

Minutes of the Barbican Association General Council (BAGC) meeting

Thursday 12 September 2019 7.30 pm
BEO meeting room, Lauderdale Place



1	<p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jane Smith (Chair BA), Christopher Makin, Helen Kay, Tony Croot, Hilary Sunman, Derek Penney, John Tomlinson, Janet Wells Fred Rogers Humfrey Brandes, Richard Collins, David Kirkby, Lionel Meyringer, Sandy Wilson, Adam Hogg, Ian Dixon, Ruth Cooke-Yarborough, Tim Cox, Mary Bonar, Bruce Badger, David Graves, Jenny Addison <p>Observing: Helen Fentiman</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tony Swanson, Randall Anderson Lionel Green, David Bradshaw, Averil Baldwin, Andy Hawkins <p>In memoriam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jane Smith advised members that Robert Barker, a former Honorary Secretary of the BA and a stalwart, long-time BAGC member had died recently. Robert's many contributions, energy and commitment to the BA's activities, particularly with regard to Roof repairs and Access, were recalled warmly by members who agreed that Robert will be sadly missed. His executors are planning an event on/near the estate to remember him
2	<p>Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting were approved with the addition that the sad passing of former BAGC member John Whitehead should be minuted.</p>
3	<p>Matters arising: All matters arising are to be covered during the meeting</p>
4	<p>City of London School for Girls – proposed extension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jane Smith gave an update on a recent meeting with the School where residents were advised that the School would be entering a 'statement of significance' that would need to be agreed with the planners. The School's designers will then work with that statement in mind.The planning application the School's extension is due to be submitted by year-end with a further pre-application consultation.Residents are encouraged to sign the petition against the extension and take the survey at https://sosbarbican.com/. Sandy Wilson suggested a paper version be distributed to all residents.Banners on Barbican balconies had highlighted the campaign recently and the BA stall at the Barbican's 50th anniversary event will encourage further participation by residents.A further request from the Working Party for funding for an educational needs assessment and additional PR was approved.The cumulative spend to date on this project should be included with the next funding request.John Tomlinson advised that Mark Bostock CC had put a focussed question to the Court of Common Council re the School, which responded that it was not looking at any alternative sites and is pressing ahead.A silent protest was held outside Guildhall (for the Court of Common Council) today.Sandy Wilson asked if a prominent person had been found to highlight the potential architectural damage? Jane Smith agreed to talk to the working group and consider writing to Lord Richard Rogers who has a history of supporting modernist buildings such as the Robin Hood Estate. The group has been trying to identify a big nameBruce Badger stated that the campaign should highlight positive opportunities in the report, such as using space in the building to replace Bastion House for STEM subjects
5	<p>Localism Act and dispensations for residential ward councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jane Smith advised that, since the last BAGC meeting, several Common Councillors have received permission to speak on matters affecting the Barbican, but not to vote.We are now waiting for a report from the Standards Committee which next meets on 4 October.John Tomlinson provided an update on actions being taken by Members to generate a more common sense approach to dispensations such as the simple process for general dispensations used by most local authorities.It was noted that at the last Standards Committee, several members were in favour of positive change.

