

**BAGC Meeting Notes**  
**8pm, 02 Level office, Barbican Estate Office**  
**19 July 2012**

*Present:*

Jane Smith, chair; Robert Barker, Hon Sec; Cliff Paice, treasurer; David Bradshaw, Angela Starling, Bruce Badger, Randall Anderson, elected members; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; Trevor Kavanagh, Speed; Janet Wells, John Trundle; Nigel Walmsley, Gilbert; Sarah Hudson, sustainability subcommittee; John Taysum, Bryer; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones Mews; Stan Booth, Andrewes; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; Matt Collins, Defoe; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare

*Apologies:*

Tim Macer, Garth Leder, Alberto Garciga, Phil Sharples, Gillian Laidlaw, Mary Bonar

**3. Matters arising: swimming**

The chair had raised the issue of free swimming for the over 60s with Joy Hollister, Director of Community & Children's Services. The answer, as expected, was that government funding had been withdrawn and the City felt it did enough through City Masters and similar schemes and subsidies to the Golden Lane pool for older swimmers.

**4. Cinemas – sound monitoring**

Bruce Badger said Paul Driscoll, the expert the BA had engaged, had reported what ISG and its sound consultant AAD propose. To meet residents' needs, Paul recommends two extra sensors, one outside the cinema and one on Ben Jonson House. Agreed: Bruce to send the report to Steve Blake (Environmental Health Services, to whom planning has delegated the negotiating of sound monitoring) and Brian Brierley (project manager, City Surveyors) and the chair to send it to Leo Thompson (Barbican Arts Centre).

**5. Cinemas – licensing**

Bruce Badger explained the Arts Centre would seek a licence only for the cinema and the café; the restaurant operator, whose lease would include the planning conditions, would seek their own licence. The cinema & café application is now in; the consultation ends on 8 August. Agreed: Robert Barker to contact a licensing officer about the proposed extension on New Years eve, which might be grounds for objecting; otherwise the application is in accordance with planning consent.

**6. Arts Centre liaison**

The chair explained that Catherine McGuinness (chair, Barbican Arts Centre Board) had set up quarterly liaison meetings with neighbouring houses and the BA, and would also present its programme every six months to all residents.

The July liaison meeting, as well as cinemas, discussed:

- Exhibition Halls. They have an educational tenant for the rest of Hall 1, and are still marketing Hall 2.
- Management plan. To be reviewed yearly. [Since the meeting the plan has come back and is being circulated for final comment. The Arts Centre still want security to manage Silk Street coaches only "when operationally possible".]
- New cultural quarter. Includes Arts Centre, GSMD, Museum of London and the LSO, and will affect signage and street scene.
- The GSMD will be applying for its own licence and will consult the BA in September.
- Two Frobisher lifts, out of action for some weeks, are now fixed. The Arts Centre apologised for the time taken to diagnose the problem, which was heavy rain.

-A new kitchen extractor fan, from August should be quieter for Gilbert residents.

Matt Collins asked whether the Arts Centre plans to make Beech Street more attractive. John Tomlinson said Victor Callister (Highways) is working on it. Randall Anderson suggested the City join up its thinking: the tunnel roof is the Highwalk that leaks. Agreed: the BA to write to the Department of the Built Environment, and add to the next Liaison agenda.

### **7. St Alphage**

The City has severed its relationship with Hammerson, which has sold all its commercial property. Brookfield, a big US developer, bought the St Alphage development rights; Brookfield's UK arm is managed by Martin Jepson, formerly of Hammerson. Agreed: Tim Macer to seek a meeting with Brookfield to discover their intentions.

### **8. Concrete working party**

This group has drawn up a brief, including a cost breakdown from the BEO, and awaits the barrister's opinion.

### **9a. Beech Gardens rainwater harvesting paper**

Sarah Hudson said the City has an obligation to consider rainwater harvesting, so she was setting up a meeting with Eddie Stevens, Karen Tarbox and Simon Mills (City sustainability). Randall Anderson said the Beech Gardens works were turning out more expensive, hence the delay. Agreed: the paper to be amended, then put to the next RCC. Several members expressed dismay the area looked bleak and would remain so for a year.

