



Town Hall Meeting

MARCH 2024

# BARBICAN RESIDENTS TOWN HALL MEETING

## THE FIRST OF MANY?

Was a cold Tuesday night in January a good choice for the Barbican Association (BA) and the Residents Consultation Committee (RCC) to hold their first Town Hall meeting? Yes, as it turned out, with over three hundred residents turning up.

The idea for this meeting was for there to be no pre-published agenda; residents were not going to be talked to! In the weeks before the Town Hall meeting a portal was set up where residents posted their questions. These questions and others asked on the night drove the agenda.

Not surprisingly, heating featured in many of the questions, but first off was “What’s the difference between the BA and the RCC ?” The answer to this and all the other questions that were posted on the portal and raised on the night are on the Town Hall Meeting website (link opposite). The meeting was conducted in a very cordial atmosphere. Here’s one of the comments.

*“I thought the panel handled people’s questions very well. There are a lot of people at these sort of events who love a good moan and an opportunity to complain, but the panel handled these questions and people with grace and charm.”*

All comments, including this one, are available on the Town Hall Meeting website (link provided opposite), indicating a strong interest in hosting another Town Hall Meeting. Consequently, we are currently organizing one for

early May. Stay tuned to the usual communication channels for updates on the specific date and time.



### Website link

<https://sites.google.com/view/barbicantownhallmeeting/home>

**Jane Smith (Ex Chair of the BA) chaired the meeting.**

### The panellists were:

Sandra Jenner	Chair RCC
Christopher Makin	Deputy Chair RCC
Jim Durcan	Deputy Chair RCC
Adam Hogg	Chair BA
Ted Reilly	Deputy Chair BA

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Barbican Association AGM**

**18th April 7pm at the City of London School for Girls**

# TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE CITY

## AN UPDATE ON THE BQA CAMPAIGN TO OPPOSE THE LONDON WALL WEST PROPOSALS

Many thanks from the BQA team for all the objections submitted and to all those who have helped to fund our work to date. While we have achieved a lot, the fight is far from over.

**We have reached £21,500 of our Crowdfunding target of £50K.** To continue commissioning the expertise we need, it is vital that we continue to raise funds, so please consider donating. You can visit the [HELP CROWD-FUNDING OUR CAMPAIGN](#) section on our website @ [www.londonstartshere.co.uk](http://www.londonstartshere.co.uk)

The statutory consultation period on the planning application for London Wall West has been running since December, and some 700 objections have been lodged. You can still submit your comments; details are on our website under **Take Action**.

The number and quality of objections is an overwhelming vote of no confidence in both the proposals and the consultation process itself.

Your generosity has enabled us to employ professional advisers and consultants to assemble the formal response to the proposals; read the summary below or in detail on our website:

- Simon Sturgis, of Targeting Zero, examined the Whole Life Carbon Assessment and concludes that the proposals are in direct conflict with the GLA's and the City's own guidance and policies, and the UK national trajectory to net zero.
- Anstey Horne, leading daylight and sunlight surveyors, demonstrate that there will be significant impacts on daylight and sunlight, with solar glare being a major issue.
- Alec Forshaw, member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and the Royal Town Planning Institute, argues that the scheme is harmful to the Grade II listed Barbican Estate and Grade II\* listed Gardens, the Grade I listed St Botolph's and St Giles' churches, the two adjoining Conservation Areas, and the immediate and wider neighbourhood.
- The submission document was compiled by Planning Consultants, Carney Sweeney, who carried out a forensic assessment and evaluation of every

aspect of the proposals in the context of National and Local Planning Policy. Their report summarises, highlights and itemises a litany of factual errors, misleading statements and assumptions.

- Leading public law firm, Leigh Day submitted our formal response.

The BQA campaign has the public support of our MP, Nickie Aiken; local candidates for Labour - Rachel Blake, Liberal Democrat - Ed Lucas and the Deputy Chair of the Greens and member of the London Assembly - Zack Polanski.



*Aerial view of the scheme*

### What happens next?

Planning officers will review and weigh up the scheme against planning policy, our objections and other planning considerations before either: 1) recommending it for approval; 2) requesting additional information and/or amendments; 3) asking the City to withdraw the application.

This is an application by the City, marked by the City, a withdrawal seems unlikely. We need resources for the next phase of the campaign which include continued professional, planning and legal expertise, in order to: 1) review any additional information and amendments; 2) make presentations to the Planning and Transportation

Committee when councillors vote for or against the scheme; 3) fund legal advice on other possible actions to block the application such as a call-in to the Secretary of State.

If you have not yet signed up to our mailing list please do so, either by going to our website

[www.londonstartshere.co.uk](http://www.londonstartshere.co.uk) or scanning this QR code. The more support and funding we have, the more the City will be forced to listen, now and in the future. Please share details of the crowdfunder with anyone you think can help.



## OUTSTANDING ENERGY PAYMENT FOR 22/23

Electricity charges in recent years have been chaotic. The City is still in the process of sorting things out. It's important to note that some blocks had a portion of their electricity charges held over pending reconciliation. As a result, there might be an extra charge for this electricity in the balancing charge bill due around September 2024. The RCC Service Charge Working Party has requested that the BEO needs to inform you in good time if your block is among those affected.

