

The Barbican Association General Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 19 July via Zoom

Present (crossed out not present):

<p>Elected Members: Adam Hogg (Chair), Deputy Chair: Ted Reilly Hon Sec: Roy Sully Jane Smith (Planning Subcommittee Chair) Brendan Barnes Helen Hudson David Bradshaw Randall Anderson Jan Marc Petroschka</p>	<p>House Groups Represented: Lionel Meyringer (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humphrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Derek Penney (Bunyan) Tim Cox (Cromwell) Helen Hudson (Defoe) Mark Bostock (Frobisher) Ian Dixon (Gilbert) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Gail Beer (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) David Graves (Seddon) Nadia Bee (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)</p>
<p>Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Jim Davies (Membership Sec) Sandra Jenner (RCC)</p>	

1.	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies had been received from Secretary Roy Sully, Ted Reilly to take minutes; Andy Hope Fred Rodgers to substitute; Tony Swanson; Humphrey Brandes; Miranda Quinney; Mark Bostock; Randall Anderson; David Bradshaw
2	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 4th May.
	The minutes were approved with the following notes; Fred Rodgers substituted for Andy Hope
3	Matters arising not treated as an Agenda item below
	None

4	Framing the Agenda 2023/24 Paper attached AH. to approve
	Adam Hogg's paper, Framing the Agenda 2023/24 (Appendix 1) was discussed and approved. It was agreed that each topic area would be discussed at subsequent meetings under the updates reports section.
5.	Future governance post BEO review. Verbal update by Sandra Jenner for information
	<p>Sandra Jenner, Chair RCC, provided an update on the BEO review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Head of BEO The Job description and briefing note for headhunters for the new head of the BEO have been approved. The Job grade evaluation should be finalised by 27 July. • A new post of Head of Fabric, reporting to the new Head of the BEO will be created, responsible for all repairs, maintenance, and the review and implementation of the Savills report. This has not been approved but is a residents' requirement. • The two redacted reports , <i>Recommendations</i> and <i>Action Plan</i> should be available to residents before the end of the month. These highly sensitive reports will be distributed to staff before or simultaneous with distribution to residents. These reports would subsequently be published on the BA website. • Findings and the action plan will be presented to the RCC on 7 August and to the BRC on 9 August. • This review has high-level enthusiastic and committed support from the Town Clerk, his housing consultant Gerri Scott, and the new Director of Communities and Children's Services Judith Finlay. • We need a small group of residents to ensure that the City implements the Action Plan to the benefit of residents. This group's task is to monitor the City's actions, not to manage the process. • In response to a question Sandra confirmed that although the BEO's accounts are not currently audited, they will be in future.
6.	Intrusion into residents' private spaces 17th June
	Adam Hogg presented a paper. (Appendix 2) It was agreed that We would monitor the BEO's response and determine if future action were necessary. Action; Richard Collins
7.	Community Room
	<p>Jane Smith presented a proposal (Appendix 3) that we support the creation of a Community Room in the Barbican Library. This was supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a question, Jane confirmed that there would be a charge for the use of the space, with a lower tariff for residents and resident groups. Of course, as an RTA we could recover these costs from the City. • The issue that we were losing an existing community space (the general reading room in the library) to be replaced by a meeting room, was raised. Jane confirmed that, when not in use as a meeting room, the space would still be available as a reading room. This would be one component of a general reorganisation of the library space.
8.	Barbican Strategic Authority
	Adam Hogg presented a paper (Appendix 4) for information

