

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 3 February 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Estate Residents Consultation Committee
held at Guildhall on Monday, 3 February 2014 at 6.30 pm

Present

Members:

Tim Macer - Willoughby House	Gillian Laidlaw - Mountjoy House
Randall Anderson - Shakespeare Tower	Fiona Lean - Ben Jonson House
Averil Baldwin - Thomas More House	Professor Chris Mounsey - Breton House
Robert Barker - Lauderdale Tower	Natalie Robinson - Andrewes House
Mary Bonar - Wallside	Jane Smith - Barbican Association
Mark Bostock - Frobisher Crescent	Professor Michael Swash - Willoughby House
Dr Gianetta Corley - Gilbert House	John Taysum - Bryer Court
David Graves - Seddon House	Janet Wells - John Trundle House
Gordon Griffiths - Bunyan Court	Robin Gough – Defoe House
Helen Wilkinson - Speed House	
John Tomlinson - Cromwell Tower	

Officers:

Julie Mayer – Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jane Smith (Barbican Association) and Helen Wilkinson (Speed House), who was represented by Brian Parkes.

The Town Clerk welcomed Averil Baldwin as the new representative of Thomas More House. Members noted that Matt Collins had stepped down as one of the Defoe House representatives.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman. The current Chairman, Mr Tim Macer, being the only member willing to serve, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year and took the Chair.

4. TO ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman. Professor Chris Mounsey, being the only member willing to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **BA/RCC CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS ON THE CITY'S NEW RESIDENT CONSULTATION MODEL**

Members received the Chairman's report on the Barbican Association (BA) and Residents Consultation Committee (RCC) consultation with residents and House Groups. The Chairman took this item in conjunction with the next item on the agenda, the Committee's Terms of Reference.

During the discussion the following items were raised/noted:

- The RCC had been established 10 years ago, following residents voting 2/3^{rds} in its favour.
- The Consultation Model had been designed to avoid duplication of the business presented at RCC and BA meetings.
- Members noted that there might be some instances; i.e. the YMCA Building, which would initially fall within the remit of City Surveyors (and therefore a BA issue) but once the development impacted on residents (as a Barbican Estate issue), it might need to be reported to the RCC.
- The Consultation Model had received good response from residents and had been discussed at length at the BA General Council. The BAGC had recommended that the model should run for a year or 18 months then and be reviewed.
- Members noted that the Chairmen of the RCC and BA would draft a report to the Town Clerk, setting out the results of the consultation.
- The RCC had the benefit of being able to make representations to the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) on all service charge matters, on behalf of both long and short leaseholders. Members noted that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the RCC attended the RCC/BRC agenda planning meetings with officers and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the BRC.
- Members were encouraged to consult their elected representatives when appropriate. The Housing Service Director had regular briefings with all Barbican Ward Members.
- The BA was an independent, subscription paying membership association, which could instruct legal counsel and Planning, Licensing and Environmental Health matters were within their remit. Members felt that the RCC could also be used as a last resort, if the BA failed to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

6. **COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members received the RCC's current terms of reference. In light of the previous discussion, members felt that the existing Terms of Reference remained fit for purpose and did not require amendment.

- Members particularly commended the Update Report and the 'You Said, We Did' document.
- There was a general agreement that the questions asked in advance of the meetings were very helpful and kept the agendas focussed.
- Given that the City Surveyor contributed to the update report, it would be helpful if a City Surveyor representative could attend RCC meetings when there was relevant business.

7. **MEMBERS INFORMATION PACK**

Members received the new Members Information pack, which had been drafted by the Chairman and the Barbican Estate officers.

During the discussion, the following items were raised/noted:

- The pack was commended as an excellent document and members asked if it could be more widely available; i.e. with the link attached to an email broadcast and advertised on noticeboards and in lifts etc. The full document had been emailed to all House Group Chairmen.
- Members noted there were some ongoing issues with unregistered sub tenancies. The Chairman offered to raise this with the Chairman of the BRC, with a view to including it as a future agenda item at a future meeting.
- A summary version would be helpful, for circulating to all Barbican residents/tenants/sub tenants.
- Members agreed that it would be a helpful induction tool for new members.
- Members asked if it would be possible to hold some induction sessions for new members, or any members who wished to attend. The Chairman agreed hold such sessions periodically, when there was a demand.

8. **PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN RESPECT OF BEECH GARDENS**

Members received a briefing note on Beech Gardens, which had been circulated after the last meeting of the RCC on 25 November 2013. At this meeting, members had proposed a resolution to the BRC in respect of the slow progress on the Beech Gardens project.

There was a general agreement that this had provided a satisfactory explanation and, given there were no members present from either Bunyan or John Trundle Court, it was agreed that, for now, the proposed resolution would fall. Members noted that the Beech Gardens Project Board, scheduled for Wednesday 4th February, would analyse the document further. The Chairman suggested that, if necessary, there could be a further debate at the RCC meeting scheduled for 3rd March 2014. Members asked if a link to the briefing could be provided on an email broadcast.

Whilst accepting that current EU procedures delayed large projects, members felt that communications could have been more effective. Members also noted that a previous attempt to correct the podium had failed within a couple of years and, therefore, the works had to be thorough and sustainable.

The Town Clerk reminded members that all City of London Projects were subject to Gateway 7 (Outcome Reports), which were presented to the City of London Corporation's Projects Sub Committee meetings, which were held in public. All Gateway 7 reports set out the lessons learnt, for members' scrutiny.

9. **REVIEW OF WORKING PARTIES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

Members received the current list of working parties and the Chairman thanked the volunteers who served on them. Members noted that the minutes of some of the working parties were included in the RCC/BRC agenda packs and the Chairman would continue to encourage all groups to share their minutes. Each Group was responsible for setting their own terms of reference.

The Chairman then went through each group in turn:

Gardens Advisory Group - 2 vacancies (members noted that gardening experience/interest and aesthetic awareness would be helpful). The chairman agreed to seek to fill these vacancies by appealing to House Group chairmen. In response to a question about the location of allotments, the Chairman suggested that this could be covered under a future RCC agenda item.

Service Level Agreement Review Group – 2 vacancies.

Asset Maintenance Group – 2 vacancies. Fiona Lean advised that she was a member of this group but was missing from the membership list. Robin Gough volunteered to fill one of the vacancies.

Beech Gardens – Members of the Gardens Advisory Group and the Asset Maintenance Group were co-optees. Members felt that the balance of the group was appropriate.

Television System – Randall Anderson was happy to continue chairing this group.

Underfloor Heating – this was a new group and had attracted a lot of interest.

Parcel Tracking – this was a new group and the following members volunteered during the meeting: Chris Mounsey, Brian Parkes, John Taysum, Rob Barker, Matt Collins (via Robin Gough). Further volunteers would be sought via the House Groups.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to look at 2 working groups, in depth, at each meeting of the RCC.

10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Chairman advised that residents would be receiving a communication on 4th February, from Visionfibre Media, in respect of the television upgrade. Members noted that the infrastructure would be installed between February and May 2014, with roll out to all blocks by July 2014. Two drop in sessions had been planned for 26 February (10 – 2) and (3 – 7) and members asked if this could be repeated.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Chairman

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