

**BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, 18 May 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Estate Residents Consultation Committee  
held at Guildhall on Monday, 18 May 2015 at 7.00 pm

**Present**

**Members:**

Tim Macer (Chairman)	Jane Smith - Barbican Association
Robert Barker (Deputy Chairman)	Michael Swash - Willoughby House
Graham Wallace (Deputy Chairman)	John Taysum - Bryer Court
Randall Anderson - Shakespeare Tower	Fred Rodgers – Breton House
Averil Baldwin - Thomas More House	Trevor Kavanagh – