

**Minutes of the Barbican Association General Council meeting  
Thursday 11 July 2019**



1	<p><b>Present:</b> Jane Smith, Christopher Makin, Jay Theis, James Ball, David Bradshaw, Antony Croot, Randall Anderson, Ian Dixon, Derek Penney, Jenny Addison, Janet Perkins, Stuart Morgenstein, Alison Neale, Fred Rodgers, Sandy Wilson, Adam Hogg, Mike Bristow, Averil Baldwin, Janet Wells, John Tomlinson, Mark Bostock, David Graves, Gail Beer</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Andy Hawkins, Tony Swanson, Lionel Green, Lionel Meyringer, Richard Collins, Helen Kay</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes [attached]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandy Wilson advised that he should not have been assigned to the Highwalks and Walkways working party.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Byelaws: David Bradshaw had spoken to City officers regarding byelaw enforcement and this topic will be followed up at the next BA Security meeting in two weeks.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Localism Act and dispensations for residential ward councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Bostock, a Common Councilman (CC) for Cripplegate Ward informed the BAGC that his application for a comprehensive dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak on residential issues throughout his elected term in office had been denied.</li> <li>Mark will seek to understand why as he is very dissatisfied with this ruling.</li> <li>David Bradshaw CC highlighted that some Members have been given ongoing dispensations to speak at committee meetings.</li> <li>Mark did not request any follow-up action from the BAGC at this time, but will suggest key points residents can include if they wish to write to the Town Clerk and the Chairman of Policy and Resources.</li> <li>Jane Smith highlighted the lack of consultation on this matter by the City and suggested a letter asking for wide consultation.</li> <li>Adam Hogg asked who could represent residents' interests if their elected representative cannot? The Town Clerk was suggested, or that Common Councillors can lobby elected Members from other wards to speak on their residents' behalf.</li> <li>It was noted that local CCs Randall Anderson, Vivienne Littlechild and Mary Durcan had been elected to the Standards committee which next meets on 4 October.</li> <li>These new Members plan to write their own report to the Standards Committee.</li> <li>It was noted that, since the last BAGC meeting, the new chair of the Standard Committee, Ann Holmes, wrote to chair BA and chair Golden Lane Residents' Association arguing against the City residents' petition on this topic.</li> <li>The BA and Golden Lane chairs responded to A Holmes suggesting a meeting to discuss this. No response received to date.</li> <li>More information is available at <a href="http://www.barbicanassociation.co.uk/the-citys-standards-regime-and-disenfranchisement-of-city-residents/">http://www.barbicanassociation.co.uk/the-citys-standards-regime-and-disenfranchisement-of-city-residents/</a></li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Barbican at 50</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stuart Morgenstein introduced the paper circulated in advance of the meeting recommending a series of events to engage residents and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barbican Estate.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed events include a quiz (venue TBA), a poetry completion, raffle and a range of activities on Saturday 14 September using St Giles church and the terrace outside as a base. Children's events will be held in Thomas More gardens.</li> <li>Full liaison with adjacent blocks (to minimise noise/disturbance) will be carried out.</li> <li>Interest in the 14 Sept event has been expressed by diverse local groups and charities.</li> <li>The City Police and Fire Brigade are aware and may participate.</li> <li>Stuart's team will also record an interview with the original Barbican guide.</li> <li>The Culture Mile team have been contacted but no response as yet.</li> <li>It was recommended that participation by any external commercial firms should be 1960s themed.</li> <li>BAGC members to forward any further ideas to Stuart <a href="mailto:smorgy5@aol.com">smorgy5@aol.com</a> and his team.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Sunday 22 September, there will be a Tea Dance, 2-5pm, in Barbican Centre's Garden Room. Cost £10 a head. To be publicised by a Flyer to every flat.</li> <li>It was suggested that 'EventBrite' would be good for the Tea Dance tickets, but access to IT by older residents who might wish to attend is an issue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Approval:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BAGC reconfirmed its commitment to the previously agreed budget of £6,700 + VAT.</li> </ul> <p><b>BA Architecture Workshop on 8 June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event was sold out and well received.</li> <li>The Arts Centre recorded the event.</li> <li>City Officers and Members including the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee attended.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fred Rodgers noted that the Window Box workshop also went well.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>City of London School for Girls (CLSG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Averil Baldwin advised that the CLSG is still refining its extension plans, but no substantial changes are expected.</li> <li>The CLSG aims to ask for Planning Permission in October.</li> <li>The BA working group aims to persuade the City to reconsider this proposal plan pre-Planning. A well-attended public meeting has been held and the website updated.</li> <li>Residents are asked to write to the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, as well as completing a short survey and questionnaire.</li> <li>The working group continues to 'spread the word' via social media and the press.</li> <li>All BAGC members are requested to ask their neighbours to support the working group and provide any specialist expertise they have.</li> <li>An educational expert is sought by the working group because the educational case for the CLSG extension is seen to be weak and not urgent. This proposal involves overcrowding the site as there will be more pupils in the same amount of land. Bastion House is seen as an alternate, adjacent, venue.</li> <li>Jane Smith advised that the Twentieth Century society will provide advice on how to upgrade the external areas of the Estate to Grade 2* from Grade 2.</li> <li>A more 'offensive' strategy was suggested such as a protest outside the CLSG.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Approvals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BAGC approved a request for £4,200 to pay for a Heritage Expert with prior experience of working successfully in the City who can provide the necessary a heritage statement and represent the estate at key meetings. This will be a key factor in establishing the harm the CLSG development will cause and noting the harm caused by the CLSG's prior extensions.</li> <li>Further, an additional £1,000 to continue the PR/social media campaign was approved.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Culture Mile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jane Smith and Mike Bristow had met with Tim Jones who is trying to focus his team on longer term, strategic activities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the Cripplegate Culture Mile meeting organising team stated that they aimed for more engagement with stakeholders such as residents, but BAGC members raised doubts over the validity of such consultation.</li> <li>A report of this meeting is awaited from the Culture Mile team.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Fountains and waterfall and lake</b></p> <p><b>1.The state of the lake generally – and what we might do to lobby the Arts Centre or City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BAGC noted the deplorable condition of the lake and reviewed the underlying reasons for same – a leak that has now affected the pumps that operate the fountains etc.</li> <li>Improved communication from the Arts Centre was seen as vital.</li> <li>Jane Smith to contact Jonathan Poyner at the Arts Centre first, then consider writing to the chair of Finance on this matter.</li> <li>Health and safety aspects such as mosquitoes (one attendee had been bitten already) and other insects were highlighted.</li> </ul> <p><b>2 How to resolve timings of the fountains and waterfalls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earlier in the year the neighbouring House groups that meet with Arts Centre suggested that timings for the fountains should revert to close to what they had originally been [before a long period in which neither were working properly due to problems with the piping and with leaks].</li> <li>After consulting their members revised timings were agreed.</li> <li>James Ball, from Brandon Mews expressed disappointment that Brandon Mews had not been consulted regarding the change to the waterfall timings.</li> <li>James was advised that Brandon Mews had not been consulted as the BA works with House Groups rather than individuals and that Brandon Mews has only recently formed a house group.</li> <li>James Ball stated that the Brandon Mews house group had four proposals regarding the main waterfall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No wish to stop the rear waterfall working</li> <li>Need for maintenance on the waterfall so it flows evenly</li> <li>Use the previous schedule so the waterfall stops at 6.30pm</li> <li>Consult all residents, including Brandon Mews, about any future time changes</li> </ul> </li> <li>The committee discussed the various timings of the fountains over time and the potential for alternative sources of ‘white noise’ to mask other sounds.</li> <li>Gilbert House was strongly against any changes to the timing of the main waterfall.</li> <li>No consensus on changes to the waterfall timing was reached.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Community space at Barbican Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Randall Anderson advised that there is a room to the left of the entrance to the library and there is a potential funding mechanism that the BA could apply for to convert this room into a space for community use.</li> <li>If this proposal was successful, the BA would be able to use the room free of charge.</li> <li>Jane Smith to write to <b>NAME</b> to pursue this opportunity.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Planning issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ‘Four Bs’ are proposed to go to Planning on 30<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>The BA’s response to Local Plan is on BA website <a href="http://www.barbicanassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Local-Plan_BA-response-final.pdf">http://www.barbicanassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Local-Plan_BA-response-final.pdf</a></li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Licensing issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A license to serve alcohol has been applied for at a catering unit within London Wall Place. Jane Smith to send Adam Hogg the prior information on this site.</li> <li>WeWork (Fore Street) has applied to extend the hours it can use its terraces and to serve wine as well as other alcoholic drinks.</li> <li>Jugged Hare: There was a plan to put an air-con unit on the roof but this planning application was withdrawn.</li> <li>John Tomlinson to work with Jane Smith to encourage the City to consult with the BA/residents on planning applications for key buildings close to the estate. The City could, for instance, use the weekly BEO email to publicise these applications.</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Accounts:</b> The paper circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.</p>