6	<p>Barbican at 50 Event – 12 September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Rogers provided an update on this event that which will include tours, music, refreshments and dancing. Key venues are St Giles Church and Thomas More gardens. • Janet Wells advised that they are well under budget and the weather forecast good. • Mary Bonar questioned whether local properties had been consulted re noise. She was advised that there had been broad communication about the event that would run from 12noon to 6pm. • The Arts Centre is going to run the “mixed tapes” of old Barbican films again alongside a film made on the day of the 8 June architecture workshop. More notice will be given this time. • The Arts Centre is also exploring how the recording of the 8 June workshop can be made available publicly, for instance on YouTube.
7	<p>Culture Mile – and future public meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Smith shared a proposal for the BA to hold a public meeting on the Culture Mile this autumn. The purpose would be general information sharing, particularly longer term plans. • Other residents had invited the Culture Mile team to speak at meetings and found them willing/useful. • The proposal approved – at the Girls School if no other option is available at a fair price. • Residents of Golden Lane and other parts of the Culture Mile will be invited. • Consider using City AM newspaper to promote the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Smith also proposed the BA should hold a public meeting in January/February about the City’s proposed climate change activities. • It was agreed that this is would be a good opportunity for residents engage early in this topic, but research is needed to be sure the City has enough content at this time.
8	<p>Lake, fountains and waterfall</p> <p>Jane Smith briefed the BAGC that the Arts Centre has said that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a budget for remedial works to the lake. Their financed three year plan has been brought forward. 2. They are confident that the fish are well cared for, but they have not identified the source of the leak in their pump room. The waterfall is running temporarily on old BEO-managed pumps that used to power the waterfall. 3. The function of all the water features - the fountains, the aerators, and waterfalls is to provide both aeration for the lake and white noise to mask the noise of people on the lakeside. 4. When the waterfall is restored back to the Arts Centre’s control they do not know whether they can run the back and front of the waterfall separately as it is today, but they are willing to do tests at that time. <p>Given point 4 above it is <i>possible</i> that the solution to different groups wanting different timings of the waterfall could be resolved by running the back (closest to Brandon Mews) of the waterfall separately from the front flow. In the meantime, Jane will write to the House Group chairs of the local blocks (Andrewes / Brandon / Gilbert / Speed / Willoughby) to convene a working group. It would be ideal to find a resident with skills in market research to compile a survey for the residents of those blocks.</p> <p>Members asked if the Arts Centre had a communication plan for this topic and it was noted that House groups can invite the Arts Centre to speak at house group meetings.</p>
9	<p>Community space at Barbican Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Smith had met with Carol Boswarthack of the Libraries to view the space (currently part of the reference area) that could be converted into a community space. • The space is would not be completely sound-proof and residents would pay (a reduced amount) to use it, and it would only be open during Library opening hours. • Applications to use Neighbourhood fund monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy will open in October • Jane will pursue for more information
10	<p>Planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Kay briefed the BAGC on the application for an external terrace by City Point and that local residents had asked for a 6pm cut off for usage – see WeWork point 11 below – City Point had agreed to 9.30pm. • Helen will send in an objection on behalf of the BA. • No news on the ‘Four Bs’ / new Arts Centre Signage overlooking Cromwell Tower / Defoe House. • Helen had meetings with residents in Heron and City Officers with the goal to improve/’green’ part of Moor Lane. A wider consultation will follow in Autumn. • Helen and John Tomlinson will ask the City to share planning applications with the Barbican Estate Office so

	<p>they can feature in the BEO's weekly email or a similar methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local plan will include a tree policy. Future Plannings decision will have to take account of 'green issues'. 																				
11	<p>Licensing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daisy Green's licensing application for its site at the foot of London Wall Place was granted with outside dining allowed till 9.30pm. They aim to open by Christmas. WeWork, Moor Lane, was granted its application to serve wine as well as beer, but its application to open the terraces beyond 6pm was refused. 																				
12	<p>Improvements rather than simply repairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam Hogg and Sandy Wilson provided an update on the responses of House Groups to their paper asking for suggestions of items that should be improved rather than simply repaired in the future. Adam/Sandy have met with six House Groups so far. The response has been positive, although the depth of thought has been variable. Feedback from all House Groups would be appreciated. A working group will be set up to prioritise ideas and how to 'sell' improvements to the City. Brandon Mews asked to be involved in any discussion regarding its roof. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Lane residents have asked for the BA to be support them in an appeal re Great Arthur House costs. Fred Rodgers to prepare a paper for the BAGC to consider. 																				
13	<p>Accounts – The half-year accounts are to follow</p>																				
14	<p>Membership matters – none</p>																				
15	<p>Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) matters</p> <p>Christopher Makin, Chair RCC, briefed the BAGC on the recent RCC meeting, highlighting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A survey of the common areas of the Barbican residential estate (windows, electrical plant etc) is to take place and will be the base for a 30 year programme of repairs. Fire safety works are ongoing, but the Estate was described as being low risk. A paper on the public realm (highwalk paving etc) has been sent to the BRC asking for a more cost effective approach to these repairs The Gardens Advisory Group's request for an extra £25 per flat for the gardens had not been approved. More information on how this money would be spent was requested. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Barbican Security Committee is looking at establishing a reporting system to track the extent of anti-social behaviour on the Estate. It was noted that the Golden Lane Estate has a uniformed patrol paid for by residents and an estimate of costs has been sought for the 17 October meeting of the Security Committee. It was noted that 'well managed spaces' are referenced in many City plans without a definition. Jane Smith to write to the City to highlight/resolve this. Alderman Graves highlighted the lack of single organisation taking a strategic overview of the Barbican. 																				
16	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with the Zipcar facility in Willoughby House was highlighted. C Makin had organized a meeting with residents and City Officers. Feedback expected week commencing 16 September. The meeting ended at 9.35pm 																				
17	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Next meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BA</td> <td>RCC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Sept</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Nov</td> <td>2 Dec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Jan 2020</td> <td>2 March 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 March 2020</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 April 2020 AGM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 April 2020</td> <td>1 June 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7 Sept 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>30 Nov 2020</td> </tr> </table>	Next meetings		BA	RCC	12 Sept		14 Nov	2 Dec	16 Jan 2020	2 March 2020	12 March 2020		23 April 2020 AGM		30 April 2020	1 June 2020		7 Sept 2020		30 Nov 2020
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