



London Wall West (LWW)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

What's it all about?

The Museum of London is moving to a new, bigger and better site in West Smithfield. The Corporation is currently planning a massive office development for the strategically positioned Bastion House and Museum of London site with the clear intention of raising as much money as possible to help offset the cost of the new London Museum. They hope to have their proposals ready for submission for a planning application to be submitted early November. It is clear the City's intention is to sell a long lease with planning permission to the highest bidder.



BQA meeting at St Giles'

A significant group of concerned residents from the Barbican, Golden Lane, Monkwell Square, Barts Square and Little Britain have set up Barbican Quarter Action (BQA) to campaign against these proposals.

BQA is not opposed to redevelopment but believes that the Corporation should consider all possible options for the site. After the decision to scrap the Centre for Music this has not happened.

Open meeting on 6 July

On the 6 July over 300 locals attended a meeting in St Giles church when BQA outlined its concerns. We explained our primary objective was to stop the proposal going to planning until full consideration had been given to what sort of development would be appropriate for this historic, strategic and important site sandwiched, as it is, between the Smithfield and Barbican and Golden Lane Conservation Areas. We also expressed strong reservations about the size and style of the two tall office blocks currently proposed.

A straw poll at the end of the meeting indicated unanimous support for the campaign.

The Court of Common Council

On Thursday 21 July, at the Court of Common Council, Deputy Ann Holmes Farringdon Within asked *Would the Chair of Policy and Resources agree that the Court needs to*
continued on next page

consider other options for the development of the London Wall West site?

The Chair, Chris Hayward, replied that he did not think this was necessary as the Court had already discussed it (although there does not appear to be a record of this).

Fellow councillors made the following points:

Helen Fentimen Aldersgate reminded Chris Hayward that he had made the point on numerous occasions that relationships with residents required resetting and that he would listen to their concerns. He said he was.

Deputy Mark Bostock Cripplegate said that the importance of the site and its location in the middle of the cultural quarter of the City merited a cultural master plan for the area and no decisions should be made on LWW until this had been completed. Chris Hayward said that he did not think this was necessary as the Court had previously considered the matter (but had they?).

Steve Goodman Aldersgate asked if any consideration had been given to alternative cultural uses after the decision was made to scrap the Centre for Music. Chris Hayward responded that none had.

He did say that he had charged the LWW project team to

review the current proposal in the light of comments from the consultation.

That's all very well, but he is not paying attention to BQA's call for a proper review of the site's future.

Next steps

BQA has written to all 125 members of the Court to encourage them to seek a proper discussion as to the most appropriate use of this historic and valuable site not just for the City's financial needs but for London as a whole.

What you can do

If you have not done so already: go to our website www.londonstartshere.co.uk

Join the Campaign to rethink this development.

Take action to oppose the plans, our website tells you how.

Adam Hogg *Chair, Barbican Association*

The Barbican and Golden Lane Conservation Area (CA)

The CA was adopted by City Corporation in October 2018 after a public consultation earlier that year (Figure 1). BA's proposal to adopt a conservation area in response to the 2015 Local Plan public consultation had been ignored. The adoption followed a joint proposal in October 2016 by BA and Golden Lane Estate Residents Association (GLERA) covering the area in Figure 2.

When the officers' reported to the Planning and Transportation Committee (P&TC) in November 2017, the area in Figure 2 had been unilaterally divided into five

"Zones" (Figure 3) but only Zones 1 and 3 (which included the two estates) were recommended for inclusion, unlike the other three – one of which, Zone 2, included Barbican Wildlife Garden and Bridgewater Square - and another, Zone 5, part of the Barbican Grade II* registered landscape.

A public consultation followed, which resulted in City Corporation only proposing the addition of both Barbican Wildlife Garden and Bridgewater Square, as well as the excluded registered landscape. The majority of responses supported the inclusion of the whole of Zones 2, 4 and 5 but these were ignored. A proposal at P&TC to include additional parts of Zone 2 was defeated – 11 votes to 10 with two abstentions.

In addition to 1 Golden Lane; London Wall West; Alban Gate and Monkwell Square; and Shire House and Milton House

(Linklaters) are either submitted or anticipated planning applications. In each case, the acceptance of the BA/GLERA proposal would have given additional protection to the CA. Our 14 elected representatives should now be pushing for that proposal to be revisited by P&TC in full.

Fred Rogers

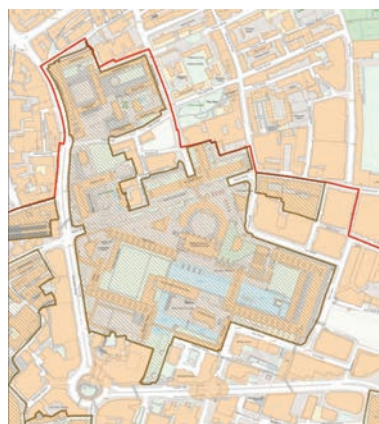


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Zone 1 - Golden Lane Estate
 Zone 2 - Fann Street and Bridgewater Square
 Zone 3 - Barbican Estate
 Zone 4 - Brewery Conservation Area and other buildings
 Zone 5 - Area to the south of Barbican Estate

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS' CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Farewell fans, hello sprinklers?

At the last meeting of the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC), where you are represented by your House Group, a short verbal update was provided on a fire safety report by Arup, an engineering firm that made major contributions to the design and construction of the Barbican Estate.

Sprinklers for Tower flats?

A key recommendation of the report is the installation of sprinklers in the flats and communal areas of the three Tower blocks on the Estate. The RCC noted that the installation of sprinklers had been discussed by residents previously and rejected.

Officers confirmed that there would be a full consultation with residents before any decision was taken and as these works are categorised as improvements, leaseholders would not be liable for the cost.

If you live in a Tower flat and have views as to whether you want a sprinkler system installed in your home, be sure to contact your House Group as a first point of contact.

Farewell kitchen extraction fans?

When the full Arup report was published, a further proposal was noted that will have a significant effect on all residents if accepted and implemented. This is to block up the communal kitchen extractor system and install individual 'recirculating' kitchen fans that do not extract air outside the flat.

Once again, this is only a proposal, but one that needs to be considered carefully as a member observed that the current extraction system stops the Barbican having the 'stale cabbage' odour associated with many blocks of flats. Be sure to contact your House Group with your view.

Car Parks

The RCC was advised that a special meeting would be convened to consider the Car Park Attendant/Concierge service. A date for this is awaited. Further, the Barbican Residential Committee - which makes decisions about the management of the Estate - was advised that the additional payment offered by residents to make up the financial shortfall stated by the City will not be taken at this stage.

Review of Barbican Estate Office

The RCC was informed that there will be an independent review of the structure of the Barbican Estate Office in terms of staff, processes and procedures. The Leaseholder Service Charge Working Party has seen the draft terms of reference for the review and provided feedback.

Window frames

Substantial bills for repairing the large arched windows found on blocks including Ben Jonson, Bunyan, Bryer and John Trundle have been received by residents. Officers will

be producing a schedule of rates, based on a competitive tender, so that window frames works will take place at agreed prices. In addition, a survey of windows will be undertaken so that a programmatic approach to repairs can be taken that should be more economical.

Fire Doors / Fire Safety Signage

The programmes to replace the fire doors across the Estate and to update our fire safety signage are ongoing. Replacing the doors is a complex project that is a landlord's expense. Officers have advised that there are 76 different types of fire doors on the Estate. Due to its Grade II Listed status, the design of new doors will be subject to consultation

Making decisions

Decisions about the Barbican Estate are made at the Barbican Residential Committee which receives a copy of the RCC's minutes. Reading the minutes is never the same as being able to contribute to the debate, so I'm delighted that the chair of the BRC has agreed that the Chair of the RCC can attend BRC meetings. The chair RCC will not be a full member of the committee, but this will give the chair RCC the chance to comment on the issues that matter to residents when decisions are being taken.

Diary date

The next RCC is scheduled for 20 September at 6.30pm as a hybrid meeting with members in Guildhall and online. Please make time to watch the meeting in person or online and provide feedback on the agenda items to your House Group representative.

Thanks for having me

At the last RCC meeting I advised members that I will resign at our September meeting. I will remain as a deputy chair, if elected and if helpful, as I am committed to supporting the RCC and whoever is elected as its new chair.

The rationale for my resignation is the potential for a conflict of interest as, following my election as the Alderman for the Ward of Aldersgate, I may become aware of confidential information. In addition, my Aldermanic duties are already taking up a considerable amount of my time whereas residents need a chair who is focused on the RCC, and, after nearly five years of me, a change of chair is due!

Pastures new

Do keep an eye out for my new quarterly column in *Barbican Life* magazine that will provide an insight into the life of an Alderman.

Christopher Makin

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



PLANNING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Planning & Licensing update No let up in sight

Despite figures indicating that office occupancy remains stubbornly low – typically under half of the pre-pandemic rate – the volume of building works in and around the City shows no signs of abating. Indeed, the City skyline is set to become even more crowded with, inter alia, Linklater’s new global HG at 20 Ropemaker Street mushrooming ever larger and with plans for a new 58 storey tower at 55 Bishopsgate currently under consultation. Even our airspace is not exempt from this seemingly endless expansion quest with London City airport consulting on its proposed changes to allow for an increase in its annual passenger limit from 6.5m to 9m.

Hotel planned to replace consented office scheme

We have commented frequently on all of the current developments either approved or in progress around us, not forgetting of course that we still have the prospect of the London Wall West redevelopment proposals, covered elsewhere in this newsletter, to deal with.

There has, however, been one interesting change in that pipeline worthy of mention.

You may recall that planning permission for the demolition and redevelopment of the site at 1-12 Long Lane into new offices was granted in July 2021. It now transpires that the owners of the larger part of that site, 1-8 Long Lane (the Pret building and the one next to it) have decided that the pandemic has had a fundamental impact on working practices. In consequence, they feel that demand for traditional office space in the City will decline and are therefore proposing instead to construct a 125-bed high-end hotel on the site. They believe that there is a lack of hotel space in this particular area, an area which is likely to attract an increasing number of visitors given the opening of the Elizabeth Line and its location in the Culture Mile.

The plans are at a very early stage and preliminary designs are expected to be available by late summer. There would then be a consultation period before a formal planning application is lodged possibly late 2022/early 2023. The owners say that they will be looking at the latest

City Carbon policies to see how much, if any, of the existing structure can be retained and have reassured that they will stay within the height constraints of the existing approved plans. They want to significantly improve the “pocket park” (the Pret outside seating area to you and me) and re-activate the street front with restaurants/cafes/and retail at ground floor level.

So now we just have to wait to see what the architects come up with...n.b. the building at 9-12 Long Lane is NOT part of this proposal and it is thought likely that a separate office development application for this site will follow.

Licensing update

A couple of updates on the Licensing front.

GOPUFF TO NO GOPUFF

You may recall that an application for a premises licence was submitted in April from GoPuff, the 24/7 grocery delivery service, at its proposed premises at 176 Aldersgate Street. Many objections were lodged against this application and we have been informed recently by the City of London’s Licensing team that GoPuff no longer wishes to take up the premises at Aldersgate Street which is clearly welcome news for all residents in the near vicinity.

PAVILION BAR AND RESTAURANT

An application for a premises licence has also recently been submitted by a new company, The Pavilion Bar & Restaurant, which wishes to operate from Retail Unit 3, 200 Aldersgate Street (the old EAT business location). The original application was for the sale of alcohol on and off the premises, daily between the hours of 10am – midnight. Again, there were many objections from local residents, primarily on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

A Licensing Hearing to determine the matter has recently been held, ahead of which it was pleasing to note that the owner had amended the application and had reduced the licensing hours requested to between 12pm – 11pm daily, reflecting the concerns of the residential community. The applicant also stressed that the proposed venue is intended to operate as a bar and restaurant promoting the arts and philosophy by providing a space for artists and delivering workshops, seminars and presentations. On this basis, the licence was granted for the reduced hours requested.

