

BA AGM

27 April 2023

Chair's update – Adam Hogg

*Residents sometimes seem to be the only guardians of this fantastic place we live in

*A tale of how difficult it is to get things done: a proposal from the RCC a year or so ago about maintaining the public spaces on the Barbican or so ago went from one committee to another committee – all of which thought it a good idea – but nothing has happened.

* BA and RCC response to the Lisvane review of City governance said that residents wanted three things – more control over service charges; a strategic body to look after the Barbican as a whole (and the City has asked officers to look into this); and residents to be listened to more (the chair of policy and resources has announced a “residential reset” to do just that).

*On the future of the London Wall West site, the BA has supported the Barbican Quarter Action Group by funding their work. So far the proposals have not gone for a planning application and the City has issued a call for ideas for use of the site.

Update from deputy chair – Ted Reilly

Climate action: Residents consistently say they want more control over their heating. The City has agreed to fund an experiment on Wallside to assess feasibility. If it works other blocks could decide to pursue this.

The BA/RCC is also pursuing an experiment on insulating soffits
And in return will deliver another webinar on energy efficiency

Beech Street zero emissions proposal: The BA took a neutral stance – because views differed around the estate – but pointed out the disadvantages of the existing proposal and sought a wider area proposal, so as not to divert traffic down local streets.

Electric vehicle charging: Since October there have been no complaints about the new more transparent billing system

Update from chair RCC – Sandra Jenner

Review of BEO

The interim report issued already – identified problems with BEO – structure and organisation
The final report -which will make recommendations for improvement will be presented to RCC and BRC sometime in May. RCC will then communicate and consult and review it and give views

Service charges

Big overspends on energy and window replacements. Data on energy usage has been wrong for two years- a reconciliation has been commissioned and is due by 22 May. Some rebates should be due.

The fact that there has been no planned programme to replace the windows is the subject of a formal complaint.

Stock condition survey

The report looked at fabric and services that were reaching the end of their lives. Now there is an exercise to see whether things actually need replacing and to prioritise the work and produce a 30 year programme. This will have a long timescale

In response to questions: The stock condition work is a long timescale and no programme yet

On the BEO transformation the City paid for the report; a key appointment will be a new head of BEO – nothing likely to happen for 6 months

Treasurer's report – Tony Swanson

See accounts and report

Two members of the audience said they disagreed with the policy of opposing the London Wall West proposals. The chair responded that the General Council had approved the expenditure and activity and several well attended public meeting had also supported it.

Elections

Treasurer – Tony Swanson (uncontested)

Auditor – Tony Croot (uncontested)

9 places for elected members of the BAGC (alongside a representative from each house group) (uncontested)

Randall Anderson

Brendan Barnes

David Bradshaw

Adam Hogg

Helen Hudson

Jan-Marc Petroschka

Miranda Quinney

Ted Reilly

Jane Smith

Constitution

The meeting approved the change to include the chair of the RCC as a member of the BAGC

Motion

The meeting approved a motion on better collaboration with Golden Lane estate and forwarded it to the BAGC for consideration.