13	<b>Membership matters:</b> No updates.														
14	<p><b>RCC matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam Hogg highlighted a paper circulated at the RCC regarding improving rather than simply repairing the Estate. Randall Anderson highlighted the challenge of the lease. Jane Smith / all BAGC members to look for property lawyers who can advise on this topic.</li> <li>• David Graves asked for examples of potential changes so there are priorities that can be worked towards. Sandy Wilson to circulate a list of such proposals to the BAGC.</li> <li>• Sandy Wilson highlighted a paper circulated at the RCC regarding anti-social behaviour, particularly on the highwalk between Ben Jonson House and Shakespeare Tower.</li> <li>• Janet Wells shared her positive experience of asking disruptive people – such as skateboarders – to move on.</li> <li>• Next BA Security Meeting to follow-up on this matter.</li> <li>• Beech Street survey – Jane Smith to ask the BEO to include this in its weekly email.</li> </ul>														
15	<p><b>Next meetings</b> All BAGC meetings to start at 7.30 pm.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>BAGC</b></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>RCC</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Sept</td> <td>2 Sept</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Nov</td> <td>2 Dec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Jan 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 March 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 April 2020 <b>AGM</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 April 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>BAGC</b>	<b>RCC</b>	12 Sept	2 Sept	14 Nov	2 Dec	16 Jan 2020		12 March 2020		23 April 2020 <b>AGM</b>		30 April 2020	
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16	<b>Meeting ended at 10.10pm</b>														