Barbican Association General Council Meeting 17 January 2019

Minutes

Present: Jane Smith, Christopher Makin, Bruce Badger, Derek Penney, David Graves, Lionel Meyringer, David Bradshaw, Nadia Bouzidi, John Tomlinson, Andy Hawkins, Mark Bostock, Fred Rodgers, Sarah Hudson, Sarah Bee, Mike Bristow, David Kirkby, Helen Kay, Richard Collins, Jenny Addison.

Mark Bostock attended as an observer

- Apologies: Averil Baldwin, Janet Wells, Saz Vora, Hilary Sunman, Tony Swanson, Jim Davies, Mark Mallindine, Nigel Dixon, Robert Barker, John Whitehead
- 2 **Minutes:** The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.
- 3 Matters arising: City CCTV the 'ring of steel' cameras are to be upgraded.

4 Localism Act and disenfranchisement of residents:

- Members noted the guidance of the Court of Common Council that the "Standards Committee should, as part of the current review of its policy and guidance on dispensations, adopt a position where Members would generally be granted a dispensation to speak (but not vote) on all matters concerning their Ward where they have an engaged disclosable pecuniary interest."
- However, no revised guidelines have been seen from the Standards Committee which meets again on 25 January.
- Common Councillors present shared their perspectives on this issue.
- Chair BA raised the possibility of the City asking to repeal a City-Specific piece of legislation (Section 618
 Housing Act 1985) that limits resident Councillors' ability to vote. It was judged as unlikely that the City will ask for
 this to be repealed at this time.

5 City of London School for Girls:

- The BA working group met with the School in December to learn more about the proposal.
- The plan includes a new sixth form building a prefabricated but permanent wooden building to be placed on the playground between Thomas More and Defoe that girls use to enter the School.
- A leaflet was distributed by the School to residents and this was followed by a leaflet for residents prepared by the working group.
- The working group will now participate in informal consultations with the School between January and March.
 This will include meeting with the architects
- There will then be a pre-planning period with a planning application to follow in July.
- Presuming that the planning application is approved, the School will take one year to finalise its plan before work starts in July 2020 and ends in August 2021.
- During that time most of the playing fields (outside Thomas More/Mountjoy) would be temporary classrooms.
- There will be a residents meeting on 22 January. It will focus on Thomas More/Mountjoy residents but other Barbican residents are welcome.
- A planning consultant (Iceni) is to be engaged. The BAGC approved £5,000 for this purpose.
- The working group has BA approved funding in place for a PR specialist.
- John Tomlinson reported that he had objected to this proposal in relevant committees.
- The working group's opposition to the plan was questioned by a member given the quality of education provided by the School.
- The long term strategy of the school was questioned.
- The future use of the Bastion House site for the School was discussed.

6 Centre for Music:

- The City has given another £2.49m for 12 months of design development, and for fund raising, business modelling and capital funding plans
- Press release https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/funding-agreed-for-next-stage-of-centre-for-music-project/
- The Chair BA has asked for a further meeting between the BA's working group on this matter with the Centre for Music's architects
 - o Subsequent to this meeting, more visuals were placed into the public domain

https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/diller-scofidio-renfro-unveils-288m-city-of-london-concerthall/10039120.article City transport strategy consultation: The BA responded to this consultation with a detailed response. This will be on the BA's website 8 Planning issues: Local Plan – the working group has a meeting at the end of the month, to prepare the BA's response. Some Heron Tower residents are leading a project to try to 'green' that end of Moor Lane. McAlpine will build 21 Moorfields and there will be a meeting about this in April. The construction method statement and a meeting with environmental health to be sought. The owner of the 'void' at the base of Cromwell Tower, adjacent to the music shop is seeking to renew previously approved development plans. 9 Licensing issues: N/A BA 50th Anniversary plans: Chair BA met with the Arts Centre to discuss an architectural seminar in April (TBC), with four speakers and a panel. Invite key City representatives. The 20th Century Society and others may publicise this. The Arts Centre will probably I provide the venue for the seminar. Chair BA asked for £3,000 for this event and that was approved. The BA will seek to have the seminar filmed so content can be shared as a podcast. Jenny Addison met with stakeholders in the City (the community engagement team for Culture Mile) who are interested in using the 50th anniversary to kick off more long term projects such as more window boxes, the potential creation of a social hub for residents in the Barbican and biographical plaques for individual houses. Funding remains to be established. Mark Bostock said that The Chief Commoner supports a 50th anniversary event (probably a reception + a lecture) in the Museum of London in the summer. 10 **RCC** matters: RCC AGM will be held on 28 January. The BAGC agreed to invite the RCC to be the speaker at the BA AGM in April. This will allow members to receive an update on both BA and RCC matters in one evening. 11 Accounts: Closing 2018 accounts. 12 Membership matters: Membership cards are being distributed around now 12 AOB: The Chair confirmed that she does not wish to stand for another year, although members indicated they would be very happy for her to continue in her current role. The BA has responded to the City's consultation on the allocation of the Neighbourhood fund part of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a charge applied to development to help fund local neighbourhood improvements. This will be put on the BA's website 13 Meeting ended at 9.05pm **Next meetings** All BAGC meetings to start at 7.30 pm **BAGC** RCC 28 January (AGM) 4 March 28 March Wednesday 24 April AGM 1 May 10 June