Sue Cox

Barbican Association Planning & Licensing Sub-Committee

SECURITY AND SAFETY

A total of 56 anti-social incidents were reported by residents during June, however as 1 incident was merely descriptive and no asb action reported; the official total for May is 55.

This represents a decrease of 9.8% on the previous month's total of 61 incidents.

The Committee and I are currently analysing the full year's data; following which we will prepare a report with which we hope to persuade the Corporation to introduce additional measures to help deter anti-social behaviour from occurring across the estate.

Meantime, The Barbican Association's General Council has agreed that reporting should carry on until further notice as most asb incidents occur during the summer months each year.

Deputy David Bradshaw C.C.

Chair, Barbican Estate security Committee



City of London Police. MANHATTAN RESEARCH INC from SEATTLE, CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Totals by house and their % of the total were as follows:-

| House | Incidents |
|--------------------|------------|
| BEN JONSON | 22 (39.2%) |
| GILBERT | 18 (32.1%) |
| FROBISHER CRESCENT | 5 (8.9%) |
| WILLOUGHBY | 2 (3.6%) |
| CROMWELL TOWER | 2 (3.6%) |
| DEFOE | 2 (3.6%) |
| LAMBERT JONES MEWS | 1 (1.8%) |
| ANDREWES | 1 (1.8%) |
| BRYER COURT | 1 (1.8%) |
| BUNYAN COURT | 1 (1.8%) |
| SHAKESPEARE TOWER | 1 (1.8%) |

In terms of the number of incidents and the type of asb activity reported, the results were as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Parkour | 15 (26.7%) |
| Noisy behaviour | 14 (25.0%) |
| Skate boarding | 8 (14.3%) |
| Cycling | 5 (8.9%) |
| Rowdy behaviour | 5 (8.9%) |
| Loud music | 3 (5.4%) |
| Other – smoking dope/weed | 2 (3.6%) |
| Vehicle nuisance noise | 1 (1.8%) |
| Public urination | 1 (1.8%) |
| Other – overt sexual foreplay | 1 (1.8%) |
| Unspecified | 1 (1.8%) |

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**

(Email: helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk)

Crescent House at 60 (OPEN HOUSE)

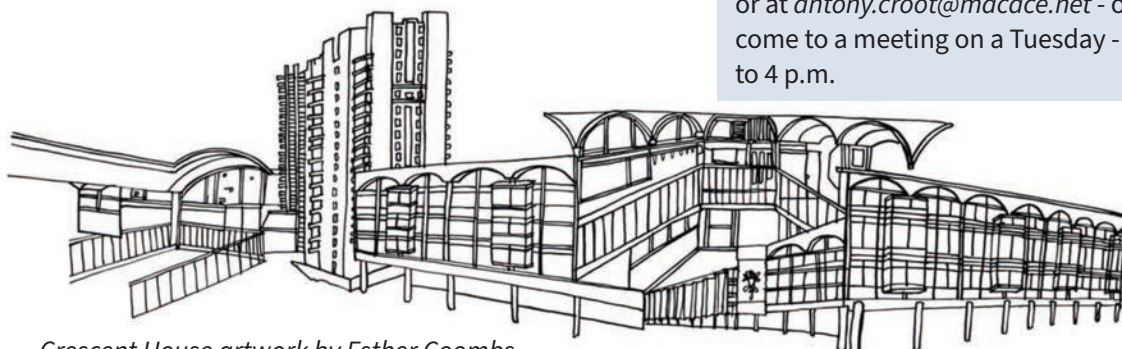


Aerial shot by Gerry Alabone

Influenced by pre-war architecture and planning schemes of Le Corbusier, Crescent House, completed in 1962, was the last block on the the Golden Lane Estate. It owes its design to Le Corbusier's Maisons Jaoul, built 1954-6 and amongst his earliest brutalist works. Architects Chamberlin Powell and Bon followed the output of Le Corbusier closely with the partners organising office trips to visit his works.

