

BARBICAN RESIDENTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall
on Monday, 28 May 2012 at 6.30 pm

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman) - Shakespeare Tower House Group
Robert Barker - Lauderdale tower House Group
Mark Bostock - Frobisher Crescent
David Graves - Seddon House Group
Gordon Griffiths - Bunyan Court
John Tomlinson - Cromwell Tower House Group
Mary Hickman - Andrewes House Group
Fiona Lean - Ben Jonson House
Patric Morley - Mountjoy House Group
Jane Smith - Barbican Association
John Taysum - Bryer Court House Group
Janet Wells – John Trundle House Group
Christopher Mounsey – Breton House Group

Officers (Community and Children's Services):

Michael Bennett
Helen Davinson
Anne Mason
Mike Saunders
Karen Tarbox
Jacquie Campbell

In attendance:

Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman of the Barbican Residential Committee)
Deputy John Barker (Member of the Barbican Residential Committee)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Frances Pugh (represented by Gianetta Corley); Helen Wilkinson (represented by Brian Parkes); Tim Macer (represented by Caroline Swash) and Chris Watkins (represented by Garth Leder).

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee held on 12 March were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

Residents noted that Consultation on the Listed Buildings Guidelines closed today.

4. **UPDATE REPORT**

- 4.1 This report updated residents on issues raised by the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) and the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) at their meetings in March 2012. The report also provided updates on other issues on the estate. The following items were raised during the discussion of this report:
- 4.2 **St Giles Terrace** - residents noted that the two Streetscene officers from the Department Built Environment, who had been responsible for this project, had left the City of London Corporation but would be replaced shortly. A full update would be presented to the September meeting.
- 4.3 The officers advised that they would liaise with Streetscene Officers regarding new furniture for **the Beech Gardens Podium** project.
- 4.4 In respect of the **50 new transportable baggage stores**, residents suggested that this, and similar information, might be better placed within the body of the Update Report, rather than the Statistics, where it might be overlooked.
- 4.5 Following a resolution from the Court of Common Council about **concrete testing charges**, residents noted that the BRC would receive a full report in September, including the timescale for the terraces. In respect of Beech Gardens and the Bryer Court Pond, a resident suggested that, if concrete testing was to be carried out on the terrace blocks, it could be started here while the worksite safety conditions were in place. There was a further suggestion that separating the scaffolding works from the concrete testing would reduce the financial burden on long leaseholders.
- 4.6 Officers agreed to check what further **scaffolding** might be required and ensure a joined up, best value approach. Residents were reminded that Technical Services were reviewing a communications plan for all projects (outside the formal Section 20 notifications).
- 4.7 There was some further discussion about patterns emerging from the recent testing; i.e. whether the higher levels were affected more. Similar patterns might also emerge for the terrace blocks, which had been built at various times and by various contractors. A resident suggested that these findings could inform the necessary level of testing and further ease the financial burden.
- 4.8 In respect of **on line booking for temporary car parks**, residents without computer access would be able to book a place with the attendants and lobby porters. Officers advised that the on-line system would be far more cost-effective, given the cost of raising invoices. A meeting had been arranged for

later this week, with IT, to discuss the specification and explore a partnership model and financial incentives, given the economical benefits to the City.

- 4.9 A partially sighted resident was concerned about **holes left from the drainage works**. Officers advised that works to board over the drains would be completed in September but interim work would commence next week in order to make the area safe. Residents noted that there would be some drainage testing shortly and access would be required. The Estate Office would be writing to residents by the beginning of June with an update on the Beech Gardens project.
- 4.10 In respect of a query about the **Technical Services recharge** being above budget, officers agreed to provide more information about unforeseen elements and variants.
- 4.11 The Chairman advised that the **RCC TV Network Working Party** had met last Friday and there were some outstanding issues with the Term Sheet. The Chairman would mark this up and circulate it to the Working Party. A meeting would be arranged with the City Solicitors, before working through the issues with VFM. Residents noted that they might need to hold a special meeting of the RCC to vote on this, under their delegated authority granted by the BRC at their last meeting.
- 4.12 A resident who uses a wheelchair was concerned that tarmac had been removed from a **ramp at the eastern end of Ben Johnson**, creating a drop which could be very dangerous. Officers agreed to investigate this the following morning.
- 4.13 Frobisher residents were concerned about the **hot water failure** during the last cold spell. They had written to the Town Clerk, as they felt it had not been fit for purpose. Frobisher residents also sought the support of the RCC in this matter. The Barbican Estate Office were very concerned that this matter should be resolved as soon as possible. They had recommended, to the City Surveyor, that the City take it over after next winter, to ensure the matter had been resolved.
- 4.14 Residents noted that the BRC would receive a report on the **YMCA** at their next meeting, which would be marked 'to follow'. The Town Clerk agreed to forward a redacted copy to RCC members as soon as it became available.
- 4.15 Some residents remained concerned about security, particularly surrounding the **Moorgate Escalator**. Whilst this fell under the remit of Crossrail and not the Barbican Estate Office, the Barbican Association had challenged them before and would be happy to do so again. The Barbican Estate Manager would liaise with City Surveyors and the Built Environment in respect of lighting and escalators.
- 4.16 In respect of the **Sustainability Working Party**, residents noted that Resident Engineers posts were being recruited and job descriptions would be revised to reflect the appropriate skills.

5. **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS QUARTERLY REVIEW**

This report updated members on the review of the estate wide implementation of Service Level Agreements, for the quarter January to March 2012. The report detailed comments from the House Officers and the Resident Working Party and an on-going action plan for each of the five Service Level Agreements.

6. **PROGRESS OF SALES AND LETTINGS**

This report advised residents of the sales and lettings that had been approved by officers since the last meeting. Approval is under delegated authority and in accordance with Standing Orders.

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

7.1 A resident reported an incident whereby a female resident had arrived home late at Ben Jonson House, without her key, and there had been no attendant available. The Estate Manager had taken this up immediately and the Car Parking Manager was checking procedures. Another resident reported a similar incident.

7.2 The Town Clerk agreed to investigate the software available for a partially sighted resident in using reports and agendas during meetings.

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

There were no items

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer:

Julie Mayer
Town Clerks

020 7 332 1410

Julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk