daisy Green's application were accepted by the Licensing Authority
- On **strategies for dealing with climate change**, the City is committed to ensuring a reduction in carbon emissions to a net zero. The BA and RCC identified the potential for a reduction of up to 30% of the electricity consumed in the underfloor heating, by improving insulation of the blocks; discussions are ongoing.
- We are in discussions with senior members of the City, both those elected and officers, concerning **Lord Lisvane's recommendation on governance of the City**. With the RCC, we shared our views on how, from Barbican residents' point of view, the City should govern. We welcomed Lord Lisvane's report and responded to his recommendations. In particular, we seek arrangements by which lessees can have real influence on how their

money is spent, through an umbrella body bringing together all stakeholders on the Estate to ensure that it is properly maintained. We are attempting to persuade the City that a forum should be set up through which the City will have full cognizance of the needs of its residents.

- As to the **development of the Museum of London site**, there are proposals to demolish Bastion House before the museum moves to its new site in Smithfield; this is before anyone knows if the Centre for Music, intended for the rest of the site, will ever be built. There is no certainty about its funding and there are alternative proposals to develop the whole site south of London Wall into offices and retail premises. We oppose this; we suggest that the site might be used more creatively for housing, possibly allocating more space for the Girl's School. This fits with the objectives in the Local Plan, of increasing housing in areas where it already exists. I have no doubt that we shall need to campaign as we did over the school extension; this will require massive effort.
- Regarding the **City's Local Plan for 2036**, we have already commented on its first iteration, and the next version will shortly be available for further consultation.
- On **Beech Street and traffic pollution reduction**, the group which has been in discussions with the City on the Beech Street experiment is recommending that the City of London Transport Strategy of May 2019 proposal for a Zero Emissions Zone around the whole Barbican and Golden Lane area should be enacted as soon as possible.
- With respect to **anti-social behaviour**, residents will be aware that since the various lockdowns there has been an increase in nuisance from cyclists, parkours, skateboarding and noise on the podium and around the Estate in general. A computerised system for residents to report such behaviour and provide the evidence needed to inform the Corporation and the City Police as to the scale of the problem should go live in February.
- **Electric vehicle charging**, about which, in conjunction with the RCC, a working party is being set up to inform the City about residents' short and longer-term requirements.
A dedicated few among Barbican Estate residents have given much time and intellectual energy to a large workload. There is little doubt that as a result of Covid-19 in particular, change is in the air. I am not sure that the City has

acknowledged that it may not return to life pre-Covid and will need to adapt. We must be ready to engage with it. I know that there is substantial professional expertise amongst our residents. The more residents who can spare time to contribute to our working parties, the quicker we can

produce results and the wiser our recommendations will be. If you believe you can help, please contact me on chairbarbassociation@gmail.com.

To add weight to our voice, if you are not already a member of the Association please invest £5.00 and boost the

numbers. Please contact our membership secretary, Jim Davies, at membership.ba@gmail.com.

It is in all our interests to defend this architectural gem in which we live.

Adam Hogg

Chair, Barbican Association

Building a Better Future

Fire safety was a significant issue discussed at the Barbican Estate Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) meeting, including the new fire signage that is currently on hold following negative feedback from residents. We also discussed the City's plan to replace the front door sets for each flat. This is a landlord's expense, given that it is an improvement, which is estimated to cost £20m.

The front door set includes the front door to each flat, plus the adjacent cupboards for post and rubbish and features such as the glazed panels next to front doors in some buildings. An RCC member highlighted to officers the presence of asbestos in the post and rubbish cupboards. The advice was that the asbestos register will need to be checked to identify the type in question. Further, any asbestos removal which is required will take place under controlled conditions and under licence.

Another topic on our agenda was in the form of a verbal update on electric vehicle charging point provision. The officer responded that he had hoped to bring good news on this topic, but was not able to do so, due to circumstances beyond his control; we hope that good news will be available soon.

Outside the RCC meeting, work has continued on a number of topics, including the contribution provided by the Barbican Association (BA) and the RCC to a review of the City's governance by Lord Lisvane. Our input included the statement that "Barbican residents would like to see a more effective RCC, that can influence what happens on the Estate, how residents' money is spent, and which can have a say in the future of the Estate".

As it will take time for the City to work through Lord Lisvane's comprehensive report, the Chair of the BA and I have met one of the City's Sheriffs to keep abreast of developments and ensure that residents' wishes are paramount. This is particularly important, as one of Lord Lisvane's recommendations is the abolition of the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC).

In responding to the Lisvane report, my goal is to ensure that promises made to Barbican residents in 2003 for a formal consultative mechanism as to how the Estate is managed are kept. I do not doubt that the current method of resident consultation can be improved but I also know that what we have today is better than that enjoyed by other leaseholders, so it is not to be disregarded lightly.

Meetings have also been held with officers regarding our spiralling service

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS' CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

charges. These leapt by 8.59% last year, to reach £10m, in contrast to all other City departments that have managed to hold costs flat or push them down while maintaining current services. Progress on this matter is a priority for the RCC and we shall work with officers to deliver improved outcomes.

The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1 and, as previously, we plan to hold it virtually with online access. Subject to my re-election at the forthcoming RCC AGM, I look forward to chairing that meeting and hope that you make time to watch the meeting live or subsequently. The details will be available on the City's website <http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

Christopher Makin

Chair, Barbican Estate Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) that represents residents in their relationship with the City, as their managing agent and landlord.



Covid-19 and other Anti-social Behaviour

The big picture includes the hope that the vaccine will soon bring us all rather more safety and security. Equally close to home, I am delighted to report that we have the basis of the residents' web based anti-social behaviour (asb) reporting system towards which the Barbican Estate Security Committee has been working. This has been developed by membership secretary of the Barbican Association (B.A.) and computer programmer, Jim Davies, who responded to my 'call out' at the B.A.'s annual general meeting in November last year.

The system will enable residents to report on and log what are thought to be

asb incidents occurring on the Barbican Estate. The main purpose of the scheme is to measure the type and volume of alleged asb activity occurring and to provide evidence in support of the objective of



Chris Hay
Chief Inspector
West Sector



SECURITY AND SAFETY

increasing the byelaw fines. The system will be hosted by the Barbican Estate Office and the data will be shared with the City of London Police.

Any non-computer-savvy residents will be encouraged to report alleged incidents to their car park attendants or lobby porters, who will have access to the system.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

It is hoped that the system can be finalised and launched by the end of February 2021. The intention is to provide residents with a short, written introduction on how to use the system, together with a brief list of contact numbers of whom to call, depending on which alleged *asb* activity they believe they are witnessing.

I am aware of the recent increase, particularly of cyclists and skateboarders, again using the Estate and surrounding area and this has been brought to the

attention of the newly-formed West Sector Police Team, details of which were featured in the Christmas 2020 edition of *Barbican Life*.

Chief Inspector Chris Hay, as head of this team, has ordered a "problem profile" into skateboarding to examine what further deterrent measures can be established and, in due course, he will advise of his findings and proposed solution.

Deputy David Bradshaw C.C.
Chairman, Barbican Estate Security Committee

City of London Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Suitably qualified Barbican residents might be interested in applying to be independent custody visitors. The Independent Custody Visitors Scheme process enables members of the local community to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which people are detained at police stations and the operation in practice of the statutory and other rules governing their welfare, with a view to securing greater understanding and confidence in these matters. These visiting arrangements also allow for independent check on the way police officers carry out their duties with

regard to detained people.

To be eligible to be considered, applicants must be:

- Over 18 years of age
- Working now or previously or residing within the City of London
- Of good character and able to make unbiased observations, in which the community can have confidence, and which the City Police will accept as fair criticism when it is justified.

Anyone who has been convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment within the last five years, or who has ever served a term of imprisonment or

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Useful Police Contact Numbers

City of London Police switchboard-

Crime reporting: 020 7601 2222

Non-emergencies: 101

Emergencies (landline): 999

Emergencies (mobile): 112

Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321

Action Fraud Team: 0300 123 2040

Numbers to call in the event of Disturbance

City Noise Team: 020 7606 3030

for noise happening currently. (For advice, email: publicprotection@cityoflondon.gov.uk but response to emails is not immediate)

Transport for London (Underground):

0343 222 1234 (option 6) 08:00-20:00.

(Use online form at <https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/>)

Crossrail: 0345 602 3813

detention, may not be suitable. Interested parties will be will therefore be asked to include on their application form details of any such convictions, other than those which are spent by reason of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, and to consent to police vetting enquiries being made.

If you wish to apply, you are asked to submit your enquiries to the CoL ICV Scheme Manager at: ICV@cityoflondon.gov.uk. An application pack will be provided.

London Recharged: Aspirational or Delusional?

On 20 October 2020, the City of London Corporation, in partnership with the Oliver Wyman Management Consultancy and ARUP, a consultancy specialising in the built environment, published a 65-page report, "London Recharged: Our Vision for London in 2025". It purports to be a blueprint for the revival of the whole of London, with more than a passing nod to the regions, in a post-Covid world. Its focus is on financial services (FS), professional services (PS) and "tech". The Corporation does not justify its authority and competence to pitch for a London-wide, even a national role. It simply assumes that it can speak for other constituencies and prescribe what needs to be done for future success.

The report is long on worthy goals, but short on specifics and how to achieve both. Buzz words abound; 'ecosystem', 'hub', 'transform', 'deeply collaborative, cross-sectoral, and cross-regional', 'incubator',

'digital sandbox', 'digitally upskill', 'hive'. Advisory or cross-body working groups, each with a dedicated secretariat, are recommended to:

- define the ecosystem agenda
- work with the Greater London Authority to deploy critical tech and "explore the applicability of emerging tech"
- set the standard for streamlined FS and tech regulation
- streamline the UK's voice to the international business community

It is not made clear who will staff these working groups and their supporting secretariats and who will pay. Nor is the role and contribution of the Corporation. In another example of seeking an unsolicited role in other people's business, the Corporation believes that it has much to offer the legal profession and the justice system. One recommendation is that the Corporation and the Ministry of Justice should conduct a formal review of the

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCE

lessons learned from holding court hearings remotely. It is assumed that the type of law practised in the City and the way in which it is practised are relevant to the rest of London and the country, and that the Corporation is uniquely placed to contribute to such a review.

Collaboration between London and "the rest of the country" is another goal. The report acknowledges regional centres of excellence, especially in FS, such as Edinburgh, Manchester and Bristol. In tech, "in addition to London, Bristol, Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester all rank in Europe's top 20 cities for tech investment. This list does not even include other vibrant tech hubs such as Cardiff". It is one thing to note the success of these regional centres, even if other centres might wonder why they are not on the City's list; It is harder to say what the collaboration will involve and

how both sides will benefit from it.

One means of city centre revitalisation post-Covid, not mentioned in the report, is to attract more residents, who would reduce reliance on commuter and tourist footfall. Barbican residents would probably welcome more focus on their interests rather than those of visitors or commuters,

e.g., in relation to noise from the Tube. Another area which the Corporation might do better to address is its governance deficit, per Lord Lisvane’s report. It will be interesting to see if London Recharged gains traction, or if it proves more hubristic than realistic.

Heather Thomas

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCE

London, My London

Many will remember London during the 2012 Olympic Games, when the world watched our city; from the Barbican Towers, the park and stadium celebrations were visible. For some, London was the world’s melting pot and always a centre for sport, fashion, art, music, clubs, food, design, business, banking, insurance; people flocked from everywhere to be here. There was thought to be no obvious European city substitute. As Simon Kuper, of the Financial Times has noted, “so many people around the world have two homelands: their own and London – but for how long?”

In 2021, what is London now? Residential property prices here have risen 5% since the 2016 Referendum and

Sterling is down against the Euro and the US dollar. At the time of writing, Central Paris property prices were up 25%. UK were equities up around 10%, versus around 38% in France, around 46% in Germany and around 87% on the US S&P 500. For now, though mostly due to Covid-19, London is closed for work and living to some of our European neighbours, especially the young ones. The UK and the EU have a trade deal through which barriers have increased. Access to the EU remains to be resolved for Britain’s financial services sector, which employs 1.6 million people, many of whom are Londoners, and much Euro trading business may be lost to other countries in Europe. We may need visas to enter mainland EU countries from 2022 and are at risk of having an economy that will grow

less than our neighbours, with Londoners perhaps becoming poorer. Mostly because of Covid, home-working around the world has increased and there are estimates of an approximately 25% reduction in the need for office space as people flee the City. Internationally, the hospitality industry is presently facing a risk of economic devastation.

By way of compensation, we have a quieter and less polluted London, less congested and with a reducing population, though it might become less international and more narrow-minded. No doubt, the change through attrition will be slow but we may have a different London, perhaps even a different Barbican Estate, in the next decade or so.

Tony Swanson

Planning Update

Approvals granted, despite objections

Despite numerous objections being lodged, approvals have been granted by the Planning & Transport Committee to three major re-development applications, namely the sites at Tenter House (Moorfields), 1-12 Long Lane and 150 Aldersgate Street.

These approvals merely served to reinforce the view that the City of London’s Planning Committee is always going to favour office developments whenever residential and commercial interests conflict. Our view is that it is not unreasonable, however, to expect the City Planning Officers to respect and to take notice both of the protection that should be afforded to residents and to the preservation of historic Conservation Areas as set down in the Local Plans and Guidelines for those specific purposes. The proposed increase in height and mass of these re-development sites will have a major effect on virtually all of the residential amenity categories, principally loss of daylight and sunlight but also light pollution, overlooking and noise and disturbance.

We have made and will continue to make strong representation to the City of London on these matters.

Still in the pipeline.....

Planning applications currently in the pipeline include those from **Ferroner’s House** (to build a two-storey extension to the existing office building at Ironmonger’s Hall), **The Turret** (to convert the turret into a residential property), **18-19 Long Lane** (refurbishment and extension) and **1 London Wall** (to create a new roof terrace on its 10th floor). Decisions regarding these applications have yet to be made by the Planning Committee.

..... still to come

We expect an application from the developers of 2 Aldermanbury/55 Basinghall Street to be submitted shortly.

.....and what will happen to the Museum of London/ Bastion House site?

Another significant re-development area moving rapidly centre stage is that at the top end of London Wall where the

PLANNING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Museum of London, which is continuing to pursue its plans to relocate to Smithfield, and Bastion House, whose lease expires at the end of 2021, are located. Plans to build a new Centre for Music on the Museum of London site may now be in doubt. This begs the question as to what is likely to replace them on this site. Inevitably, they will be bigger and higher than the existing ones, which means that they are likely to have a significant impact on residents; we shall be monitoring any developments closely. On the opposite side of the Estate, the Virgin Active Barbican Club in Beech Street is to close permanently, which again begs the question as to what will replace it.

Application levels now higher than in March 2020

The Interim Chief Planning Officer reported at the recent Planning & Transport Committee meeting that the

Continued on page 6

Planning Department was currently busier than ever, with November 2020 statistics depicting that applications were higher now than pre-lockdown in March 2020. He forewarned Members that several major,

ambitious schemes would soon be put to the Committee, indicating that developers' quest to rebuild most of the City shows no signs of abating.
Sue Cox
Barbican Planning Committee

The Planning and Transportation Committee (PTC): a case study in poor governance

“Sclerotic” decision-making processes”

Lord Lisvane’s governance report on the “sclerotic” decision-making processes of the City of London Corporation showed that the PTC illustrated several such weaknesses. Its membership, 35 aldermen/women, common councillors and a sheriff, exceeds the recommended 12-15. At the PTC meeting of 15 November 2020, the 29 of the 35 members who attended were joined by 25 Corporation officers and 12 others, including representatives of planning applicants and objectors. Business is not done effectively under these conditions, as it was not on this occasion. Other examples of non-compliance with established governance standards include the immediate past chair returning as a member. In addition, some members are also appointed to the Capital Buildings Committee and/or the Property Investment Board. This does not just look like a conflict of interest; it is one. It prompted Lisvane to recommend that no member of the new Property Committee, into which the PTC will be subsumed, if Lisvane is implemented, should be eligible for appointment to other committees likely to discuss a particular site, on grounds that the legally required impartiality of the planning process cannot be maintained if members have participated in discussions about the same site elsewhere.