Whilst at a very different scale to Maisons Jaoul, Crescent House directly references the heavy arched concrete lintels, rugged timber windows and in-fill panels, marking it out as a unique example of the move towards New Brutalism and with its pick hammered concrete, anticipated the style of the Barbican Estate.

The homes within are predominately studio/one bed room flats with two-bedroomed corner flats at the South end. Inside, the layout of our homes is as relevant now as in 1962. Outside, the City of London Corporation currently has plans to 'future proof' this Grade II* building as part of their climate change strategy. Want to know more? Read 'Golden Lane Estate – an Urban Village' by Stefi Orazi.



Crescent House artwork by Esther Coombs

You can visit 'Crescent House at 60' as part of a tour on Saturday 10 September during the 2022 Open House Festival. The Community Centre will also be open from 10am-4pm with talks and walks on subjects from insulation to biodiversity. Architectural books and cards, a community café and chance to visit the Barbican Wildlife Garden complete the mix.

Tours are pre-bookable on the OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL website from mid August open-city.org.uk

Gaby Robertshaw Gaby1@btinternet.com

Barbican Tuesday Club

As I mentioned in the April edition of the Newsletter, the rooms we use in Tudor Rose Court are pleasant, light and airy; members find them preferable to the Lilac Room, and we will continue to use them, even though the Lilac Room is now available.

We reconvened after the Easter break on 26th April. The following week, we had a speaker, the very entertaining Hugh Denis, who spoke on "Britannia and Empire". On 22nd May, we went on a tour of Spencer House, which is now one of the few surviving grand family homes in London, and afterwards we had a latish lunch at the Hawksmoor restaurant in Basinghall Street. On the 24th May, we had a talk given by Tony McLean on the subject of St Joseph's Hospice, and then, on 14th June, Helen Evans came to talk to us about Toynbee Hall.

On 19th July, we had a tour of Strawberry Hill House, in Twickenham, home at one time to the Walpole family, and for the last session of the year, on 26th July, we enjoyed strawberries and cream and cava. We have now broken up for the summer, but will start up again on 6th September, with the AGM to follow on the 13th.

As usual, we are always delighted to welcome new members to the Club, and, if you would like to find out more, please contact me, Tony Croot, on 020 7638 5215, or at antony.croot@macace.net - or you could simply come to a meeting on a Tuesday - we're there from 2.45 to 4 p.m.

Tony Croot

End of term governance test

When Lord Lisvane submitted his report on the Corporation's governance in September 2020, two candidates for reform stood out: the sheer number of committees, sub-committees and related bodies; and the leadership of and number of members on each. Following the elections which took place in March of this year, it is instructive to look at how these critical aspects of the Corporation's decision-making have been addressed.

Following some reshuffling, there has been a net reduction of two committees, leaving a total of 30 rather than the previous 32. Lisvane's recommendations would have achieved a net reduction of 13. The number of sub-committees has reduced from 63 to 47 (Lisvane's number was 44). Counting all types, the total has reduced from 135 to 97, still a formidable number, but a move in the right direction. The following are examples of what has and has not been done. The Corporation has not formed a Governance and Nominations Committee, which would have provided some much-needed transparency in the process of selection and appointment of members to committees. The Capital Buildings Committee has not been subsumed into a Property Committee (property and development being sacred cows at the Corporation), but is now a sub-committee called the Capital Buildings Board. The separate Investment Committee has gone, as has the Establishment Committee. Digital Services has become a full committee.

Why does all this matter? Lisvane noted that many of these committees had jurisdiction over the same issues, so that decision-making took place at the pace of the slowest of them ("sclerotic"), and consistency was hard to achieve. There was in-fighting between committees and a resistance to sharing information. These negatives will not have been eliminated.

As far as membership and leadership are concerned, the pill has proved harder to swallow. Lisvane recommended an optimum membership of between 12 and 15. Also, retiring chairpersons should not become a "brooding presence" for their successors by staying on as deputy. Neither of these recommendations has cut any ice. The Planning and Transportation Committee previously had a membership of 35; it now has a membership of 34, hardly "sharply reduced" as envisaged by Lisvane. Immediate past Chairman, Alistair Moss, has become the deputy chairman. Lisvane suggested that the Policy and Resources Committee (previous membership 38, current membership 32) did not need three deputy chairpersons. It now has one deputy and two vice chairpersons.