9.	<p>Summer Party Sunday 3rd September</p> <p>A paper by Miranda Quinney (Appendix 5) was discussed, including a proposal that the BA provide funds up to £2,500. This proposal was agreed.</p> <p>It was further agreed that Golden Lane residents (GLR) be invited and that members of the Golden lane community would control GLR access from Lakeside.</p> <p>It was suggested that Miranda might consider inviting our current MP and potential parliamentary candidates.</p> <p>Action; Miranda Quinney</p> <p>Volunteers were still being sought. Please respond to Miranda.</p> <p>Action all</p>
10a	<p>Public Access to BAGC meetings</p>
	<p>Christopher Makin had proposed in an earlier email exchange that we open our meetings to a wider audience. The notion of extending an invitation to BA members to attend in-person meetings or virtual meetings was enthusiastically accepted. Any BA members who wished to attend would be encouraged to let the Chair know in advance of their attendance. However, the thought that, for example Zoom meetings could be broadcast through media like YouTube was not supported.</p>
10b	<p>To Zoom or not to Zoom</p>
	<p>Whilst it was agreed that in person meeting were a good idea, turning up to a physical location would exclude some residents. It was hoped that the new Library Community Room would facilitate hybrid meetings. Until that room was commissioned it was agreed that the BAGC meeting format would be determined from time to time as required by members.</p>
11	<p>Update Reports</p>
	<p>a) Planning</p> <p>Jane Smith referred members to Sue Cox's reports that were circulated to all house group reps. In addition, Jane reported that it looked highly likely that the developers of the Linklaters building would demolish the existing building, except foundations and underground car parks. The developers were about to carry out base line acoustic tests. It was agreed that the controversial Liverpool Street development was outside our area of interest, but that some members of the BAGC with wider interests would monitor the development.</p> <p>b) Neighbourhood plan</p> <p>Brenda Szlesinger presented an update paper. Members continued to be very supportive of this initiative. She further reported, that one day earlier, the Transport and Planning committee had unanimously approved the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and Area (without amendments).</p> <p>c) Arts Centre</p> <p>Ian Dixon presented a report (Appendix 7) of the new BAGC sub-committee formed to establish an effective working relationship with the Barbican Centre. Ian reported a very positive attitude to the group from Claire Spencer, head of the Centre. Ian is very keen that his group is not seen to be a self-appointed group and encouraged housegroups from those houses directly impacted by the centre to respond to his call to participate in the group.</p> <p>Action; interested house groups to contact Ian.</p> <p>d) LWW</p> <p>Adam Hogg reported that the City were now taking very seriously the prospect of selling the site for refurbishment rather than demolition. The City were carrying out a soft strip of Bastion House to reduce business rates and were applying to extend the Certificate for Exemption from Listing. A paper would be presented to the Investment committee setting the way forward in September.</p>

	<p>e) Membership Matters Ted Reilly reported that the process of migrating the resident database system to MemberMojo was a challenging task. Progress albeit slow was being made. Miranda Quinney was making good progress on widening the franchise of the BA to a younger audience.</p> <p>f) Security In the absence of David Bradshaw this matter was not discussed.</p> <p>g) Energy Ted Reilly reported that good progress was being made on the experiment to trial individual controls in Wallside, which had been selected because of the ease of handling the legal issues and the small number of dwellings involved. Schneider Electric were designing and pricing the control units. Progress was being made on the soffit insulation trial. Sign off had been obtained from Building Control and the Heritage section of the Planning department. The technical solution was not fully formulated as several alternatives were being evaluated.</p> <p>h) Succession Planning Both Adam Hogg (Chair) and Ted Reilly (Deputy Chair) reaffirmed their fixed intention to resign in May 2024. They would continue to support the BA and offer themselves for election as members of the GC. Members were encouraged to start the process of finding successors. Action All</p>
12	<p>AOB Lionel Meyringer reported a problem where a resident's meter has broken, and they are paying £500 per month by default. This is putting the sale of their flat in jeopardy. The resident reports that the BEO are not offering any help, despite the cupboards being theirs, and say there are too many energy companies to try and coordinate. This will affect more and more leaseholders, as the meters, which are supposed to be replaced every 20 years by the power company, start to fail more frequently. It was suggested to contact a CC or move to another electricity company.</p> <p>Helen Hulson raised the issue of Ben Johnson's constitution which suggested that their house group should refer service charge matters to the BA, while the reality was that these matters should, of course, be referred to the RCC. It was observed that was likely to be the result of a pre 2003 constitution. All house groups were encouraged to check that their constitutions were up to date. Action all</p>
13	<p>Dates of next meetings, Wednesday 20th September, Wednesday 22nd November 2023</p>
14	<p>The meeting closed at 21:09</p>

