

BAGC meeting 26 January 2017

Minutes

Present:

Jane Smith, Robert Barker, Randall Anderson, Tim Macer, Bruce Badger, elected members; Kai Virtanen, membership secretary; Graham Wallace, RCC; Julia Braybrook, Speed; John Whitehead, Breton; Natalie Robinson, Andrewes, John Schrader, Gilbert; Hilary Sunman, Willoughby; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones; Helen Hudson, Defoe; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; Janet Wells, John Trundle; David Graves, Seddon; Jim Davies, Mountjoy

1. Apologies

Helen Kay, Tony Swanson, Sarah Hudson, Paul Clifford, Gillian Laidlaw, Averil Baldwin, Nigel Dixon, Jenny Addison, Frobisher; John Taysum, David Bradshaw, Mary Bonar, Gordon Griffiths, Brian Parkes

2. Welcomes

The chair welcomed Julia Braybrook, who was standing in for Brian Parkes in Speed and Jim Davies, standing in for Gillian Laidlaw in Mountjoy.

3. Minutes of meeting on 17 November 2016

Approved

4. Planning update

See circulated report

John Whitehead of Breton reported that the residents group had had a meeting with the chairman of planning about the Bernard Morgan site.

Robert Barker reminded people that officers had some time ago offered a meeting once the new lighting report was in. John said that lighting wasn't a particular issue for Breton but it was for some of the other non-Barbican blocks near the site.

No information yet on Floodlights at Prior Weston School.

The chair said the BA had been arguing hard for no noisy work on Saturday mornings in residential areas. Westminster had recently introduced such a measure

On the 4 BBBBs round the Arts Centre Robert Barker reported that the arts centre had withdrawn that element of its application, though he thought it may come back in due course. In the meantime he warned that the application included two illuminated signs.

5. Podium works

Robert Barker said it was widely known that the City had approved extension of the podium leakproofing works to the rest of the podium, in stages. Work was likely to start in 2018. He was concerned that there should be good consultation with residents given equal voice with other stakeholders (of whom there would be many). He also wanted housegroups to appoint the same people to any separate working parties so there was a consistent voice. It wasn't a service charge matter but it seemed the project would be managed by the BEO.

Graham Wallace (RCC chair) said that a project management structure was being developed for this project, and there would only be one working party – on hard landscaping (the soft landscape follows the same model).

It was agreed the following were desirable and both BA and RCC should press for them with a consistent voice:

Do the drains first

Remove the yellow shed and do essential waterproofing

Have a plan for green water

Make sure there was a project board with resident representation and good consultation with all stakeholders, including residents; with decent minutes and good reporting.

It seems that Crossrail settlement may have caused a crack and a leak. Randall Anderson said he had asked questions about the amount of natural movement and sought assurances that that will not rupture the waterproofing.

6. Low emissions neighbourhood

See circulated report

The chair said that there was a plan to make a cargo bike available for residents' use

John Tomlinson and Randall Anderson said they believed the idea of punching skylights into Beech street had been abandoned.

7. BA communications

See circulated report

Kai Virtanen was keen to get more up-to-date information on the website from subcommittees and working parties- and more updates on Twitter.

Helen Hudson argued that the BA site didn't need a social media editor – it wasn't that sort of site, delivering news. It was more about recording decisions and documents.

It was agreed that the person who volunteered to do the content editor job should have a major say in how the site developed.

Kai will circulate usage stats from the BA's website.

8. Crossrail issue

Some residents have received letters from Crossrail with their settlement letters. Graham Wallace said that Paul Murtagh, head of the BEO had said that Crossrail issues were not yet all signed off.

The chair said that Crossrail had offered a tour round its archaeology exhibition at the Museum of Docklands led by a curator; details will be circulated.

9. London Underground

Richard Collins said that his group continued to lobby London Assembly members to put pressure on TFL. He had been told in writing that there were no plans to remove the crossover under Brandon Mews.

10. AGM

The chair sought speakers: ideas so far included – what is happening about the local general practice, Keep Britain Tidy. Other ideas at the meeting were director of the MoL, Simon Rattle, a musical interlude, traffic planning, provision of medical services, the remembrancer.

It was narrowed down to the Remembrancer and the chairman of Planning and Transportation (Christopher Hayward), the chair to see who she could get

[Chris Hayward has agreed to come – title to be agreed]

Helpers needed for

Bar: Helen Hudson and Janet Wells agreed to help if someone else would buy the wine.

The chair will check current stock and ask Gillian if she will get wine

Membership desk: Kai will ask Roger if he can do the membership desk

11. Membership

Kai Virtanen proposed to kill off the old Santander standing orders this year. There were only 168 old accounts now; everyone of them will get a letter asking them to move their standing order.

Membership is at 1116 – 54%

John Whitehead wondered whether Kai could ask house groups to help contact the few remaining people – there would be a handful in each house. Helen Hudson also supported that and suggested a pilot in Breton and Defoe.

12. Consultations

Bruce Badger commented on the noise strategy that the way of measuring sound was useless because it averaged across frequencies and time – if you did something with a picture it would come out grey. John Tomlinson said that the criteria used were based on legislation. The chair suggested that Bruce should write to environmental health pursuing the point about better measurements.

Members were urged to respond to the Noise strategy priorities and also to the consultation on the Code of construction when it was announced.

Nothing to report on:

13. Cultural hub and Centre for Music

14. Licensing

15. Other BA committees

16. Accounts

17. AoB

It was reported that the move of the MoL looked pretty definite

A request to move the next BAGC meeting from 23 March because it was the day of the elections. So Next meeting will be on 30 March at 8 pm

18. Next meeting

30 March at 8pm

27 April (AGM)

3 May (election meeting)