Lisvane also found it unacceptable that councillors should be able to be members of as many as 8 committees, not counting ex officio membership. He recommended a maximum of two, or four counting ex officio. This recommendation has also fallen by the wayside. Counting all categories, Councillor Tijs Broeke of Cheapside Ward is listed as holding 17 appointments, 6 of them to committees. Since he shows his occupation as a senior lawyer at BT, time management is clearly one of his strengths. Aldersgate Ward's own Randall Anderson (self-employed lawyer) is listed as holding 30 appointments, 9 of them to committees. Clearly, one cannot have too much of a good thing.

Heather Thomas

Refurbishing your flat?

Don't throw it away!
Save our heritage!
Donate your items to the salvage store!
Don't just dump them in landfill!

BARBICAN SALVAGE

....would appreciate your help! We need more original fittings that have been removed during building work - specially the items shown here:



Original bath / sink taps and mixer tap



Hob knobs



Electric control panels, switches and sockets (various)



Original sinks and toilets



Four inch wall tiles



'Flying saucer' knobs



Door furniture



Cutlery drawer / liner



Sliding light fittings

Please contact barbicansalvage@gmail.com or call 0798 699 2334 to arrange collection

Time for Change

We live in challenging times - vote for Susan Pearson as your new Alderwoman and your voice in shaping the City as the place to live, work and visit.

I was first elected to Court of Common Council in March 2017 and was delighted to be re-elected earlier this year. Most of our long standing Cripplegate Councillors retired and we now have a new cohort of Councillors from more diverse backgrounds. Our different ages, professional and life experience have brought a much more dynamic focus to our work representing you.

This is echoed in the Court itself, where 38% of the members are newly elected and the Court of Aldermen is also changing with four new aldermen, including Barbican resident, Christopher Makin. This is a real opportunity for new voices to be heard, and to work collaboratively, transparently, and with accountability.

Why am I running for Alderwoman?

Now, with the full support of all my fellow Cripplegate Councillors, Alderman Christopher Makin, retired Councillor John Tomlinson, and Chairs of both Barbican Association and Golden Lane Estate Residents Association (GLERA), I am standing in the Aldermanic election on 15 September. As an Alderwoman I will be able to continue my work for residents in Court, supporting you and your elected representatives, but also have a role in promoting the City of London world-wide. I want to be instrumental in building and maintaining a sustainable and world leading place to live and work, whilst preserving our City's outstanding heritage, as a place to visit. Residents are key to making the City what it is, a unique balance of business, finance, heritage, culture and community.

A bit about me

I know that, despite my door knocking during the run up to the elections last March, there are many resident voters that I have not met, so here is a bit about me. I've lived in the ward since 2006 when I moved to London for work. I'm an architect who specialised in my last 20 years in airport planning and design. Retirement gave me a chance to get more involved in the community on Golden Lane Estate



where I live and I became increasingly dismayed at the state of disrepair of the estate and the lack of any drive to get it remedied. The 2017 elections gave me a chance to do something about it, to support residents and businesses across the Ward and to fight for the voices of residents to be heard.

My track record

Planning: As a member of the Planning Committee, I have spoken out and voted against applications where residential amenity is threatened in terms of privacy, daylight, sunlight and noise nuisance, as well as against applications that are simply out of scale and inappropriate. I am not against tall towers and more offices, but I am concerned about the creep of ever taller buildings and the demolition of fairly recent buildings, with all their embodied carbon, that could with some creative thought be refurbished.

I co-sponsored a petition to call for the reform of the City's planning process. It was strongly supported by City residents, especially in the Barbican and Golden Lane.

Services: On the Community and Children’s Services Committee I have spoken out for better services for our elderly, our carers and the need for more support and facilities for our young people and the vulnerable in our society. I have also pressed to ensure that the work to our homes is carried out properly and have been seeking additional funding for the housing account to pay for all the work needed to bring Golden Lane homes up to standard.