Presently, the PTC meets every three weeks, although fortnightly meetings are under consideration, given the number and scale of applications in the pipeline. Meeting packs tend to be voluminous; planning applications are technical and legalistic. Membership of the PTC is, therefore, time-consuming and demanding. While not everyone has the stomach for it, the PTC has a real effect on people’s lives, at work and at home. The Corporation’s default position, largely supported by the business vote, is that all commercial applications are a “good thing” and

should be approved, with an explicit preference for taller buildings. Where residents or neighbouring businesses are disadvantaged by the demolition/ construction processes, additional footfall, noise, or loss of light or other amenity, the Corporation regards these matters as regrettable, but not sufficient to constrain additional square footage for offices.

While compliance with good governance standards will not guarantee that the PTC or its successor will make decisions which those who are disadvantaged would prefer, an adverse outcome would be more palatable if the process by which it was arrived at was, and was seen to be, fair and transparent. In the case of 150 Aldersgate, it was not.

150 Aldersgate Street: balcony balcony

For pantomime, little was better than the November 15 meeting. Its main business was an application by Beltane Asset Management for the construction of a new building on the site of 150 Aldersgate. It would offer 50% more sq. footage than the current building as a result of extending at the back onto a second, currently separate, site. The Corporation owns both sites, although it failed to disclose its interest in the one at the back, as it should have done.

The new building has much to recommend it, but for the plan for it to be higher than the current one. It is an example of “roof creep”. Its roof line is going to match the building to the south rather than remain at its current level. A similar debate took place with respect to the height of the new development at 1-12 Long Lane. The prior approval for a higher, nearby, building validates the subsequent application; a new norm is established.

An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on daylight and sunlight was conducted at the Corporation’s behest by the Building Research Establishment (BRE). It found that several commercial and residential

properties in the vicinity would be affected. In particular, 31 windows in Seddon House would suffer a reduction in excess of BRE guidelines. The BRE review noted that access to light from the Seddon House windows was already impaired by the presence of balconies above; a small obstruction would have a disproportionate effect. The applicant, therefore, recalculated the impact on the basis that the balconies were not present and found that loss of light would then be within BRE guidelines. So, one just assumes that the balconies are not there and the reduction in light is acceptable. Such an approach is apparently sanctioned by the BRE, an independent entity ultimately owned by a charity.

The application was controversial and took time. Five Barbican residents/objectors had registered to speak, as did the applicant and various advisers. Questions were raised about loss of light; secondary access at the back; footfall though Braidwood Passage, especially with Crossrail operational; cycle parking; maintenance of the green walls (i.e. those cloaked in vegetation); smoking areas; the consultation process; the peculiar omission from the pack of the neighbouring business’s letter of objection sent in July. The Chair called for a shortening of the interventions. Eventually, at the two-hour marker for the limit of the meeting, Sheriff Hayward called for the question of whether or not to approve the application be voted upon without more ado. A vote was held as to whether or not the PTC should proceed to vote on the application. There were unavailing objections from other members that there had yet been no opportunity to put questions to the Corporation’s officers, especially as to why they thought the benefits outweighed the disadvantages. That motion passed and the meeting proceeded to vote on the application itself, which was approved.

Heather Thomas

A Threat to the Barbican from Within and Round and About

As Barbican Estate residents, we may or may not be aware of who are our ward members, be they for Aldersgate or Cripplegate. However, I wonder how many of us are aware of the number of other members of Common Council who have homes in or around the Barbican? More importantly, do we have any idea of how many of those members may be acting against the interests of the Barbican Estate and may be, as a result, a threat to it?

Two recent planning applications offer an example of the threat posed, arguably, to the Barbican Estate by members of the Planning and Transportation Committee (P&TC) who have homes in the Barbican or in local wards.

In the case of 1-12 Long Lane, planning

permission was granted for the deconstruction of the existing buildings and the construction of a taller replacement, despite objections from the Barbican Association. Among those members voting in favour were a former City officer and local resident and a local ward member and resident. The chair of the Barbican Residential Committee also voted in favour.

The P&TC’s subsequent decision to grant planning permission for the refurbishment of 150 Aldersgate Street with two additional floors and an extension at 3-4 Bartholomew Place will have a substantial impact on the Barbican, particularly Seddon House. The vote was 14-12 in favour, with two abstentions. However, Sheriff Hayward successfully moved to terminate debate on the

application before several members had had an opportunity to speak. As with Long Lane, the same people in question voted for approval, as did another elected member and resident. Of course, all Members of the P&TC are free to vote as they judge fit on any planning application, after considering all the relevant documentation and following a full and free debate. However, that did not happen with 150 Aldersgate Street and, as residents of the Barbican Estate, surely, we are entitled to know why.

While not successful in the two planning applications, many of the P&TC members who voted against the developments are also supportive of attempts to bring more transparency into City Corporation’s planning processes. The need to hold virtual meetings has meant that anyone watching live on YouTube or from the recordings, is aware from

the roll calls of how each member voted. That does not happen at live meetings, but existing authorities are rejecting attempts to ensure that all votes are recorded, however the meetings

take place. A Cripplegate member voted against the recent motion in Common Council for the declaration of a climate emergency because the City Corporation would be 35th in the line of

local authorities to do so. Meanwhile a request to adopt completely transparent and democratic planning process was rejected by the P&TC in December.
Fred Rodgers

The City of London Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026

The City of London Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026 (BAP) is currently in draft form and being reviewed and revised prior to a six-week public consultation period from May 2021. It is hoped that this will allow adoption in July, although it was the City Corporation's stated intention that the BAP would be adopted prior to April 1, when the Climate Action Strategy is intended to come into effect.

