

# MEMO

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From: Tim Macer, Chairman, Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee

To: Gareth Moore CC, Chairman, Barbican Residential Committee

Date: 29 January 2015

## **Subject: Election of two Deputy Chairman to the RCC**

Over the years, the work of the RCC has increased considerably, and it now encompasses a large number of working parties and other meetings, as well as other correspondence and communications. The burden of this workload for anyone in full-time employment is considerable. While there is no expectation that the RCC Chairman should attend every such meeting, it is very much to the benefit of working parties and other meetings if the Chairman is represented on them and can participate in them. This helps to improve communications and make the work of the RCC more effective, such as when setting the agenda for RCC meetings.

Furthermore, it has been proving difficult in recent years to attract suitable candidates for election to the role of Deputy Chairman. Many members consider accepting the role of Deputy Chairman will inevitably lead to becoming Chairman, and they are unable to make that commitment, given the workload.

By electing two, rather than one Deputy at the RCC AGM, the Chairman will have a greater opportunity to share the workload between his or her two deputies. This should also have the effect of making any of these roles more attractive to a wider range of candidates in future.

An obvious concern with such an arrangement is that the Chairman and two Deputies might be considered a de-facto standing committee of some kind, which is not the aim. Substantive matters where residents are being consulted must always come before the RCC, although they may be delegated to a working party, for more detailed examination. This can be dealt with by ensuring that elected post holders are fully briefed on this point, and suitable guidance can be added to the RCC Members' Induction Pack.

Fortunately, there are no cost implications relating to this change, as the roles are voluntary and no expenses are incurred in relation to these roles. Neither would the change increase the size of the committee or demand for administrative support provided by either Town Clerk or BEO.

On the recommendation of the Town Clerk, I would like the BRC to consider this change as a matter of urgent business, prior to our RCC AGM on the 9th February 2015, so if this meets with the approval of the BRC, we can carry out an election for a Chairman and two Deputy Chairman at the forthcoming AGM.