I proposed and voted in favour of a motion at Court of Common Council to fund the acceleration of the renovation of the City’s housing estates.

Businesses: I want to make sure that our small businesses survive. These are still difficult times -workers are returning, but not for the full five days. The closing of the Museum of London and the loss of footfall will be another blow to our economy. I want local businesses to be supported whenever possible to continue to make a valuable contribution to our community.

I voted in favour of the creation of a Covid recovery support fund for small businesses in the City - an amendment to a budget recommendation that did not include provision for this purpose.

Climate: Outside Common Council I don’t have as much time as I would wish, but I’m a keen supporter of climate action. This includes being actively involved with Imagine Golden Lane at Net Zero and the Golden Lane Bike Project (sponsoring a successful application for a £50k grant from the City of London Community Infrastructure Fund). I have been an enthusiastic member of the Golden Baggers for many years and love digging on my allotment!



Making a difference as your Alderwoman

Post pandemic our City faces new challenges. It must move faster to become carbon neutral, truly diverse and inclusive. It must adjust to changing working practices and start to listen to not just the needs of big business, but to those of its residents and SMEs who form the backbone of a vibrant, living city. **I want to help to steer that change on your behalf.**

Working with Cripplegate councillors, our resident associations, and colleagues in Aldersgate, but most importantly your support, I want to be your local champion in a Court of Aldermen dominated by outside interests:

- **Representing your issues and challenges**
- **Championing the City to create a broader economic base that is truly diverse, socially inclusive, with a vibrant culture making it the best place to live**
- **Campaigning to protect the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates from inappropriate developments**
- **Pushing for timely, quality and climate sensitive repairs and refurbishments**
- **Supporting initiatives to enhance a better quality of life for all, including a sustainable and greener City environment**
- **Fighting to improve radically how the City communicates and consults**
- **Remaining visible, available and proactive for the needs of our residents and small businesses**

Your voice in the City, your voice for the City. Let's make it the place to live, work and visit. I hope you will support me in the election on 15 September.

If you have any questions or want to keep in touch, please contact me at sujpearson@gmail.com

You can also find out more about me on my website www.susan-pearson.com



Humble pie: so indigestible

The Commissioner for Local Administration has made a finding dated 1st March 2022 of maladministration against the Corporation with respect to the manner in which the Corporation handled a complaint made by an elected member against a cop-opted member of the now defunct Standards Committee (since replaced by a panel of Independent Persons).

The identities of all concerned are not disclosed and anonymity will be maintained here. The facts are complicated by there being two levels of complaint. The first complaint was made in November 2019 by an elected member alleging that the co-opted member, known as Ms X, had made comments during a Dispensation Sub-Committee meeting which amounted to a breach of the Code of Conduct. This first complaint was referred to the Assessment Sub-Committee.

The Assessment Sub-Committee met in February 2020, and again in September 2020 when it made its decision. It fulfilled its remit in a manner familiar to observers of the Corporation's less than transparent approach to governance and accountability: it met in private and it made no record of its deliberations. It advised the complainant that it had found that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct in respect of the allegation that Ms X had brought her office or authority into disrepute by expressing a view that was wrong. However, it did

find that there was potentially a breach relating to a failure to treat people with respect because Ms X had named the complainant at the Dispensation Sub-Committee. The overall conclusion was that it was not in the public interest or a good use of resources to take the matter any further. Ms X, who had declined throughout to apologise, referred the matter to the Commissioner for Local Administration, thereby giving rise to the second level of complaint i.e. by Ms X against the Corporation for the manner in which the Corporation had handled the complaint against her.

As a result of there being no record of its deliberations, there was no means of judging whether the Assessment Sub-Committee had properly made its decision about the first complaint. It had proceeded in the wrong order by failing to make an initial assessment before trying "other action", such as conciliation, which was contrary to the Corporation's own complaints policy. The request to Ms X to make an apology was premature and inadequately explained, making Ms X appear as "difficult or uncooperative". The prescribed timeline was also disrupted: what should have taken 30 working days took nearly 10 months.