Appendix 1

Framing the Agenda for 2023/24

On the initiative of the Chair and Deputy the elected members of the BA GC met on 15th June and 3rd July to identify and prioritise the main issues for the BA's attention in the coming year.

It was also agreed that rather than the Chair setting out the agenda for each meeting of the GC the elected members (named for convenience the executive) should meet two to three weeks before to prepare a draft for circulation to all members.

The table below sets out the issues, priorities and member responsible for leading on the topic.

Topic	Priority	Lead Member(s)	Sub committee
Governance following BEO review	High	Adam, Sandra	
Succession Planning	High	Adam Ted	
Planning including No 1 Silk Street	High	Jane	Yes
Membership and Website	High	Ted	
Arts Centre to include renewal	Medium	Ian	Yes
Energy and net Zero for Barbican	Medium	Ted	Yes
Security	Medium	David	Yes
Traffic	Medium	Ted	Yes
Social Activity	Medium	Miranda	Not yet
LWW watching brief	Low	Adam	
Residential Reset to include other Associations	Low	Adam	

Appendix 2

Intrusion on Residents' Spaces in the Barbican

Facts

On Saturday 17th June as part of the London Festival of Architecture (LFA) sponsored by the 20th Century Society among others, a resident lead a tour of some 30 plus including at least one resident around the Barbican. This involved entering Thomas More Garden, visiting a flat in Cromwell and viewing the Gardens from the roof of Lambert Jones Mews.

Residents in the garden objected strongly to this intrusion.

This tour was free, but people were encouraged to make a contribution to the 20th Century Society.

On Monday 19th I received a complaint from Lambert Jones with draft letters for the tour leader, the 20thC Soc and LFA. These were distributed signed by the Chair under the BA letterhead.

Learning that the leader was in fact a resident I hand delivered the letter and, prior to his reading it set out the situation.

It transpired that he was a longstanding resident who being proud of the Barbican had over the years taken people round it in the past.

He said that he had talked to an unspecified resident of Lambert Jones who did not object to the idea of taking a group onto the roof subject to them taking great care not to cause any disturbance. They duly visited on the fire escape area taking care to minimise noise.

Observations

When I met him the tour leader was most contrite, he thought he had clearance and was doing what he had done before without complaint.

He commented that he was very proud of the Barbican and was always keen to sing its praises.

The BA is and should be equally proud of the Barbican and should welcome good publicity.

This should not be at the cost of residential amenity.

For the GC to consider

What actions could be taken to prevent similar intrusions in the future?

Appendix 3

New community room in the library

For information and decision

The BA, along with the Barbican Library and the Department of Childrens and Community services, has been awarded a grant of £450,000 to enable a community room to be built within the Barbican Library.

The room has been a longstanding aim of the Barbican Association (for decades) and of the Library since 2011. The grant comes from the Neighbourhood fund of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The room will be built in the south-east corner of the Library and as well as an entrance from the Library will also have an entrance into the lobby of the Arts Centre – which will enable its use at times when the library is shut.

It will accommodate up to 90 people and will have a cupboard with tables and chairs, and an overhead projector with four speakers.

Bookings (by individuals or groups) will be managed by the Library. The library will charge but, as with the City's other libraries, there will be a sliding scale in which residents and community groups pay the lowest rates and commercial hirers the highest. The Library will use the room for its own events – and as a quiet space for readers when the room is not booked.

Once the final committee approvals have been made the project should go out to tender in September and have a 12 week construction phase.

I suggest that the BA should in the autumn convene a small group to work with the library on publicising the room and finalising arrangements for its use both in Library hours and without (which will involve discussions with the Arts Centre). It would make sense to find someone from the local community groups

Background

The Barbican Estate has long lacked a community space, and the Barbican Association has long campaigned for a proper community space that can be used by Barbican residents.

In 2016 the Barbican Association organised a well attended public meeting for all residents in the northwest of the City (the Barbican, Golden Lane, and dwellings in the surrounding wards), followed by a survey to assess demand. Both the meeting and the survey results showed strong support for a community space, ideally one within a managed civic building, for people living in the area.

The proposed library community room meets most of what the community desired, bringing “together publicly funded services...In addition there would be meeting rooms available at a low rate for community services.”

Meanwhile the Library's strategy is to have a community room in line with national policy on library provision and also to provide it with some acoustically protected space within the open plan library. The library drew plans in 2017-18 but couldn't secure funding.

The bid

In 2019-20 the then head of the library and Randall Anderson, when he was chair of Children's and Community Services, suggested applying for CIL funds to build the room. The Barbican Association gave the proposal its full support as we thought that it would provide the sort of community facility the association has been seeking for the benefit of residents in general, both in the Barbican Estate itself and in the surrounding area. I worked with the library and DCCS team, to bid first for enabling funds (to finalise the plans, get listed building consent, and accurate costs) and most recently for funding for constructing the room.

Appendix 4

Paper for June 23 GC to Note

Barbican Strategic Authority

History

BA's response to Lisvane included a request that the City set up a high level group of stakeholders to oversee the entirety of the Barbican Estate.

At a recent BRC Mark Bostock proposed that a resolution to this effect would be submitted to P&R. P&R supported the resolution and requested an officer from Childrens and Community Services to investigate.

Simon Cribbens charged with the task has been talking to stakeholders. He is likely to submit his report to the October P&R.

The BA submitted the paper below and Ted Reilly, Sandra Jenner and Adam Hogg representing the BA and RCC met with Cribbens on 11.7.23 to discuss the idea.

It was a satisfactory meeting.

Outline for Barbican Umbrella Group

The Barbican is an entity, a brand. When people ask me where I live, I say the Barbican, not the Barbican Residential Estate. When people come to the theatre here, they come to the Barbican, not the Barbican Arts Centre. Of course, the architecture is a vital contributor to the place, but there is more than that. There is a vibrancy which results from the people who inhabit this space both as residents, as students and as visitors. We are facing massive change in the way the City of London positions itself in the world. The reliance on business as the major driver of the City has proved to be a fatal weakness, and whilst we can be sure that people will return to the Barbican, it is not clear that the City's business community will ever return to "the good old days". Now is the time to refocus the City on the Arts, Education and the creative industries and the Barbican is the centre of this refocussing. Together with visitors and City workers residents are the guardians of this place.

The Barbican is a Masterpiece, a gem, a world-famous example of 20th Century architecture in the heart of the City of London (CoL).

The purpose of this paper is to emphasise to the CoL that their gem is worth looking after as a whole. The way it has been managed over the past decades has focused on specific aspects and not the integrated entity. The problem derives directly from the responsibility for the estate being split across many different organisations and departments. The CoL has

- 6 committees,
- 14 sub-committees and
- one consultative committee

all with separate, compartmentalised interests in the goings on in the Barbican Estate with financing of various aspects coming from several sources within the CoL.

Let us be in no doubt that the physical fabric of the wider estate is in decline. We refer to the Barbican & Golden Lane Area Strategy published by the CoL in August 2015 and reproduce the following

Summary of key findings:

10 INCONSISTENCY IN CONDITION AND UPKEEP OF HARD SPACES WITHIN THE ESTATES

Great care from residents and cultural institutions is evident in both the Barbican and Golden Lane estates. However, some of the hard spaces within are in poor condition. This is the case in both Golden Lane and, to a lesser extent, the Barbican estate. Engagement responses, notably those from residents, cited that some spaces within each estate are considered poorly maintained or in need of repair. It was felt that this is out of keeping with each estate's listing and of detriment to their heritage value, particularly in the case of Golden Lane. Within the Barbican estate, locations highlighted included Defoe Place, Lauderdale Place and Frobisher Court.

