NEWS



How to Raise Issues

Raising issues about living on the Barbican Estate may sometimes seem daunting, but there are clear routes for doing so. Both the Barbican Association (BA) and the Residents Consultative Committee (RCC) represent the interests of residents and have distinct areas of responsibility.

The **Barbican Association** has an overarching General Council made up of nine elected members, a representative from each of the house groups (e.g. Defoe House, Shakespeare Tower), the chair of the RCC (Residents Consultative Committee) and a number of sub-committees on subjects such as climate and anti-social behaviour. The BA promotes residents' rights and interests on issues other than those that are lease related, where there are estate-wide issues and when three or more blocks are affected. Additionally, the City of London consults the BA on issues such as conservation, traffic management, planning and licencing and the Local Plan.

If you want to raise an issue you can do so through your house group who will bring it to the General Council or one of the sub-committees.

The **Residents Consultative Committee** (RCC) is the main formal channel of communication between service charge payers and the City of London, covering landlord and service charge issues connected with our leases. It works with the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) to agree standards of service and achieve improvements. It's also consulted during major works.

QR code for RCC page on the City of London website

The RCC doesn't deal with individual matters unless they are likely to affect a large number of residents. If your issue could be Estate-wide, you can contact them via your house group.

You can also contact them via your house group.

The Barbican Estate Office (BEO) is where you take individual issues, for instance your underfloor heating not working, via the app or phone number. If you have problems with the response, then you should go to your house group, and if increasingly significant, to one of your local councillors.

You can contact the BEO on the Barbican Estate app or by phone on 020 7029 3958.

Jan Marc Petroschka &
Randall Anderson
Chair and Deputy of the Barbican Association (BA)
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Planning Watch: What's happening around the Barbican?

Are traditional planning meetings on the way out?

The large scale planning meeting, where objectors can turn up, speak and challenge a proposal before a decision is made, could become much less common. Under the new planning regime, almost all applications are expected to be decided by officers under delegated authority. Even some applications that might previously have gone before a planning panel will only do so if senior planning officers and the Chair or Deputy Chair agree. This makes submitting objections more important than ever. The City is also proposing that objections received after the day before a panel meeting will normally not be considered.

Local applications of note

Planning permission for 1 Silk Street (25/00829/FULEIA and 25/00830/LBC) was formally issued on 30 October and stripping-out work is continuing. For the Barbican Centre Renewal (25/00917/FULL and 25/00910/LBC), draft protective works and construction logistics plans have been shared with the BA and Barbican Forum. A formal Stakeholder Liaison Group is also proposed, with representatives from affected residential blocks. Podium waterproofing Phase 2, 22/01178/FULL and 2201179/LBC: The Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London will meet in December to give final approval for the project, which will be broken into several sub-phases. Subject to that approval, work is planned to begin in Spring 2027. This will include clearing the area previously occupied by the "Yellow Shed".

Want to look up an application?

Scan the QR code below to visit the City of London planning portal, where you can search using any of the application reference numbers above and view the documents and current status.

https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/planning/planning-application-requirements/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application

Fred Rodgers
BA Planning Committee
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YOUR BARBICAN



Your landline is changing: are you ready for January?

The traditional copper landline network is being switched off, with phone services moving to a digital system using broadband. BT should contact you about changing your service, but if you have heard nothing, don't wait: call BT on **0330 1234 150**.

What changes?

Your telephone number should stay the same, but instead of plugging your phone into the old wall socket, it will connect through broadband equipment supplied by your provider. One practical point is that the new equipment needs mains power, so it may need to be installed close to a power socket.

What happens in a power cut?

Unlike traditional landlines, digital phones may not work if the electricity fails. This is particularly important for anyone who relies on their telephone for emergency calls, a telecare alarm, or other connected care equipment.

If you are vulnerable or have additional needs, make sure BT knows. Your provider should discuss what backup arrangements are appropriate for you.