## ESTATE SECURITY

A reminder to please continue to report anti-social behaviour on [asb.barbicanassociation.co.uk](mailto:asb.barbicanassociation.co.uk)

## EMAIL UPDATES – PLEASE SUBSCRIBE

You may already be familiar with the BEO's weekly e-newsletter, which provides updates and information about what is happening on the Estate. However, we'd like to encourage you to take a moment to sign up for the Barbican Association (BA) e-newsletter as well. This will allow us to ensure that you stay informed about critical developments related to service charges, planning issues, and calls to action within the Barbican community.

Even if you are already a BA member, it's important to note that, due to privacy and communication regulations, we are unable to freely send you emails regarding matters that may directly impact you without your explicit consent. By signing up for the BA e-newsletter on our website at [barbicanassociation.co.uk](http://barbicanassociation.co.uk), you'll be taking a proactive step in staying engaged and well-informed.

To join our mailing list, simply visit our website, scroll down, and you'll easily find the link to "Join our mailing list". Your participation in this communication channel will help us ensure that you receive timely updates and are an integral part of the Barbican community's ongoing dialogue and decision-making processes.

## BARBICAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

Barbican residents are invited to express interest in participating in the inaugural meeting of a Barbican International Affairs Discussion Group, to be held 7.30pm-9.30pm on Thursday 14 March. This Group is being convened by Jonathan Steele, former Chief Foreign Correspondent of The Guardian, and Ian Martin, former Secretary General of Amnesty International and United Nations official. The first meeting will include a discussion on Ukraine, and will also invite suggestions of topics for subsequent meetings.

Residents wishing to attend this first meeting, or unable to attend but wishing to be informed of future meetings, should email Ian Martin on [ianmartin50@aol.com](mailto:ianmartin50@aol.com).

## Barbican Estate WhatsApp Groups

Many of the blocks forming the Barbican Estate now have their own WhatsApp groups so they can communicate urgent things quickly to stay in touch.

Another WhatsApp group which was born out of Covid is the Barbican Hang Out group and it's this one which is proving to be the most popular general "whole estate" WhatsApp group.

It tends to be more social rather than political, but is a really good way to stay in touch with neighbours in other blocks.

Please email [newsletter@barbicanassociation.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@barbicanassociation.co.uk) with your block and flat and mobile and we'll add you in there!

## Summer Party

We have confirmed funding so it's all go for the Barbican Association Summer Party again this year. Third year running and it will be on Sunday 1st September so please SAVE THE DATE!



# Barbican Association Discount Scheme Participants



## FOOD AND DRINK

3SP Moorgate  
 Artillery Arms  
 Barbican Brasserie  
 Barbican Grill  
 Barbican Kitchen  
 Bengal Tiger  
 Chiswell Street Dining Rooms  
 Coq d'Argent – Bank  
 Côte  
 FARE Restaurant + Bar –  
**UPDATED**  
 Fish Central  
 Fish Market restaurant –  
 Liverpool St  
 German Gymnasium – King's  
 Cross  
 The Jugged Hare  
 Moshi Moshi Sushi  
 New Street grill – Liverpool St  
 Origin City – **NEW**

Paternoster Chophouse – St  
 Paul's  
 Pham Sushi  
 Pho Vietnamese Cafe/Restaurant  
 Mayura Barbican  
 Vecchio Parioli  
 Wood Street Bar and Restaurant

## HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLBEING

Barbican Dental  
 Barbican Physio  
 Barry's Bootcamp  
 City Psychotherapy  
 Counselling and Coaching  
 Cranio-Sacral Therapy  
 Cubitts Optometrist & Spectacles  
 Health in the City  
 London Eye Optique  
 No74 Hair & Beauty  
 Personal Training  
 Psychotherapy City

## LEARNING

Languages 2000

## SALES AND SERVICES

Citi Clean



Please visit [barbicanlife.com](http://barbicanlife.com) to see more details and contact information for our local firms or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera.

Crispins Removals and Storage  
 Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican  
 Urban Locker Self Storage

## CULTURE

Charterhouse  
 Ed Cross Gallery  
 LSO Live  
 Velorose Gallery

## FURNISHING

Adams Blinds  
 MILK Concept Boutique  
 MyDreamKitchen

# LEASE EXTENSIONS

## Need More Information?

Barbican Life are planning to continue with a series of meetings (some in person, and some on Zoom) with solicitors in the coming months. Let us know if you are interested and we'll send you invites.

Email: [barblifeedit@gmail.com](mailto:barblifeedit@gmail.com)

If you have questions and don't enjoy Zoom or email, please contact us and we'll share what we know to get you started. Phone: 078 42 23 52 68 or drop in a note with your contact details to 15 Defoe House and we'll call you back.

Search on the Barbican Talk website for "SHARE YOUR LEASE EXTENSION EXPERIENCE" and see what other folks have done.

