# Barbican Association General Council Meeting 20 September 2018

#### Minutes

Present: Jane Smith, Christopher Makin, Sarah Hudson, Hilary Sunman, Janet Wells, Sue Cox, David Kirkby, Fred Rogers, Nadia Bouzidi, David Graves, Saz Vora, Andy Hawkins, Robert Barker, Tony Swanson, Lionel Meyringer, Derek Penny, Richard Collins, Jenny Addison.

Apologies: David Bradshaw, Averil Baldwin, Randall Anderson, John Whitehead, Sarah Bee, Helen Kay

2 Minutes: Approved

## 3 Matters arising from the minutes:

- 1. David Bradshaw to follow up item 3: "Police access to footage from CCTV cameras on the new highwalks: A plan is being finalised and a meeting is upcoming. David Bradshaw to follow up." Next security meeting in early October
- 2. City of London School for Girls. Little feedback has been receive from enquiries sent, other than that the School's proposed development under Mountjoy House is not off the table.
- 3. Proposed floodlighting of Prior Weston School. Houses closest to the school. House groupswill organise a petition to restrict the usage of the floodlighting.

#### 4 Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) and representation of residents

- Members noted that the chairs of the BA and RCC sent a joint letter to the Chair of Policy and Resources
  and Town Clerk to highlight that our elected representatives have to be able to represent our views. At
  present a very strict interpretation of the Localism Act is preventing Resident Members from either speaking
  or voting on Barbican matters.
  - Further, residents wish to be fully consulted on any proposed changes to the governance of the estate
- The recent Resident's Consultation Committee (RCC) confirmed that residents wish to keep the BRC, and did not wish to see it be absorbed into another committee.
- The need for RCC to review issues regarding the Estate was emphasised.
- The City's promise to maintain the BRC at the time of the vote on the management of the Estate was highlighted.
- It was noted that the Chief Commoner attended the last BRC meeting that discussed the other options proposed for the BRC such as a housing committee etc.
- The BRC supported Option 4 of the paper that proposed a reduction in the number of Barbican Resident Members on the committee to 2 from each side of Cripplegate plus 2 from Aldersgate six in total.
- The future of the BRC will be on the agenda for the Policy and Resources Committee in October

#### 5 Construction work on Saturday morning consultation

Decisions are not likely till November.

- The Chair BA and BA Planning Chair met with Rachel Pye, director Environmental Health, who said that a paper on the consultation would go to committee in September with a paper for decision in November.
- Headlines from the consultation are 725 responses from residents, developers, contractors, utilities, Unite.
- Very few people in favour of an extra hour in the week.
- Rachel also reminded residents to call Environmental Heath on 020 7606 3030 if disturbed by noise. They
  have a noise team on duty 24/7. From January 2019 they will have funds from developers to improve
  enforcement on building sites.
- It is important that all issues are dealt with, or at least logged as an incident.
- Chair BA will circulate a link to the Committee paper when available.

#### 6 Fountain/aerator timings

- It has been suggested that the fountains/aerators should run for extended hours to diminish the sound of visitors on the lakeside terrace/restaurants etc.
- Both Defoe and Gilbert Houses had contacted residents for views, but neither committee had a recommendation to make as resident feedback was mixed.
- The data from Gilbert's survey showed
  - To the question would you support an extension of the hours of operation of the lake aerators, fountains, and waterfall in the evening

12 said No

- 6 22 says yes, to 10 pm 8 said yes, to 9.30 pm No response 46
  - Following the BAGC meeting the following extract from the 2016 Barbican Centre Management Plan was shared.
    - Fountains: Fountain pumps, (fountains by flag poles on lakeside terrace): 10am-9.30pm every day.
    - Aerators (fountain sprays in the middle of the lake) are as per below;
    - o 1 Oct-31 Mar, 4pm-6pm, Mon-Fri. Weekends & school holidays 10am-6pm
    - o 1 Apr-30 Sep, 4pm-7.30pm Mon-Fri. Weekends & school holidays 10am-7.30pm
  - It was agreed the chair would go back to the arts centre and check what the original timings of the fountains were (it was believed they were later in the evening) and ask for the status quo to be resumed

#### 7 Moor Lane restriction of vehicles to Ultra Low Emission vehicles

- The City will consult on an ultralow emission vehicle zone at the south end of Moor Lane.
- The zone is from the junction with Fore Street to the barrier, but the effect is to restrict through traffic on Moor Lane to ultralow emission vehicles.
- The aim is to assess whether a ULEV only street is feasible and scalable to a larger street like Beech Street.
   The City assesses that traffic displacement would be minimal because Fore Street has been closed for so long.
- Access to Willoughby car parks from the north end of Moor Lane will not be impeded.
- The BAGC broadly supported the ultralow emission restriction as it would reduce pollution to neighbouring houses.

