

The Barbican Association General Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 19th June 2025

At 6:30 pm in The Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

Elected Members: Jan Marc Petroschka (Chair) Randall Anderson (Deputy Chair) David Bradshaw Adam Hogg Sandra Jenner Nathan Morse Deborah Oliver Richard Setchim Sarah Stobbs	House Groups Represented: Graham Wallace (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humfrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Julia Robinson (Bunyan) Paul Moriarty (Cromwell) Martin Farebrother (Defoe) Linda Partridge (Frobisher) Annette Rudkin (Gilbert) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Alberto Garciga (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) John Holme (Postern) Ania Korszun (Seddon) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)
Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Jo Boait (RCC) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson (Barbican Life) David Preston (Secretary) Nigel Dixon (Assistant Treasurer)	
Deputies and Guests: Jane Smith (Seddon) Frits van Kempen (Speed) Bob Harris (Thomas More) Nadia Bouzidi (Observer)	

1.	Apologies for Absence
	Jo Boait, Mary Bonar, Richard Collins, Nigel Dixon, John Holme, Helen Hudson, Ania Korszun, Graham Spickett-Jones, Tony Swanson and Brenda Szlesinger had sent apologies for absence.

2	Priorities for the Barbican Association (BA)
	Following a warm welcome from the Chair, an explanatory presentation of the ‘Workshop’ format planned for the meeting was given. It was decided that each attendee should post up to three issues that they felt the BA should focus on in the year ahead. With such a large group it was inevitable that there would be much overlap in the individual issues raised. A small select set of BAGC members, quickly grouped the numerous issues into four categories, onto a board, under which relevant individual issues were placed so all could witness the quality and value of the categorisation. The four categories that came out of this process were: i. Anti-social behaviour and Estate Management ii. Planning iii. Future proofing the Estate iv. Communications Each category was discussed by a sub-group who met simultaneously with the other subgroups in their own space and reported back verbally and later sent their notes to the Secretary. These notes form bullet points 3 through 6 below.

3.	Subgroup 1 output - Anti-social behaviour and Estate Management
	Subgroup members - David Bradshaw, Sarah Stobbs, Fionnuala Hogan, David Preston. Linda Partridge and Deborah Oliver The subgroup recognized that there may already be roles and committees in place to deal with various issues below, or overlap, and that there needs to be coordination. However, these were the thoughts from our informal workshop session. <u>Barbican Centre: being good neighbours</u> • We would like a reset of the relationship with the Barbican Centre, with the focus on being good neighbours to each other. Relationship needs to be respected better; both Centre and residents should stick to big issues, not micro mistakes. • As part of the larger-scale BA framework, we need to reset how the Centre communicates with residents. The Centre should be dealing with resident issues on an estate-wide basis. We should not allow the Centre to deal only with individual houses. (In regard to noise and artificial light issues, special events, licensing hours, etc.) • Can the Barbican Centre be more cooperative in terms of security, and assist us? For example, can they help with the cameras they already have in place? Can their own security guards do walkabouts outside all the various public access points to the Centre (all podium level entrances, etc.)? • It was raised there needs to be a person on the BA planning & licensing subcommittee who is always on the committee dealing with the Barbican Centre, as these issues always overlap.

Anti-social behaviour

We feel much of the below anti-social behaviour issues need to be addressed with the cooperation of the BEO and tie into the “Management of the Estate” category that follows.

- It is felt that BEO needs to take on a clear role in dealing with estate-wide security issues. There should be a person/group in the BEO specifically assigned to managing security issues for the estate. This role needs to be proactive, preventative, and not simply responsive to immediate crises. This role should be tasked with having a proactive, friendly and engaged relationship with local police, looking towards prevention. (This role should not be just Dan Sanders.)
- In the past, the car park attendants had more of a security role and were hired for this element. Can we talk to the BEO and have them return to this standard? For example, car park attendants used to do regular walkabouts. They would speak with people on who were noisy at night on the podium level, etc.
- Can we use our neighbours’ CCTV to assist with security on the estate? At all major access points to the estate, our have neighbours have cameras. (Deutsche, Schroders, Linklaters, Barbican Centre venues, Guildhall, etc.) For example, can Deutsche Bank turn a camera to the access point on the podium bridge? This will benefit both the safety of their own employees coming and going from the building and benefit residents. Can the BEO be tasked with building a productive relationship with our wider neighbours for security?
- There needs to be better communication between the BEO and police. Currently, local police constables have had a lack of access and communication with the BEO. Anecdotally, police’s attempt to get in contact with the BEO go unanswered, for example regarding proactive security on the estate, walk-throughs, etc. Local police have a good relationship with the Golden Lane estate office, going into the office and talking to staff regularly; staff can point out potential problems and areas of concern.
- A member of the subgroup reported that some elderly residents are fearful of being outside after dark. They were worried about muggings, etc., on the podium level and at access points. This meant that in winter, these elderly residents were trapped inside more, feeling that they couldn’t leave home after 4pm. Regardless of objective data about how infrequent crime may be in the Barbican, this fear is limiting elderly residents’ lives.
- Can there be more frequent police foot patrols?