Likewise, if you use a personal alarm, pendant or telecare system, contact the organisation providing it before your telephone service is changed to make sure it will continue to work.

No broadband?

You shouldn't need to take out a full broadband package simply to retain a home telephone. BT can provide a digital voice service for customers who only want a phone service.

The important bit

Don't ignore the switchover. If BT has already contacted you, arrange the change. If you haven't heard anything, call **0330 1234 150** and ask what needs to happen at your Barbican address.

The change is straightforward for most people, but it is worth getting it sorted before the old landline network disappears.

Helen Hudson
Newsletter Editor
newsletter@barbicanassociation.co.uk

Chair of the Residents' Consultation Committee

In the August Barbican Newsletter, I provided a half-year report from me as Chair of the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC). Of necessity, this was a formal and fact-based description where I wanted to do justice to the work undertaken by the RCC and the progress made by Dan Sanders and his team in the BEO.

You will have noticed references to different areas of focus and the summaries of much more detailed work that is being undertaken by the BEO, with resident consultation and oversight. However, this kind of report does have its limitations. For people living on the Barbican Estate this detail is not always relevant to everyday lives. Indeed, it can be confusing.

It's important that everyone across the Barbican Estate can build up an understanding, not just of what the RCC is doing, but why, and how it will affect our lives. With that in mind I am proposing to contribute to future editions of the Newsletter as and when it seems valuable, but equally regularly enough that you can come to rely on it.

I undertake to be as open about the obstacles and how they are being addressed as well as the benefits. My aim is that, over time, the outcome will be a better-informed Barbican community and one that finds it easier to engage in a way that makes lives run more smoothly.

I plan to address each of the RCC's key responsibilities, and key projects that will impact service charges and residents' enjoyment of their homes. The list of topics will be developed over time, in conjunction with the Barbican Association Communications Group, and taking into account feedback from readers.

Jo Boait
Chair of the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC)
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Find out more and book:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/camdenfixingfactorycityoflondon

VIEWPOINTS



Smart meters and asbestos

I'm pleased to say there finally seems to be some good news on smart meters for those of us whose meter cupboards contain asbestos.

We've had a pilot running in Defoe House which has gone very well, and we understand the BEO now has a workable solution, at least for some affected flats. Rather than removing the asbestos, it can be safely boarded over, with the existing meter left behind and the new smart meter fitted in front.

The BEO has been talking to several of the major electricity suppliers and has already agreed an approach with EDF because this was the solution installed in the Defoe flat. We're expecting a wider announcement from the BEO before Christmas once the details have been worked through.

> *"Having a smart electricity meter installed has made me feel much more in control of my energy use. I can see what I'm using and, where my tariff allows, shift activities such as washing and dishwashing to cheaper periods."*
>
> ***Alberto Garciga, Barbican resident***

It may not solve the problem for every flat immediately, but after such a long-running issue, it feels as though we're finally getting somewhere.

The project manager, Will Roberts, is leading on this. For the communal meters like in Willoughby, asbestos is not an issue in these cupboards. The BEO occasionally get an energy company say that there is not enough room in the cupboard to install a smart meter, so this is something that Will is also working on.

Helen Hudson
Newsletter Editor
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Have Your Say

Barbican News isn't just about telling residents what's happening. We'd like it to be a place where residents can have their say too.

This new page is for your views, opinions and experiences of life on the Estate. You might want to comment on a local issue, respond to something we've covered, raise something you think deserves more attention, or simply share an idea that could make life in the Barbican better.

We won't necessarily all agree, and that's rather the point. Contributions are the views of their authors and don't necessarily represent Barbican Association policy or endorsement.

Barbican News is published by the Barbican Association to keep residents informed about matters affecting life on the Estate. We do our best to make sure information is correct when published, although arrangements can change, and we're always happy to receive corrections.

Most importantly, we'd like to hear from you.

Why we love the Barbican

What is it about the Barbican that makes people fall in love with living here?

