

Barbican Association General Council 12 January 2012

Present: Jane Smith, chair; Robert Barker, Hon Sec; Cliff Paice, treasurer; Tim Macer, deputy chair; Randall Anderson, Bruce Badger, Garth Leder, elected members; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; Alberto Garciga, Lauderdale; Anne Naphthine, Speed; Gillian Laidlaw, Mountjoy; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; Phil Sharples, Thomas More, Dianne Vander Cruyssen, Frobisher; Janet Wells, John Trundle; Christian Keesing, Cromwell; Nigel Walmsley, Gilbert; Matt Collins, Defoe; Sarah Hudson, sustainability committee

The chair welcomed Dianne Vander Cruyssen to her first meeting as the representative of Frobisher Crescent.

Apologies: David Bradshaw, Angela Starling, David Graves, Simon Ebbins, Richard Collins, John Tomlinson, Mary Bonar

3. Matters arising

Item 11: the chair asked Leo Thompson of the Arts Centre re the future of Exhibition Hall 2. Leo promised to respond. Item 12: the chair asked Iain Simmons re proposals for the Silk Street Beech Street junction. BAGC and house group chairs were invited to a meeting on 17 January.

4 & 5. AGM (26 April)

The chair and treasurer wanted to propose to the AGM a change in constitution clause 9.4, so BAGC members could not be paid. This was best practice, even if the problem was entirely theoretical, not encountered in the memory of anyone on the council. Agreed.

6. Accounts

The treasurer reported a satisfactory year. The BAGC minuted its thanks to Lawrence Williams for his hard work in making Barbican Life such an editorial and financial success.

7. Cinemas

Bruce Badger said contractors ISG were addressing residents' concerns, by limiting noisy works to 10-12 and 2-4 and using a concrete nibbler. ISG had hired an acoustic consultant to design the active sound monitoring. They aim to finish construction in July; the cinemas should open in September. Further residents meetings: 26 January, then monthly.

8. Proposed management plan for Arts Centre

The Arts Centre's new chair, Catherine McGuinness, has offered to discuss issues with the BA. Leo Thompson, from the Centre, had agreed to reviewing the management plan regularly. Agreed: the chair to edit the BA's comments to reflect discussion and input from BAGC members and some house groups, to circulate to the BAGC and house group chairs, then send to the Arts Centre. Comments:

- The plan should cover all activities, particularly changes, not just art events. Agreed.
- Matt Collins suggested we propose a complaints mechanism. Dianne Vander Cruyssen supported that, and, after the meeting, offered to draft some wording.
- Reasonableness: it was for the Arts Centre to avoid disturbing residents.
- Tim Macer suggested leaving one Lakeside door open after 23.00 for residents and others who wanted to leave quietly that way. Others suggested clearing the Lakeside of drinkers: Security needed to steward actively. Pat Spicer thought we should not worry about people arriving or leaving, so long as they behaved reasonably.
- Dianne Vander Cruyssen said smoking under Frobisher was now better controlled.
- Alberto Garciga said the Centre handled well a late event, continuing until 2am downstairs, that he attended just before Christmas.

9. Loading review

The new regime forbade loading at night, but, despite the BA's comments, corralled loading to a 7-10pm window. Agreed: the chair to ask house groups to let her know of any disturbances.

10. Sustainability

- Sarah Hudson said the Gilbert heating trimmer trial, as agreed with the house group, was starting, and that UCL planned future MSc dissertations modelling Barbican heating.

- Garth Leder promised to notify the BAGC of where the BEO will pilot LED lighting for common parts. The lighting looks similar to fluorescent tubes and would pay back in 1-2 years, given lower running costs. Randall Anderson said you needed the right colours.
- The Group offered to talk to house group AGMs about its projects and other ways to cut energy use, such as turning hot water thermostats down and fitting timers.
- Sarah Hudson agreed to circulate the Green Deal consultation response to the BAGC. She wanted flexibility: e.g., where landlords buy heating energy on residents' behalf.

11. Frobisher Crescent

Dianne Vander Cruyssen said the Sculpture Court proposals were agreed. Chair numbers were cut from 48 to 24, some with space for pushchairs or wheelchairs. The furniture and planters could be removed to allow exhibition installations. Frobisher is still not handed over, due to the gas heating. They have asked the Arts Centre to alert them of fires in the building.

12. RCC

Randall Anderson expected a report on TV/Broadband to the RCC meeting on 31st January. He also expected a verbal report on the concrete inspections. Preliminary finding: the concrete was in quite good shape, but needed some repairs, so the scaffolding will stay a while longer.

13. Planning

Nothing new on Crossrail or St Alphage. Roman House had received planning permission. The Museum of London had consulted residents about its atrium, which seemed innocuous.

14. Licensing – no update

15 & 16. Membership & Communications

The chair reported from Gaby Robertshaw, membership secretary, 1207 members at the end of December. Visits: government art collection full; a couple of spaces for the Hockney. Gillian Laidlaw said the copy date for the Newsletter was 20th January. Garth Leder suggested the BA post its minutes on Barbican Talk, and kindly offered to edit them. Agreed.

17. Estate security – no update

18. Access

Robert Barker was pursuing the City for a copy of its section 106 agreement with Hammerson, about the restoration of the St Alphage Highwalks.

19. Roofs – no update

20. Noise and pollution – no update

21. AoB

- Gillian Laidlaw expressed concern over inexperienced CPAs, and wage cuts. The chair had asked at the last RCC: no wage cuts, but the City needed to satisfy new UK laws for agency staff. Agreed: to add to the next BAGC agenda, and take up via the RCC.
- Pat Spicer said HRA estate residents (e.g. Golden Lane) get bigger discounts at the new Golden Lane Leisure Centre. Randall Anderson said City funding didn't seem to cover the Barbican's City tenants. Agreed: the chair to write to the head of housing seeking clarification of the criteria.

The meeting ended at 10pm.