Today, little has changed.

- the same concerns are apparent in the residential community. In September 2019 a resolution was passed by the RCC on maintenance of public realm but still no funds have been released for adequate maintenance of the estate.
- There are leaks in the roof of the Barbican Centre
- The lakes, which are an important feature of the overall architectural design, have been in a sorry state for some years. Some recent improvements were made to brick and tile embankments which was most welcome but the fountains have been out of commission for over a year due to repeated leaks into the pump systems. The Barbican Centre, in whose remit the lakes fall, admits that it has insufficient money and resources to anything other than patch-up. Failure to carry out proper maintenance over the years means that Barbican residents who contribute to the upkeep of the lakes will now be forced to contribute to the major works needed.
- The exhibition halls cannot be used on account of their leaking roofs
- The CLSG and GSMD have also suffered from issues of inadequate maintenance.

Though similar problems have been encountered in the residential blocks. Most of these have been or are being addressed as the CoL has been able to reclaim the costs through the residents' service charge.

Notwithstanding the above, and having just reached its 60th anniversary, it is still a marvellous place in which people wish to live and to visit. It cannot stand another decade of neglect.

This is why we have suggested a new approach to management of the estate with the setting up of a Barbican Estate Strategic Authority (BESA) to take an holistic view and marshal the resources to resolve the current difficulties and take the Barbican forward for the next 50 years.

Scope for this 'umbrella' organisation would need to be defined in consultation with all stakeholders.

Residents envisage the following:

- Custodian of the Grand Strategy for the Barbican
- Champion of conservation and listed status
- Reduction in Carbon emissions across the estate
- Securing and allocating funds necessary to keep the estate world-class and fit for purpose
- Preserving the mix of residential, cultural and educational uses
- Maintenance of the fabric.
- Security across the estate
- Management of public realm
- Control of the general public.

We believe that all stakeholders working under the umbrella of the BESA would develop a full understanding of what is required for the Barbican to resolve its current problems and to prevent any new ones that emerge from being ignored. We in the Barbican Association would look forward to helping in this endeavour. We have many residents whose skill set is well matched to the needs of the umbrella organisation and who are keen to contribute.

Appendix 5

Ideas for Barbican summer garden party 2023

MQ 13/7/23

Given the impetus to encourage wider membership of the BA and following the successes of last year's party and this year's celebration lunch, it seems like a good idea for the BA to host the 2023 Barbican summer garden party.

Reflecting on the experiences of organisers of both events, the proposal is to make the event as easy to manage and inclusive as possible. This could be done by encouraging residents to bring their own picnics whilst the BA offers welcome drink (s) and a single family friendly activity.

Proposed event:

The suggested date is Sunday 3 September. 2-4pm

Venue – Thomas More Garden with wet weather back up confirmed by Father Jack at St Giles.

A budget of £2500 should be sufficient to cover welcome drinks, a family friendly activity, insurance and contingency.

Whilst low key, it will still be necessary to get a group of interested individuals together to form an organising group. Miranda and Helen have offered to lead this. Naturally participation is open to any others, both before and on the day. We will extend the invitation to help beyond the BA GC and house group reps

Preliminary thoughts:

Bearing in mind that one of the goals is to attract a wider membership to the BA, we suggest that Barbican groups (both formal and informal) be approached and invited to use the opportunity to advertise their presence to local residents. How the promotion takes place will be the responsibility of those running the groups. For instance, if they want to have a "stand" they will need to provide it for themselves. The BA's responsibility is simply to do what we can to attract an audience.