The Barbican plays a vital role in the Square Mile's biodiversity, being part of the Grade II Barbican and St. Alphage's Garden Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINC). When the City Plan 2036 is finally adopted, at some time in early 2022, the SBINC will be upgraded to Grade I and renamed "the Barbican Estate, St. Alphage's Garden and Barber Surgeons' Garden SBINC".

Currently, the BAP has four specific action

plans, namely, (1) open space and habitat management; (2) the built environment; (3) education and community engagement; (4) data collection, surveys and monitoring. All these plans impact on the Barbican to a greater or lesser degree but the first and third are the most relevant.

The proposals under 1 include: (i) the production and implementation of a management plan for the SBINC, with its several sites, dual ownership – City Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Barber Surgeons – and several management silos; (ii) the proposed consideration of Barbican Wildlife Garden for designation by City Corporation as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Designation as an LNR would provide further protection from development but would not affect the Gardens' private residents' status.

WILDLIFE AND GARDENS

Under 3, there would be: (i) advice guidance and training for residents to enable them to support the BAP; (ii) support for resident groups that contribute to local and national species recording and monitoring initiatives; (iii) guidance for residents in growing pollinators in window boxes, etc.

Before the May consultation on the BAP, a public consultation on the BAP, there will be, at least, two internal reviews. Whatever emerges from the process, it will be important that the various action plans are not only implemented but that implementation is monitored, at least annually.

Fred Rodgers

New Life in the Garden

December marked the start of the annual tree-planting season with National Tree Week running from 30 November to 6 December. In the Barbican Wildlife Garden (BWG), we celebrated by planting a native crab apple sapling in the meadow orchard.

The sapling was kindly donated by Barbican Shakespeare Tower residents, Katie and Chris, and purchased from the Woodland Trust. In a socially-distanced ceremony, they helped the volunteers plant and mulch the young sapling, which has now had a plastic sleeve placed over it, to protect it while it becomes established.

The winter months are the ideal time for tree-planting, as the ground is damp, the temperature cool and the rainfall high. It is also a time when trees are naturally dormant and therefore able to direct vital energy towards establishing their roots rather than for leaf production.

The BWG was fortunate, once again, to be given fifty young native saplings for planting.



This year, they were donated by "I Dig Trees", a joint venture between OVO Energy and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). The saplings

Life givers

have been "heeled" in, until they can be planted in the new year.

TCV also donated fifty saplings to the Garden, about a year ago. These were planted in the shrubbery, near the meadow pond, along the Fann Street border, and near the compost area at the back of the Garden. More than 80% survived the long dry summer, mainly due to the work of the volunteers who watered them by hand weekly.

TCV is no stranger to the Garden, having carried out several projects over the years, including the laying of the car park ramp hedge in 2019, the building of the new steps at the bottom gate in 2018 and the digging of the meadow pond in 2016. Its volunteers also carry out the annual scything of the meadow.

The BWG takes this opportunity to thank Katie and Chris for their generosity. The crab apple tree makes a wonderful addition to our expanding orchard and we shall enjoy watching it grow.
Ruth Cooke-Yarborough

Barbican Tuesday Club

It is with considerable regret that the Tuesday Club had not been able to have a meeting since the first lockdown in March 2020 and, bearing this in mind, the Club Committee decided to have a virtual Christmas party, which took place on 15th December, via Zoom; this was facilitated by Kevin Kiernan, through his link with the Westminster branch of the Arts Society. Obviously, only members who had access to the Internet could take part, but this proved to be the majority. Committee member, Lesley Bradshaw, had the bright idea of giving each member a bag of goodies in celebration of the event, and these were distributed by a team of elves, organised by Lesley, on the morning of the party; the contents included a small bottle of Prosecco, and so, those members who

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

were taking part were invited to toast the Club, the occasion and the future. After this, members discussed the present state of affairs, particularly as far as the Club was concerned. Everyone enjoyed the occasion, declaring it a success, and agreed that they would welcome further similar events; to this end, Lesley said that she would organise a quiz at a date in the near future.

We always welcome new members, so, if you are interested, please contact me, Tony Croot, on 020 7638 5215, or at antony.croot@macace.net

Tony Croot

BA DISCOUNT SCHEME

A list of organisations offering discounts or other incentives to Barbican Association members. If you are not already a BA member, make sure you join the Barbican Association to qualify – for most of these just one visit will more than cover your annual BA membership subscription cost. Local businesses which wish to participate and offer a discount or other incentive to BA members should contact Helen Hudson on 07842 235268 or by email to barbilifeedit@gmail.com for further information.

CURRENT SCHEME MEMBERS

FOOD AND DRINK

Après Food Co – MAKE FRIENDS WITH FOOD Delicious homemade gluten free food your body loves. Comfort food without the slump. We all need great food that makes us feel alive – that's why this isn't just a restaurant: it's a movement. Offering Barbican Association members 15% off all food on the menu (so please mention when booking and/or show membership card on arrival). Open Mon – Fri: 8am – 4pm and 6pm – 10pm & Sat: 10am – 2pm, 72 St John Street, Clerkenwell, EC1M 4DT, Tel 0207 6868 888, Email hello@apresfood.com

Artillery Arms 15% discount on drinks on presentation of BA membership card. The Artillery Arms is at 102 Bunhill Row, EC1Y 8ND. Telephone 020 7253 4683 for table bookings. Website www.artillery-arms.co.uk

Chiswell Street Dining Rooms 20% off total food bill in the evenings Mondays to Fridays. To take advantage of the offer please bring proof of membership. Not applicable with any other offer. To view menu or to reserve a table visit the website www.chiswellstreetdining.com

Coq d'Argent A complimentary glass of Champagne when ordering from the a la carte menu (up to 6 Max, not to be used in conjunction with any other offers). To redeem, Barbican Life members will need to mention 'Barbican Life' when making their booking or present their membership card on arrival. Coq d'Argent, No 1 Poultry, EC2R 8EJM Tel: 020 7395 5000.

