

Paper for the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee 2021 AGM

Subject: Increasing Resident Participation In The RCC's Working Parties

Report Author: Christopher Makin, Chair, Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee

Summary

- This paper proposes a new approach to access the skills and talents of the widest range of Barbican residents for the RCC's Working Parties via a new membership selection process.

Background

1. At present, it is difficult for a Barbican resident to join the RCC's five Working Parties as the Working Parties are not well known and vacancies are not advertised.
2. Membership of the RCC's Working Parties is, effectively, for life, unless a member resigns.
3. The lack of an open and inclusive selection process for the RCC's Working Parties limits their access to the full width of talent available in the Barbican Estate, thus curtailing their ability to deliver the best outcomes for the residents they seek to represent.

Proposal

- A. On alternate months for 10 months, residents will be invited, (via the BEO's weekly email, House Groups etc), to self-nominate to join a specified Working Party for three years.
- B. Nominations for membership to include a short statement of interest / relevant skills and prior role (if any) on that/other Working Parties in the Barbican.
- C. If nominations exceed the volunteers required the RCC will, consistent with the election of the RCC's Chair and Deputy Chairs, review the nominations and elect:
 - **Full Members of the Working Party** - who will participate as currently.
 - **Associate Members of the Working Party** - who will be sent the papers and minutes, be encouraged to contribute by email and form a reserve group if a Full Member resigns.
- D. This process builds on that used to establish the Underfloor Heating Working Party.
- E. In order to ensure 'Institutional Memory' is not lost, at least two of the current members of each Working Party should be retained, presuming that number is willing to serve.
- F. As currently, either the RCC's Chair or Deputy Chairs will participate in each Working Party, and have 'visiting rights' to ensure its work is aligned with the RCC's broader aims.
- G. It is preferable for an Alderman/Common Councillor participate in each Working Party as they bring insights and access other residents do not have.
- H. Repeat this process every three years to maintain engagement with residents.

Process improvement within the Working Parties

- There are also potential actions that might improve the Working Parties' effectiveness.
- This might include more frequent meetings and/or meetings without Officers on key topics, pre-meetings for residents (per the RCC), reviewing the Terms of Reference etc.

In conclusion

- This proposal does not detract from existing members' hard work and the many hours dedicated to the RCC's Working Parties. We should all be most grateful to all contributors.
- The BAGC elections show that there may not be a flood of candidates but this process will, if nothing else, remind residents of the work being carried out in their name.

