

BAGC meeting 22 November 2012

Minutes

1. Present

Jane Smith, Bruce Badger, Randall Anderson, Garth Leder, Tim Macer, Robert Barker, David Bradshaw, elected; Brian Parkes, Speed; Alberto Garciga, Lauderdale; Pauline Pearson, Thomas More; Gillian Laidlaw, Mountjoy; John Whitehead, Breton; David Murray, Bunyan; Nigel Walmsley, Gilbert; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; John Taysum, Bryer; Sarah Hudson, coopted, Ted Reilly (road safety)

2. Apologies

Cliff Paice, Gordon Griffiths, Richard Collins, Mary Bonar, Phil Sharples, Simon Ebbins, Angela Starling, Stan Booth, Matt Collins

4. BA strategy

There was general support for the idea of holding general meetings on big topics at times other than the AGM. The chair suggested AGM topics of changes in social and health care for 2013, and Crossrail tunnelling for 2014. Other suggestions included asking the new Town Clerk to talk about localism and residents in the City. The chair asked members to suggest ideas for general meetings that might interest residents.

On responding to issues beyond the Barbican, Nigel Walmsley and several others said they didn't object in principle, but we did not know what residents thought on broader issues, so could not speak for them; the BA would be radical to stray much beyond Barbican boundaries. Others thought the BA did have a mandate to speak on subjects like air quality, which had been discussed at an AGM, and which were affected by what happens elsewhere in the City. Several people suggested discussing a wider remit at the AGM: that was agreed.

5. Responses to Bank and Liverpool Street consultations

Despite some support for making official responses, most members were against. But there was agreement to respond to the Liverpool Street consultation concerning Moorgate and Moorfields, because these were thought to be close by. **Agreed:** an email exchange between Sarah Hudson, Garth Leder, Robert Barker, Randall Anderson, Tim Macer, Brian Parkes and the chair, to produce an agreed text – which would be emailed to the BAGC before submission.

6. Cinemas

Bruce Badger reported that the cinemas were built. On sound monitoring, he and Tim Macer had asked for the baseline data from the Arts Centre so it could be shown to the BA's consultant. The BA consultant had thought that the current proposal wasn't as bad as we had feared and that it did require the Arts Centre to keep the sound below what could be heard in Ben Jonson flats. **Agreed:** expenditure up to £1500 (incl VAT) for the sound consultant to advise on the baseline data.

Bruce Badger also said he had exhausted his formal complaint with the City. He wanted to ensure that the communications failures did not happen again and had suggested measures such as minutes for meetings between officers and residents and more extensive consultation from the planning department with people who had

objected/proposed conditions when those conditions were being considered. The City had not taken on board these suggestions and had rejected the complaints. His next move was the Ombudsman.

7. Concrete

The chair explained that the concrete working party had received and considered reports of previous concrete inspections from 1986 and 1991. As a result she and Randall Anderson (as chair of RCC) had written to the BRC chair seeking an urgent meeting and asking the BRC not to “close” the matter of the concrete beforehand. Two issues: a) some defects in the concrete, albeit not serious ones, had been there since the outset; b) the earlier reports recommended routine inspections and maintenance, which has not happened. Residents wanted more input into future specifications and working methods, and a more equitable division of costs.

8. Streetscene

The following changes were agreed to the consultation response:

- Add a request to consider comprehensively the whole issue of taxis and coaches dropping off at the arts centre
- Amend the point about U turns: unless forbidden, they will happen anyway, and cause more congestion on a narrower street, as they will become three-point turns
- Add request for 20 mph in Beech Street

9. YMCA development

Two applicants, a high-class hostel and a cheapish hotel, had contacted the BA, and been told residents would prefer a residential use. The BAGC confirmed it would prefer residential use, specifically high-end flats like Frobisher.

10. Road safety subcommittee

Suggested terms of reference, produced by Ted Reilly and discussed with the chair and hon sec, were before the committee. Agreed: Ted’s suggestion to defer a formal subcommittee until the BA had discussed how widely its remit roamed, and in the mean time for Ted to offer technical expertise on road safety aspects of any local issues. He added that the City had a poor, and worsening, record on pedestrian safety.

12. Licensing

Robert Barker said he expected to see the draft licence application for the new GSMD space in the next week; he will circulate to the relevant house groups.

16. Membership

The chair reported that membership stood at 1243.

17. RCC

Randall Anderson said draft KPIs were not yet ready for the TV proposal: they were now promised for next Tuesday; he hoped the working group could respond by email.

The meeting ended at 10.20pm. Next meeting: 17 January 2013.