The Corporation was ordered to pay £300 to Ms X for the distress caused by the maladministration and delay, and to apologise to her. It was also ordered to notify the

Assessment Sub-Committee members and to remind them to keep records in future. The Corporation did not accept the verdict gracefully, deciding "to accept the decision," following "extensive correspondence" conducted by the City Solicitor. A reluctant acknowledgement of mistakes does not lead to the improvement of standards.

Heather Thomas

*Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via
 Wikimedia Commons.*



Barbican Association Discount Scheme Participants



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.

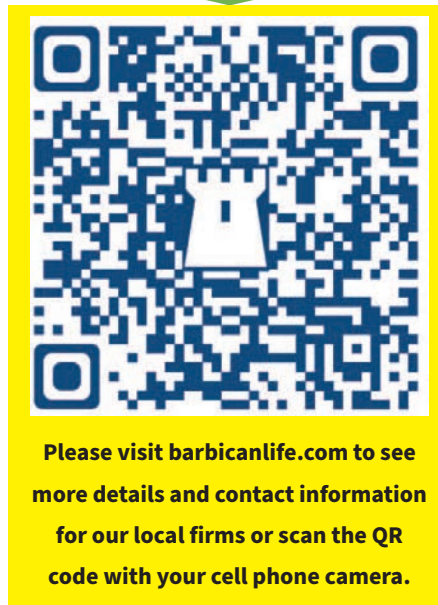
Local businesses which wish to participate and offer a discount or other incentive to BA members should contact Helen Hudson, 07842 23 52 68 or barblifeedit@gmail.com for further information.

FOOD AND DRINK

Barbican Kitchen
Bowling Bird
Chiswell Street Dining Rooms
Coq d'Argent & sister restaurants
Fare
Fish Central
The Jugged Hare
Moshi Moshi Sushi
Pho Vietnamese Cafe/Restaurant
Stem and Glory
Vecchio Parioli
Wood Street Bar and Restaurant

HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLBEING

Barbican Dental
Barbican Physio
Barry's Bootcamp
City Psychotherapy
Counselling and Coaching



Cranio-Sacral Therapy – NEW
Health in the City
Integrity Centre
London Eye Optique
Massage in Moorgate
Hypnotherapy in Moorgate
No74 Hair & Beauty
Personal Training

Psychotherapy City

Thao V Hair Studio

SALES AND SERVICES

Abracadabra Services
Citi Clean
LSO Live
Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican
Prince of Wales Dry Cleaners
Urban Locker Self Storage

CULTURE

Charterhouse
Velorose Gallery

FURNISHING

Adams Blinds
MILK Concept Boutique
MyDreamKitchen

LEARNING

Languages 2000 – **NEW**

Local businesses wishing to join the scheme to offer discounts or other incentives to BA members should contact Helen Hudson, 07842 23 52 68 or barblifeedit@gmail.com

Celebrating the biodiversity of the Barbican with the BA Summer Party

Saturday 3rd September 2pm to 4pm

The BA are hosting an end of summer party for all residents. As well as enjoying the biodiversity of our gardens with an evening bat walk and a bioblitz aimed at families there will be an opportunity to discover what some of the Barbican societies and clubs have to offer. The Wildlife Group, Horticultural Society, Art Society, Tuesday Group, Friends of City Gardens and of course the Barbican Association will all be on hand.

There will be traditional races for children and a tug of war with lots of prizes to be won. For the less energetic,

there will be opportunities to be messy making seed balls, listening to a story teller or discovering what bees do for us.

You will be able to pick up a coffee or tea and a home made cake.

The Barbican Quarter Action group will be there to share the latest news of the BA's campaign for London Wall West. Drop by and let them hear your views.

The Bat Walk will start at 8.15 pm. Places are limited so please contact Sarah Hudson on info@friendsofcitygardens.org.uk to book your place. All other activities will take place in Thomas More garden 2pm to 4pm.

**We still need volunteers to help out on the day.
Please contact Ted Reilly on
basummerparty2022@gmail.com**

**BREAKING NEWS - the City of London Police horses
are going to come**