Publicising the event will be key. In addition to advertising it in the Barbican newsletter, weekly Barbican communication email update, via house group chairs and posters in the lifts, we could encourage Barbican groups to share details via their networks. We are already in discussion with the carers network (Shirley Islam) parents group (Hannah Logan) and Barbican hangouts (Nadi). Other obvious groups are the Horticultural Society, Tennis Club, Art Group. Are there others we are aware of?

Legacy:

It should be possible to create a publishable list of Barbican groups

Question for consideration :

Last year's BA event specifically invited attendance by Barbican and Golden Lane residents. The coronation lunch invited Barbican residents, their families and neighbours. If the party is specifically to include Golden Lane residents then a question for consideration is how far to spread the net on local groups. Not mentioning Golden Lane residents does not preclude friends and family from Golden Lane from attending but makes it clear this is a Barbican event. Thoughts?

Appendix 6

Barbican Association General Council Meeting 19 July 2023

Barbican Centre Liaison Sub Committee report

I briefed BAGC by email on 5 May 2023 on my thoughts about how to take forward engagement with the Barbican Centre and GSMD. The text of this email is attached as a reminder.

I requested volunteers to form a small sub committee. My thanks to the following for coming forward:

Miranda Quinney - John Trundle Court
Fionnuala Hogan - Willoughby House
Jane Smith - Seddon House
Mark Bostock - Frobisher Crescent
Andrew Tong - Brandon Mews
Jo Bradman – Speed House
And me in Gilbert House

We had a constructive session in late June to share insights and discuss next steps as follows:

- An important point which came out was a concern that this sub committee cannot hold itself out as representing all views across the estate and nor are we a “self appointed” group which is doing all resident engagement.
- We agreed that this sub committee can act as a conduit and facilitator between the Centre and residents. We will need to ensure that the Centre, with our support, engages more widely at the right time.
- We reflected that there may be some difficult issues to work through especially on Barbican Renewal where this sub committee could have a role, perhaps using some of the learnings from the London Wall West campaign.
- We must push for the same level of engagement with the leadership of GSMD.
- Communication of what is going on will be key so that residents do not feel excluded. As a minimum we will need to feed into BAGC regularly.
- For clarity, this sub committee encompasses all aspect of relationships between the BA and the Centre so including Termly meetings, Barbican Renewal and the Operation Liaison meetings.
- This sub committee will meet periodically as it is needed.

Following that meeting I have been in touch with Claire Spencer, Barbican CEO, to ask for a meeting on how to engage on Barbican Renewal. She has responded as follows:

“In relation to Barbican Renewal our commitment is to be open and transparent with whichever Resident wants to be involved. That will include open workshops like the ones we had in the previous phase as well as ones with the Association. We are also watching the Neighbourhood Forum space too.

The stakeholder engagement around this project will be extensive and to that end we have a role that we are currently recruiting into who will shape that and run it. We will let you know who that is and will of course introduce them to you when we have appointed.

In the meantime, we are just now mobilizing the team for the next stage. [...] You will start to see people in high viz wandering around the site over the next few weeks as we start the condition survey work.”

It is positive that they remain committed to resident engagement. I have asked to be kept informed on the stakeholder engagement so that we can see what this actually means in due course.

I am also trying to get some better consistency of attendance at the Termly Meetings (next one scheduled for 20 September 2023). I wrote to all House Group Chairs on 25 June asking them to let me know who in their House is the right person to attend these meetings at least for the next, say, year. I have not heard back from all House Chairs so will be sending a reminder in mid July asking for replies by the end of the month. In the absence of a response I will assume the House does not wish to attend.

Actions for BAGC members

1. Please cascade the information here to your House Group
2. If you are a House Group chair and have not replied to my email of 25 June, please can you do so. If you are not the Chair please can you chase them.