Management of the Estate

Regarding managing the exterior areas and public areas of the estate.

- We would like the BEO to have a more professional approach to the management and maintenance of the estate.

	• There is a lack of clarity of roles in the BEO. What are service chargeable areas and what is City owned / city responsible areas? Who owns what roles? What are the KPIs? Who audits this structure? • There needs to be a better job with basic maintenance on the estate • There needs to be better liaison between the BEO and: • our neighbours • the Barbican Centre • the Police • the whole estate
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4.	Subgroup 2 output – Planning
	The subgroup discussed three stages: preparatory work – influencing by getting our concerns known to officers, members, and developers; dealing with pre-application discussions and the planning application itself; and dealing with the operational consequences of buildings that get built. We also framed the discussion in terms of “business as usual” – the BA has long responded to planning applications – and longer term, strategic, radical actions Our suggestions were: To reform the planning group – to encourage more members and to share the work more efficiently and communicate more effectively. - Intelligence gathering. Sue Cox already does an update of recent planning applications, sent to house groups and anyone who wants it, and Fred provides updates on progress of applications etc. We should use these and build on them -- More structured regular meetings (maybe virtual) to -- Decide what to respond to and how -- Allocate response work -- Organise influencing work -- Support individual houses – and consider wider implications -- Encourage formation of BQA groups for big/intrusive applications -- Support other (neighbour) groups with Arts Centre, CLSG, and GSMD -- Identify possible new members – and convince them to bring their expertise on the basis that it will not be a huge task More widely: To become a formal member of the Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum and engage in its work of producing a local plan Next actions Call meeting to flesh out these ideas and get started Invitees • Original group (Bob Harris, Frits Van Kampen, Miranda Quinny, Jan-Marc Petroschka, Jane Smith) • Existing members of the planning group not present (Sue Cox, Fred Rodgers) • Other members of the BAGC • Anyone with relevant knowledge and willing to contribute

5.	Subgroup 3 output – Future proofing the Estate
	Topics discussed • Climate Change • Legal • Other <u>Climate Change</u> • Outcome: Ambitious proposals developed to reduce energy use • Harness passion of new generation who are not BA participants • Previous efforts have been constrained by Lease and cost issues (Improvements are City cost). Strong value proposition could overcome blocks • Link to City initiatives and Climate Change budgets • 25% of City energy is expended in Barbican – they can't meet their targets without us! • Rebrand existing RCC work streams on underfloor heating, etc <u>Legal</u> • The main focus of the discussions: Building Safety Regulator • Existing information / guidance lags developments • Desired outcome: Improved communications / information (rather than campaigning) <u>Other</u> • Gardens – Input into decisions requested. Suggest including in Governance review. • Commonhold – Limited ability to influence Government thinking Suggest deferring impact analysis until proposals developed further. • Water – concern on rising costs. • Personal sinking funds – guidance on how much to set aside to meet upcoming bills.

6.	Subgroup 4 output – Communications
	Our discussion group consisted of: Helen Hulson, Alberto Garciga, Humfrey Brandes, Graham Wallace, Sandra Jenner, Paul Moriarty and Nathan Morse Communications from BA to residents The BA website must be an information source. Site must be easy to navigate and use, improve through new wireframe and other tech developments. We must understand what communication channels our residents are using, and the BA must be present in them (WhatsApp, Barbican Talk, email, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X) What is BA's reputational risk of being in those un-moderated channels? Communications to residents on the purpose of the BA We must know and we must clearly communicate what the BA stands for (vs RCC). Do residents understand and are clear about BA's remit? Does our remit and information to residents follow BA's mission statement? Make use of Barbican Life to better communicate about the BA and what it's doing for residents. It's got to be a partnership. Barbican Life Cohesion and co-ordination with BA. Presently there is no link-up. Use Barbican Life to better communicate what BA does and achieves. Organising meetings There must be clear framework for each meeting - including pre-agreed agenda, every topic on agenda agreed and allocated time for discussion and stick to it, previous meeting draft notes distributed before each meeting so they can be reviewed, discussed, amended if necessary and approved. Preparation is key to make each meeting a success Eliminate acronyms No Group Think Respect others and whilst accepting that it is okay to agree to disagree but let's be civil about it Each house group to present their 'hottest' topic, indicate why & how being addressed We must understand our community's demographics better to tailor our communications Community building Have more fun More events to bring Barbican Estate residents together, including family events - through active WhatsApp group Link into Parental Groups and understand their needs - through active WhatsApp group Barbican Bazaar - selling group? Membership and Participation were both deferred for another time Summary: Develop a clear BA mission statement Have a clear communications plan Participate and effectively use various communication channels to broaden BA's reach How can we bring in more volunteers? Where are they and how can we engage them? How can we make the BA compelling?

	Improve meetings and make them more effective and engaging Agree to disagree, be respectful of others or others' opinions
7	Dates of future 2025 meetings
	BA Steering Group – Monday 21st July and Monday 29th September 2025 BA General Council on Thursday 21st August 2025 and Thursday 23rd October 2025