We asked two residents at very different stages of their Barbican lives to tell us what makes it special to them: one relatively new to the Estate, and one who has been part of its fabric for many years. Two perspectives, one question: why do you love the Barbican?

A newcomer's view

I worked in the City my whole career, and I'd always wanted to live in the Barbican. Just over a year after moving here, it's been better than I hoped.

My interest in brutalist architecture drew me here. What I hadn't expected was a keen community of terrace gardeners. It's the people who already make it feel like home.

I now volunteer with the Barbican Association, the Barbican Horticultural Society and the St Giles Book Fair. I also go to Barbi Drinks, the monthly LGBTQ+ meetup. All of it is a good way to meet people, and it's on my doorstep.

Nothing is perfect: there's always room to improve. But I've come to value those who give their time, often with little thanks. Their work doesn't always get as much attention as criticism does. Working alongside them has shown me the effort behind things I might otherwise take for granted. I've found it more rewarding to get stuck in than to dwell on what might be wrong. And there's room for more of us. If you're not sure where to start, pick a club or group from the list at barbicanlife.com/barbican-and-local-clubs, then turn up and make a concrete contribution.

A long-standing resident's view

"Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety"

Yes this was Shakespeare's Cleopatra – but for me, 40 years later, it describes just as well why I enjoy the Barbican today as much as I did in the mid 1980's. I cannot imagine where else you could come close to the endless variety it offers, the endless options and endless configurations of what matters most in life. And if not within the Barbican, then within a short walk.

I love all of the following: neighbours who are ready to help, neighbours with whom you can laugh, especially when things get serous, neighbours who respect your space. I compare it to having a just the right kind of neighbour on a long haul flight.

Solitude, some prefer more than others - but almost all of us need it sometimes. You can find it in the comfort of your own home or in one of the nooks and crannies of green nearby if not here.

Living out the pandemic on the Estate was a masterclass in why such variety matters.

ESTATES ESSENTIALS



BARBICAN ASSOCIATION DISCOUNT SCHEME

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 as with most of those organisations listed below, just one visit will more than cover your annual BA membership subscription cost.



SCAN ME

url: https://barbicanlife.com/resources/discount-scheme/

THE BARBICAN ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

JOIN the BA

Join with either of these links: **https://barbicanassociation.co.uk/membership/ https://bit.ly/jointheba** or you can scan the QR code.

Dr David Preston
BA Membership Secretary
membership@barbicanassociation.co.uk

> OPEN your phone's camera (or QR scanner app), **POINT** it at the code, and tap the notification that appears to open the link or information contained in the QR code.
>
> **TO SCAN QR CODE**

VIEW THE ESTATE ESSENTIALS PAGE ONLINE TO SEE MORE:

Visit:
barbicanassociation.co.uk/estate-essentials/

Fire Safety
Residents Information Pack
About the Garchey
About ventilation
About the BA
Barbican Life Magazine
Barbican Living
Barbican Talk

BEO

Barbican.Estate@cityoflondon.gov.uk
0207 029 3958

Repairs
propertyservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk
0207 029 3909

Out of hours
020 7029 3953

Report dockless e-bikes
Barbican.Estate@cityoflondon.gov.uk
with the subject **'Lime Bikes'**

Report noise nuisance
020 7606 3030

Broken lights
dbebarbicanlighting@cityoflondon.gov.uk

FOR LIFT UPDATES AND TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FROM THE BEO, SUBSCRIBE TO THEIR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT
https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/barbican-estate/contact-the-barbican-estate-office

BARBICAN ACRONYM BUSTER

BA	Barbican Association
BEO	Barbican Estate Office
BAGC	Barbican Association General Council
CPA	Car Park Attendant
RTA	Recognised Tenants' Association

SAVE THE DATES:

NEXT MEETINGS FOR:

BAGC	11 FEB 2027	Please contact your House Representative for more details.
RCC	22 FEB 2027	
TOWN HALL	TBA MID JAN 2027	