### **9b. Bike racks**

Sarah Hudson said the BEO had put in for TfL funding, for bike hoops within cages in our car parks. Members felt cages were important, as bikes get stolen from uncaged hoops.

### **9c. Questionnaire on private electricity consumption**

Robert Doe, a member of the BA sustainability committee, hoped BAGC members and house group committee members would fill this in, to help gauge using CHP for individual flats' hot water. Stan Booth thought the questionnaire needed a bit more background on CHP.

### **10. Licensing subcommittee**

The chair said David Graves wanted to step down as chair of the BA's licensing subcommittee, though he was willing to stay involved. Robert Barker had kindly volunteered to take over as chair, and David Coleman (Cromwell), who led the Parker McMillan appeal, had agreed to join. The new committee was proposed, seconded and agreed. The chair thanked David Graves for his many years as chair.

### **11. Licensing applications**

Robert Barker and Trevor Kavanagh spoke about the hearing on Herons' application for their terrace club. The licensing panel had said the outside had to shut at 10 but the club could stay open till 12. The panel thought the biggest problem would be residents' parties on balconies.

David Bradshaw asked about Jamies, on St Alban's Highwalk. This had got a licence till 12, including off sales, with tables and chairs till 10pm. There was, however, no sign of any activity in the premises.

John Tomlinson said that Parker McMillan had left its premises, and the Brewery has taken it back to operate itself.

Stan Booth said that Wood Street Bar had applied to vary the times of its tables and chairs and that this had gone to arbitration.

## **12. Accounts**

Cliff Paice presented the accounts. He had written off £2600 of bad debts – mainly from Ligne Roset City, which had gone bust.

## **14. RCC**

Randall Anderson said that the heads of agreement for the TV proposal had been approved subject to KPIs that make sense. He expected a draft in 2-3 weeks time, then the subgroup would meet to discuss them. He was optimistic that we would get acceptable terms and KPIs. The system should go live 6 months after the contract is signed.

## **15a. Planning**

Randall Anderson wanted to examine the Localism bill to see whether to establish a neighbourhood planning forum. He was looking for volunteers. Richard Collins suggested linking up with Golden Lane residents. Agreed: the BA planning subcommittee to look at this.

The chair asked about the lighting in the GSMD foyers. The architect had given an undertaking to design such that light did not adversely affect neighbours.

Randall Anderson said Heron were seeking a planning extension for their Pavilion, till March, which might delay street scene work. Robert Barker said if there were 5 objections the committee would have to consider it. Speed and Willoughby residents should be geared up to object. Agreed: the BA to object.

## **15b. Security**

David Bradshaw talked about the Moorfields escalators and area. The chair said Crossrail would be changing the hoardings for the Ivy pattern they use elsewhere, but would not agree white hoardings due to graffiti. David Bradshaw will again raise the issue at his forthcoming meeting with Crossrail and their contractors.

## **15c. Roofs**

Bruce Badger said water was penetrating Ben Jonson and Bunyan. Robert Barker said issues included door and window seals, blocked drains and expansion joints (currently being maintained). Agreed: to raise at the RCC's Asset Maintenance committee.

## **16. AoB**

Stan Booth said the Roman House developers had offered some residents money for Rights to Light, and to pay for independent lighting advice.

Janet Wells said John Trundle residents were charged £400 for new water tanks, then reimbursed, as the work wasn't necessary. Randall Anderson said he would investigate.

Nigel Walmsley wanted a future discussion on the poorly maintained state of the gardens. Agreed: the chair to ask Open Spaces to report to the RCC, which the BAGC could then discuss.

Janet Wells asked for any news on the YMCA; Randall said it would shortly be marketed.

## **17. Next meetings**

6 September 2012

22 November 2012

17 January 2012

21 March 2013

25 April 2013 **AGM**

2 May 2013 Officer elections