The Coriander Indian Restaurant. Family-run business, fresh Indian food. 55 Aldersgate Street, Barbican EC1A 4LA T: 0207 600 4747 or 0207 7964 499 www.theoriander.com/barbican-coriander.html Barbican Resident Special Discount (please show BA card). Take Away Collection – 15% Take Away delivery – 10% Dine in – 10%

Fare New all-day-dining bar and canteen split across two floors offering a grab and-go coffee area, intimate cocktail and wine bar, and restaurant serving a selection of modern seasonal small plates with larger sharing dishes from the robata grill. 20% off food for Barbican Association members. State resident discount when booking and show membership card on arrival). Find Fare Bar + Canteen at the Morelands building on Old Street, 0203 034 0736 www.farebarandcanteen.com

Fish Central Bustling neighbourhood seafood restaurant serving the well known as well as the more exotic varieties of the freshest fish. 10% off the total bill – restaurant only. 149-155 Central Street, King Square, London, EC1V 8AP. Tel: 0207 2534 970

Hammer & Tongs South African style barbecue (braai) restaurant in Farringdon, close to Exmouth Market. Meat and fish dishes cooked over an open wood fire indoors to give the authentic braai taste. 20% discount on the total bill for Barbican Association members. Please mention membership on booking or being seated in the restaurant. Open Monday-Saturday 12 noon to 12 midnight. Hammer & Tongs, 171 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3AL. Tel: 020 3302 6645. Web: www.hammertongs.co.uk

The Jugged Hare British GastroPub with open kitchen and separate private events space on the corner of Chiswell Street and Silk Street. 20% off the total food bill Monday – Friday dinner and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. 49 Chiswell Street. London EC1Y 4SA. www.thejuggedhare.com

LINO London LINO is a new bar and restaurant taking a new approach to drinking and dining in the city. The offer they are currently running for residents is 25% off the food bill. (Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Subject to availability. Offer valid for bookings + walk-ins. State resident discount when booking and show membership card on arrival). Find LINO at 90 Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7EB or call on 020 8016 5199 www.linolondon.co.uk

Moshi Moshi Sushi Moshi Moshi is a calm, discreet place serving authentic Japanese sushi and izakaya-style dishes. It offers all Barbican Association Members a 10% discount on their total bill on presentation of the BA Membership card. Liverpool Street, Unit 24, Liverpool Street Station, London EC2M 7QH (above platform 1, behind M&S). Tel / Fax: 020 7247 3227

Neo 14-17 Carthusian Street, Tel: 0207 726 8925. Special pizza and drink offer for BA members – any Pizza and a glass of house wine or soft drink for £9.95. Neo's pizza dough is made fresh every morning and only quality fresh toppings are used. Special offer applies from Saturday through to Wednesday. Reopening 2021

Pho Vietnamese Cafe/Restaurant 10% discount at all times. 86 St John Street, EC1M 4EH. Tel: 020 7253 7624. Email: info@phocafe.co.uk. Pho is open Monday to Friday from late morning to late evening and on Saturday evenings.

St Barts Brewery Bar/restaurant on corner of Long Lane and West Smithfield. 20% weekend discount off all food and drink on production of Barbican Association membership card. Bookings not necessary but advised. 66 West Smithfield, EC1A 9DY. Tel: 020 7600 2705. To view menu see website www.stbartsbrewery.com

Stem and Glory Vegan restaurant located close to the Barbican in Bartholomew Close. First London location following huge success of initial Cambridge establishment. Restaurant offers Barbican Association members 20% off food for bookings and walk-ins. Please mention BA discount offer when booking or entering. Stem and Glory is at 80 Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7BF. Tel: 0203 969 9392. Web: stemandglory.co.uk. Open Mon-Fri 08.00-23.00, Sat 10.00-23.30, Sun 10.00-17.00.

Vecchio Parioli Friendly Italian restaurant at the corner of Aldersgate Street and Carthusian Street offers Barbican Association members a 10% discount on production of their membership card. 129 Aldersgate Street, EC1A 4JQ. Tel: 0207 253 3240.

