



**Minutes of the  
Barbican Association General Council meeting  
Thursday 14 January 2021  
7.30pm via Zoom**

**Present**

Adam Hogg (Chair), Jane Smith, Christopher Makin, Ted Reilly, Helen Hudson, Helen Hulson, Sue Cox, David Bradshaw, Tim Cox, Sandy Wilson, Randall Anderson, Lionel Meyringer, Lionel Green, Mike Bristow, Fionnuala Hogan, Fred Rodgers, Mark Bostock, Ian Dixon, Heather Thomas, Derek Penney, Humfrey Brandes, Graham Bulpitt, Tony Swanson.

**Apologies**

N/A

**1: Minutes of the prior meeting**

- The minutes of the meeting on 10 December were approved.

**2. Matters arising not treated as agenda items**

- **Proposed new meeting room in the Barbican library** - no update at this time.
- **Barbican Association accounts** - now closing the year-end accounts. No major issues with debtors. A new account has been opened at Nationwide Building Society to ensure the BA enjoys full protection from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

**3. Chairman's thoughts on the Future. A proposal for the conduct of meetings attached**

- Paper circulated proposed methods to enhance future BAGC meetings, including reports from working parties and members to pre-read the papers.
- Aim is to focus on more strategic conversations.
- Working parties could increase representation from different ages/groups across the Estate as there is the need for working parties to cover many perspectives.

**4. Updates**

**a. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

- An online ASB reporting system has been developed by the Membership Secretary of the B.A.
- This system will enable residents to log ASB incidents on the Barbican Estate to measure the type and level of ASB activity and provide evidence in support of higher bye-law penalties.
- The ASB system is GDPR compliant.
- Bye-law fines are very small at present. If the penalties can be increased it will take about a year.
- The system will be hosted by the B.E.O. with the data shared with the City Police.
- The system will be tested before it goes live in February.
- New anti-ASB notices will be placed on the Barbican highwalk. It was reported that the design is more impactful, but implementation timeline is TBA. Draft signs will be shared with the BAGC.
- Need to encourage the Police to be ever more involved and take the details of ASB offenders.
- Head of the City's West Sector for Policing attended the last BA Security Committee.

**b. Communications Working Party**

- Work on designing a new BA site continues with the aim to go live in February.
- The ability of the BA to email members about its work - given data management restrictions - was discussed. There is a check list on the Information Commissioner Office's website.
- It was suggested that we broadcast future BAGC meetings on YouTube.

**c. Beech Street to agree the recommendations of the Working Party**

- The City of London Transport Strategy proposes a Zero Emissions Zone for a broad area around the Barbican.
- The BA proposes that the City develops this scheme with public consultation as soon as possible.
- In the meantime, the BA supports the continuation of the Beech Street experiment with a view to it becoming permanent, so long as the monitoring data supports it, and measures are taken ameliorate issues raised by the BA, including an exemption for local residents and the ongoing public consultation.
- Ted Reilly to share this paper with the Golden Lane Estate Residents Association (GLERA).

**d. The BA's response to Lisvane / verbal report on meeting with Sheriff Hayward**

- The Chair BA and Chair RCC had a second meeting with Sheriff Hayward regarding the Lisvane report and re-communicated the messages expressed previously regarding better control on service charges, the need for a co-ordinated approach to managing the physical infrastructure of the Estate and a greater voice for residents in the City.
- Quarterly meetings will take place with Sheriff Hayward during 2021.
- The City's Standards Committee will be disbanded, with new system to be in place by March that includes an independent panel.
- The provisions of the Housing Act and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests will still challenge the ability of resident Elected Members to affect change as residents might wish.

**e. Planning - current applications include**

- **Ironmongers Hall** seeks renewed permission to build a two storey extension to its existing office building. The proposal has been granted planning permission twice before.
- **Virgin Active Barbican** to be closed permanently
- **1-12 Long Lane and 150 Aldersgate Street** - approval granted for redevelopment.
- **2 Aldermanbury/55 Basinghall Street** - an application is pending from the developers
- **Bastion House.** A BA working group has been established to monitor this site and will have quarterly meetings with the City.
- **Future applications** - the City has stated that the Planning Department is busier than ever with applications higher now than pre-lockdown in March 2020. A number of major, ambitious schemes will be put to the Planning Committee in the next six months.
- Jane Smith to lead Planning with Sue Cox and Fred Rodgers.

**f. Climate Change**

- Keith Bottomley CC is leading climate change in the City and a meeting with him has been scheduled.
- Climate change was discussed at the Court of Common Council today, its Minutes are not yet public.

**5. Electric Vehicle Charging.**

- Draft terms of reference for an RCC working party to establish residents needs were approved.

**6. Development of a Residents Strategy for the Future of the Barbican.**

- A paper highlighting nine philosophical points was discussed prior to these themes / principles being built into a strategy.
- Volunteers sought for a working party to move this forward.
- Potential overlap with the BA's response to the Lisvane report was noted

## **7. City of London Biodiversity Action Plan**

- The City has published its draft Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for consultation with members of its BAP Partnership Group including the Barbican Wildlife Group.
- There will be six weeks of public consultation with adoption by Open Spaces scheduled for 13 July. The draft BAP has several proposals which will affect the Estate:
  1. The Barbican and St Alphage's Garden will be confirmed as Grade I Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
  2. Assessing the potential of Barbican Wildlife Garden as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) as requested by the BWG and London Wildlife Trust, which is preparing an ecology report for the Garden's new management plan, has already confirmed its suitability as an LNR.
- Monitoring is important in the gardens, how can the BA help? Engage with City of London School for Girls to get younger people involved? Action - Adam Hogg.

## **8. Consultation on the City's Local Plan to set up a Working Party to respond to the City's latest consultative document**

- Volunteers needed to form a group to respond to the consultation on the City's Local Plan 2036.
- BA responded to the first draft but the process involves the City amending it in the light of the first consultation and consulting again before submitting it for a planning inspection.
- The draft on which the City is likely to consult went to Policy and Resources on 10 December and is due to go to Court of Common Council on 14 January. Six week consultation to follow.
- **Volunteers** Sue Cox, Heather Thomas, Fred Rodgers, Jane Smith and Mike Bristow

## **9. Date for the AGM**

- AGM confirmed for 22 April.
- The BA's accounts will be audited by then.

## **10. Urgent AOB**

- N/A.

## **Date of next Meeting**

18 March 2021

### **BAGC dates**

Meetings to start at 7pm

Mar 18

April 22 AGM

April 29 BAGC to elect officers

July 15

Sep 16

Nov 18

### **RCC dates**

Meetings to start at 5.30pm

Jan 25 AGM

Mar 1

June 1

Sept 6

Nov 29

**The meeting ended at 9.15 pm**