# 8 Barbican Estate 50th Anniversary

- Members discussed options to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first residential blocks opening.
- It was noted that the RCC had rejected a proposal for an event that would be added to the service charge and the BAGC endorsed this.
- Barbican life will be preparing a special issue and is looking for long term residents to interview for a feature.
- At the Barbican Resident's Committee meeting the Chief Commoner had suggested that an application should be made to the City's Hospitality committee (a sub-committee of Policy and Resources) to fund a celebratory event.
- The committee voted in favour of having a celebratory event with one vote against.
  - o The working party for this event will be Jenny, Nadia, Fred, Hilary and Janet.
- The committee voted unanimously in favour of a seminar/lecture on the Barbican's iconic architecture to be run by the Barbican Association
  - The working party for this will be Jane, Nadia, and Hillary. Ruth from Blake Tower may also contribute
- Outlines for both events to be prepared in next 3-4 weeks.
- An Oral history project of older Barbican residents will be discussed with the Museum of London/Metropolitan Archives

# 9 TFL matters

#### 1.Tube noise

- Richard Collins shared the good news that some 196 metres of track had been laid westbound from Barbican tube. This has led to a significant reduction in noise in Defoe House, but had not benefitted Brandon Mews.
- Unfortunately this will be the last piece of track to be laid for the time being due to funding issues.
- The results of the noise monitoring have not yet been released.

# 2. Congestion charge for private hire vehicles

- There is currently a TFL consultation on whether private hire vehicles should pay the congestion charge (currently they don't) https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/policy/private-hire-charge-exemption/
- The consultation closes on 28 September. The BAGC decided not to make a BA response
- BA to ask the BEO to promote this on its weekly email. House Groups to promote it to residents.

#### 10 Culture Mile Look and Feel strategy

• The Chair reported good news that in response to the consultation several changes have been made inc:

- o including that the section on greening has been developed further and called 'Urban Oasis' to give emphasis to the parts of Culture Mile that have a calm, quiet or oasis-like character.
- A recommendation to use measures to protect wildlife and habitats was added and there is greater emphasis on reducing traffic and improving air quality.
- References to changing the use of car parks have been withdrawn due to negative responses and text that implied allowing public access through to the Barbican via privately accessible-only spaces (e.g. via Barber Surgeon's Garden) have been removed.
- Additional references to Listed Building guidance and other conservation issues have been added, and a new section called 'Sustain, maintain and enhance' has been included to reflect the desire of respondents to see a greater emphasis on maintenance, cleansing, and the protection of the listed buildings and conservation areas in Culture Mile.

# 11 City Lighting Strategy

- A report to Streets and Walkways on the Light pollution strategy consultation says that light emerged as a big issue from both residents and workers.
- In response to the consultation the strategy acknowledges the existence of a residential area in the middle of the Culture Mile and its different needs [which was a point the BA made]
- There is a recommendation for a supplementary planning document on light pollution, and we have the name of the officer working on this which the Chair BA will circulate.

#### 12 | Fann Street – U turn problem

- Alderman Graves confirmed that, following action from other local elected Members and himself, Officers have agreed to remove the U-turn ban in Aldersgate on 1 October for a trial period of 12 to 18 months.
- Bunyan Court stated its support for this initiative which was broadly welcomed by the BAGC.

## 13 | Planning Update

- A planning application for 1-12 Long Lane is expected. As this may lead to loss of light to part of Lauderdale Tower the plans will have to be scrutinised.
  - o It is expected that, if approved, 1-12 Long Lane will be built between 2021-2013. This will probably remove a lane from Long Lane for the duration.
- The Denizen Fred Rogers advised that a variation of its section 106 agreement has been made. Residents to be watchful for similar follow-up applications that are not well publicised.
- Petra Sprowson has left the City's planning department.
- Centre for Music. Chair BA to follow-up to see if another meeting with the architects is possible.

#### 14 | Licensing Update

- London Wall Place street level unit. Application withdrawn.
- Will meet with Exhibition hall manager to keep yard clean and tidy

# 15 | Barbican Life update

A new editor is expected to be announced soon

# 16 BA Accounts

- Income and expenditure are stable in the first half of the year. No issues with debtors.
- Thanks were recorded to Tony Swanson and Nigel Dixon

# 17 BA membership update:

#### 18 Other RCC issues

Key issues were covered during this meeting

## 19 Next meetings:

BA RCC
15 November 3 December
17 January 28 January AGM
28 March 4 March

25 April **AGM** 

2 May 10 June

Meeting ended at 9.11pm