Wood Street Bar and Restaurant Mon to Wed 10% off total bill when sitting down to dine. Maximum of 6 people in a party. The Barbican

Association card discount must be mentioned either when booking or when ordering to take advantage. Barbican Association membership card should also be shown to person taking order. Wood Street Bar and Restaurant, Cnr. Wood Street and Fore Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 5EJ. Tel 020 7256 6990

HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLBEING

Acupuncture Access Acupuncture Access at 193 Whitecross St offers 20% off initial consultation to Barbican residents, and 10% thereafter. Beat-off burn-out with this deeply relaxing treatment. Herbs are not used, which keeps the overall cost of treatment down. www.AcupunctureAccess.co.uk 07553 636841

Barbican Dental Care 10% off normal fees; 25% off customised home whitening; 30% off combined "thermal diffusion" and customised home whitening Amanda Lenihan, Barbican Dental Care, Lower Ground Floor, 2 Cophall Avenue, London EC2R 7DA. Tel: 020 7256 2477. Website: www.barbicandentalcare.com

Barbican Dental 10% discount on examinations and hygiene treatments for Barbican Association Members. 1 Walside, Wood Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BL Tel: 0207 638 8200 Website: www.barbicandental.com

Barbican Physio A team of highly qualified and experienced physiotherapists offer a broad range of physiotherapy services. 15% discount on physiotherapy fees for self-paying Barbican Residents on presentation of BA card. Entrance off Podium Level, No. 1, The Postern, Wood Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BJ. Tel: 020 7606 6530. Website: www.barbicanphysio.co.uk

Barry's Bootcamp – NEW We're calling it #NeighboursWithFavours. Walk in with your BA card and book your first class free so you can really feel Barry's energy before you get hooked! Then you can also enjoy 10% off their 10+ packages. Website: Barry's. Offer valid for St Paul's and Moorgate branches, so just pick the one most convenient to you!

Bodymotion Chiropractic Clinic 15% discount on presentation of Barbican Association membership card. No. 1 Walside, Barbican. Phone 020 7374 2272 for appointment. www.body-motion.co.uk

City Psychotherapy Psychotherapy and Jungian analysis for adults by UKCP accredited psychotherapist. 10% discount on initial consultation for BA members. Consulting room 2 mins from Barbican tube station. To arrange an appointment please call Catherine Cox on 020 7796 3454 or email ccox@citypsychotherapy.org. For further information please visit www.citypsychotherapy.org

Clear Coaching and Training Moving you from where you are now to where you want to be. 1-2-1 coaching in the Barbican with accredited Coach, DISC assessor and NLP Practitioner. 10% discount on Coaching Sessions. Contact Michele 020 7628 0887 / 07939 047 094 E-mail: michele@clearcoachingandtraining.com www.clearcoachingandtraining.com

Easton London New barber in the WeWork building on Moor Lane. Online booking only (pay after) and customers can also enjoy free café and bar. Currently, Easton London offers a 50% discount on first-time bookings for their hair and beard package. Use the code EASTON50 to redeem. However, for Barbican Association members, you can also use the code BARB10 for an ongoing 10% discount on all services. Book your appointment at <https://www.eastonlondon.com/pages/locations-moorgate> and just show your Barbican card at the shop to qualify.

Health in the City Formerly the Feelgood Centre and now moved to Room 57, 65 London Wall, EC2M 5TU, is offering Barbican Association members a 10% discount on a wide range of Therapies and Treatments which are available from specialist practitioners. For a full listing please check the website: www.feelgoodcentre.com. For booking or further information call 07946 084 848 or email feelgoodcentre@yahoo.com. Web: www.healthinthecity.co.uk

Insight London Counselling and Psychotherapy 20% discount on the initial consultation for BA members. Fees for ongoing sessions are negotiable according to individual circumstances. Individual, couple and family sessions with a Chartered Clinical Psychologist. Consulting rooms in Golders Green, close to the Underground, 25 minutes from Moorgate. On-street parking is available. Website: www.insightlondon.co.uk. To arrange an appointment contact Marc Hekster 07775 629 432 or email. info@insightlondon.co.uk

London Eye Optique London Eye Optique Optometrists is offering Barbican Association members 10% discount on all complete pairs of spectacles. *Terms and Conditions apply. London Eye Optique Opticians, 2a Cherry Tree Walk, Whitecross St, Barbican, London EC1Y 8NX Tel: 0207 256 9778. To find out more about our services please email us on optician@londoneyeoptique.co.uk or alternatively visit our website www.londoneyeoptique.co.uk

No74 Hair & Beauty No 74 is delighted to give an introductory 30% discount for the first visit on a single service for all BA Members. Discount 30% off for the first visit, permanent discount 10% off on all hair and beauty services incl. YON-KA massage and facials, Sebastian, Wella & OPI treatments @ No74, 74 Compton Street, EC1V 0BN. www.no-74.co.uk, info@no-74.co.uk. Tel: 020 74 908555, BA card required

Personal Training Private personal training in a studio – up to 20% discount for BA members. Individual 1:1 sessions provided by an experienced, passionate trainer close to Old St roundabout (less than 10 minutes walk from the Barbican); phone 07729219328 email: JamesDrainEsq@gmail.com Website: BodyEngineer.co.uk

Psychotherapy City 10% discount on first four psychotherapy, counselling or coaching sessions to BA members on production of their membership card (5% to all Barbican residents). Practice at London Bridge. Contact: Amanda Falkson. Phone: 0777 557 0208. Email: amanda@psychotherapycity.co.uk Web: www.psychotherapycity.co.uk

Registered Osteopath – Lucy Bracken 25% discount on the first three appointments 10% discount thereafter to all BA members.