Ian Dixon
Chair, Gilbert House Group

Text of email sent to BAGC members on 5 May 2023

Afternoon all

A follow up from yesterday’s BAGC meeting. As I said briefly, there is a shift underway in residents’ engagement with the Centre. This is driven by a number of things including the change in the Centre’s leadership (both who they are and and their leadership style), the very significant Barbican Renewal project, the poor condition of the core infrastructure of the Centre and the spaces that it manages and the need for co-engagement with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama which is run operationally by the same team as the Centre and which also has new leadership.

I, along with Adam and Mark, had a meeting with Claire Spencer (Barbican Centre CEO) just before Easter the purpose of which was simply to test the appetite for change. It was very clear that they want to engage with residents but that the historical ways that has happened aren’t working so something needs to change. So there is an opportunity for residents to engage differently and more productively which we should welcome.

As background for those unfamiliar with it, in recent times that engagement has looked like this:

- 1 A so called Termly Barbican Association Meeting (meaning three times a year) of residents with the Centre's leadership. This is a legacy of Nick Kenyon's days as MD (or earlier??) which started out with him telling residents about the programme but often got sidetracked onto problematic operational matters and, in my experience, ran out of time. In the past this was chaired by the Barbican Centre Chair but the last meeting was chaired by Claire.
- 2 For the past year or so we have had a separate Operations Liaison meeting. This has focussed purely on problematic operational issues such as noise from activities, engineering works, cleaning etc etc (so pulling them out of the Termly meeting). These are attended by representatives of the the neighbouring houses most impacted by the activities of the Centre and GSMD.
- 3 Pre Covid, a periodic residents newsletter delivered to all flats with information on programmes and building related work. This has not resumed post Covid.
- 4 There have been separate meetings with a wide range of attendees on Barbican Renewal as part of the Centre's engagement on this project.

My personal view of (1) is that it's unclear what the meetings are meant to achieve, there is inconsistent resident attendance and are no longer effective in communicating the views of residents. Claire Spencer has said they too are confused by what the meetings are for.

The operational meetings (2) are gaining traction in how they work if are less than perfect. They include attendees from GSMD which (1) do not.

Newsletters have ceased and there is little appetite for their resumption so a different means of wider resident engagement is needed.

So a reset is needed.

The Centre has produced a very short Terms of Engagement document. I've given some input to this but have not got a final version. It isn't rocket science and states the obvious about being neighbours who need to work well together and that we will actively engage. So nothing controversial. Importantly it also draws the GSMD into the engagement process which is an important step I think.

Claire has also proposed that the Termly meetings become more topic based which I believe will make them more productive and will of course make them different to what they looked like in the past.

The next Termly meeting is next Wednesday 10 May. I have no idea who has received the invite for this meeting which is something which needs addressing. It's principal agenda item is a deeper briefing on Barbican Renewal and, I hope, what resident engagement on this may look like.

As we go towards future meetings we will need to be clearer on who is attending the Termly meetings and why, Adam touched on this yesterday. I would hope that if they are more topic based that attendance should be more obvious.

We will need to be clear about how we engage on Barbican Renewal, a big topic.

And we will need to be clear on how we cascade the output from these points of engagement.

As I said last night, I'm happy to Chair the relevant sub committee to take this forward and will need some support on this. To make it manageable I think maybe 56 of us would be the right number. I don't want to exclude anyone but it has to be workable and I will commit to regular communication to the BAGC.

I've already received a couple of offers to work on the sub committee. Forgive me, but I don't know who is currently on the sub committee other than Jane. So could anyone else who feels that they have the capacity, ideally with some experience relevant to what we are trying to do and would like to be involved going forward please get in touch with me direct over the next few days.

Next week's Termly meeting will be a bit on the fly so for those who go along do please bear with me!

The current sub committees remit includes the now defunct Culture Mile. I will need to work out what that means!

I hope that is all useful background. And do get in touch.

With thanks

Ian
Chair, Gilbert House