Climate & Zero Carbon Working Party (CWP)

Report to the BAGC Meeting on 12 November 2026

CWP has not had a meeting since my last report.
However, I should update you on matters reported on previously, and bring two new matters to your attention.

AMBUE Study

The meeting with AMBUE offered at our meeting with Dan Sanders on 15 June 2026 has not taken place yet. David Preston is on the case.

HEATING PROTOCOL for the 'shoulder months' of September and May

You will recall that we are not attempting REINVENTION, but rather our goal is to REVIVE and REFINE the existing protocols.

A key ambition is to incorporate automated switching based on forecast temperature so that energy is used efficiently. We would also like to examine whether the heating times, which were established when there were significantly lower cost off-peak periods, remain optimal today

To do so we need a fuller understanding of the Heating Control system to understand its capabilities and crucially how it may be adapted. Data can then be interrogated to develop and cost alternatives but this effort will be wasted if the system cannot be changed.

This is a complex technical area and not one for amateurs. However, a member of the CWP, Stephan Solomonidis is a practising professional in this area and he is ideally placed to explore this. A meeting with the Barbican Engineers was offered at our meeting with Dan Sanders on 15 June 2026. A meeting planned for 30 October was postponed, as was the re-scheduled meeting on 9 November. I hope to be able to report that the meeting re-scheduled for 11 November has taken place.

CLIMATE ADAPTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS

I have no new information to share on this about the City's approach to the changes I described last time.

However, I am delighted to report that following an introduction by an existing CWP member (James Manningmore), we have recruited Dr Scott Orr. Professor Orr leads the Institute for Sustainable Heritage within University College London. Not only have we expanded our expertise in this area, we will have access to Masters' students when research tasks require resource.

BARBICAN HOUSING : DECARBONISATION & RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY PHASE 2)

The agenda pack for the BRC meeting on 16 November includes a report seeking approval for the initiation of the Barbican Housing programme, "as set out at Appendix 1".

Unfortunately, Appendix 1 is not a public document and as the report was not trailed at the RCC meeting on 26th October, I do not have any information to share about that aspect of it.

However, I have extracted below the report's main points:

- The report's Authors are:
    - Rachel Evans Senior Sustainability Manager, Department of Community and Children's Services - Housing
    - Kate Neale Climate Action Director, Innovation and Growth

- Sets out a systematic approach to decarbonising the estate's communal structure, fabric and services, while building resilience to overheating, flooding and water stress.

- CAS programme status gives the Barbican a structured route from technical evidence to implementation. It provides coordinated governance, performance monitoring and access to specialist climate expertise across heat networks, climate resilience, nature recovery, circular economy and building performance. This will help avoid duplicated work, strengthen project specifications, identify funding opportunities and ensure climate measures are incorporated into planned works at the most cost-effective point, rather than added later.

- Delivers an agreed plan for the [AMBUE} study's priority recommendations by 2028, an estate resilience action plan by 2030 and all relevant major works projects assessed against decarbonisation and resilience objectives by 2030.

- No additional funding is sought at this time. Whilst no dedicated budget is allocated, spend is expected from associated major and minor works programmes, subject to separate approvals. Community Infrastructure Levy and government grant contributions are to be confirmed.

- Delivery is organised around five workstreams, which work together to deliver healthier, more comfortable homes, better value and cost efficiency, and a Greener, more resilient estate:
    - a. Behaviour change. Resident education, engagement and awareness.
    - b. Heat decarbonisation and optimisation. Acting on the [AMBUE] heating study, in communal systems and homes.
    - c. Fabric and building optimisation. Upgrades through major works and asset replacement.

- d. Renewable energy generation. Where feasible, within heritage and planning constraints.
- e. Resilience and nature recovery measures. Shading, ventilation, cooling and green infrastructure in high-risk locations.

- The programme tracks the [AMBUE] study, resilience planning and major works.

Measure	**Phase 2 target**
Heating and building performance recommendations implemented (Ambue study)	100% of recommendations by 2033
Completed resilience interventions, reported by principal climate risk	100% of sites by 2033
Meter consumption access	100% of sites by 2033
Resident engagement on climate planning activities	% of residents feeling 'well informed' by 2033 TBC
Estimated residential energy savings (cumulative)	To be decided
Barbican Estate emissions (tCO2e)	Reduce from baseline year-on-year
Resident health benefits delivered (cumulative) (£)	To be quantified
Resident satisfaction with climate-related projects	Baseline set, then improving each year

It is pleasing to see the focus on resident engagement. Although that has not been very evident yet, CWP is poised, eager and willing to engage.

COMMUNICATIONS

François-Xavier Villemin updated the Thomas More House AGM on our work.
Richard Setchim has updated the RCC on our work.
If any House Group would welcome the same, please contact me.

RVYS
11 November 2026

CWP Members:

Randall Anderson – Co Chair, Barbican Association
Alicia Villagrá Ayuso
Jo Boait – Chair, RCC
Humfrey Brandes
Anne Corbett – Chair, BRC
James Manningmore
Scott Orr
Jan-Marc Petroschka – Co Chair, Barbican Association
David Preston – Secretary, CWP
Fred Rodgers
Richard Setchim – Interim Chair, CWP
Stephan Solomonidis
François-Xavier Villemin
V Zakopoulos