Based five minute walk north of the Barbican. Drakes Gym, 1 Pardon Street, EC1Y. Call Lucy on 07712 647 282 or email Lucybracken@mac.com

Registered Osteopath and pain management – Christopher Blackburne BA members and residents receive a 25% discount for Initial Osteopathic consultation and treatment and 20% discount thereafter. Hermes Health, 33-35 Chiswell Street, EC1Y 4SF. For bookings text Chris on 07966 243653 or email chris@cbosteopathy.com. Website – www.cbosteopathy.com www.hermeshealth.uk

Thao V Hair Studio – UPDATED Our spacious and stylish hair salon is located at the foot of Lauderdale Tower in the Barbican. We offer Barbican Association members 10% off a haircut or blow dry on your first visit, and we also have a loyalty scheme for regular customers. Please request the discount when you book. Full details, pricing and opening times are on our website www.thaov.com. Bookings: 020 7628 4897, or Book Online at www.vagaro.com/thaovhairstudio

SALES AND SERVICES

Abacadabra Services 5% discount off regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly cleaning prices and a 10% discount off prices for one-off Spring and end of tenancy cleans. Contact Abacadabra Services Ltd., 10 Glasshouse Yard, Barbican, London EC1A 4JN or call Allan Lee on 020 7336 7686. Fax: 020 7336 7687. Email: info@abraserve.co.uk Website: www.abraserve.co.uk

Certax Certax Accounting (EC London) 5% off the first years Tax & Accounting services if you are looking to change accountants. Aimed at individuals, companies, contractors & landlords. Contact Marie on 07903 585959, 81 Rivington St., Shoreditch, EC2A 3AY. www.certaxaccountingec2london.co.uk

Casa Usaquen Handmade Colombian products – black terracotta ceramics and other design items. Add an elegant touch to your interiors, or surprise your friends with a unique and stylish present. Contact us to get 10% off / free delivery to the Barbican. Email: info.casausaquen@gmail.com Instagram: @casa.usaquen Web: www.casausaquen.wordpress.com

LSO Live LSO Live is the record label of the London Symphony Orchestra, the Barbican's resident orchestra. Barbican Association members may claim a 20% discount – using the code BARBICANLSO – on any orders of CDs or downloads made via the online shop – <https://lsolive.lso.com>. LSO Live CDs are also available from the Barbican Centre shop but without a discount for now.

Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican 10% discount to BA members on any Fedex International Priority or UPS Express shipment. Members should show their BA membership cards and discount will be applied at time of purchase on the current Fedex or UPS retail price. Not valid with any other offer and only available at Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican. We are open from 8.30am to 6.00pm Monday – Friday, 128 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4AE. Tel: 0203 3261116, email: info@mbebarbican.co.uk

Prince of Wales Dry Cleaners Service includes, dry cleaning, laundry service, linen service. We also clean leather and suede, and do alterations and repairs. We also provide shoe repairs. Free pick up and delivery service. Special offer laundering 5 shirts for £7.50. Offering 10% discount on first orders and any bulk orders. 17 Prince of Wales Rd, London NW5 3LH Phone: 02072 671540 and 07590 377245

Urban Locker Self Storage Your stuff, close by at Paterson Court, Peerless Street, London EC1V 9EX. Tel: 0203 367 0850. Catering for all your storage needs. Business and Domestic, Safe and Secure 10% Discount on any solution when presented with the BA membership card

CULTURE

Charterhouse 10% off the Charterhouse tour, or the Brother's Charterhouse Tour, subject to availability (normally £15 and £20 respectively). Tours daily Tuesday-Saturday. Book at Museum Reception showing your card (one day tour place per card). You can book up to one week in advance. A great opportunity to discover one of London's most important historic sites, embracing seven centuries of history, right on the Barbican's doorstep. The Charterhouse has been a burial ground, a monastery, a Tudor mansion, school, and almshouse, which it remains to this day. www.thecharterhouse.org Charterhouse Square, London EC1

Velorose Gallery

Cultural Hub Gallery in beautifully refurbished landmark building offers Barbican Association members 5% – 10% discount on works from current and previous exhibitions. 1B Charterhouse Square EC1M 6EE www.velorose.com | 020-7253 1090 | gallery@velorose.com

FURNISHING

Adams Blinds Measure, supply and fit premium made-to-measure window blinds and shutters. Use promo code BARB01 for 15% discount. www.adamsblinds.co.uk or email John at info@adamsblinds.co.uk for further details.

Alma Home 10% discount on furnishings. View at showroom at 8 Vigo Street, London W1S 3HN, or in Selfridges. See also website www.almahome.co.uk. Contact Tisha Richbell on 020 7377 0762 or by email: tisha.richbell@almahome.co.uk for further details.

Hand Drawn Walls Bespoke murals from Hand Drawn Walls: Make your space your own with an interior mural. See a wide range of examples from small details to full walls at www.handdrawnwalls.co.uk. We'd love to offer all Barbican Association members a free initial visit and a 15% discount. Drop us a line at tom@handdrawnwalls.co.uk, or call Tom on 07906 382 639.

MAR-DEN We source and sell a range of art deco, midcentury and modernist furniture. We already have fantastic clients in the Barbican and would now like to offer all residents a 10% discount. Please contact Frances on 07940 762885, or email info@mar-den.co.uk. Alternatively you can enter 'barbican' in the discount box and purchase items online. Please visit www.mar-den.co.uk

MILK Concept Boutique

Small furnishings, contemporary hand-crafted lighting, collectable porcelain, fragrances, travel accessories and exclusive fashion labels can all be found relaxing in comfort amid the whitewash Victorian and petite elegance of The Clerk's House, beside Shoreditch church. BA Members offered discounts of 5% to 10% on all goods except Fornasetti. 118 1/2 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6JN, Tel/Fax 0207 7299880

MyDreamKitchen 5% discount on fitted kitchens. Contact Spiro Nicholas. MyDreamKitchen, 708 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW. Freephone 0800 018 5654. Email: spiro@mydreamkitchen.co.uk Web: www.mydreamkitchen.co.uk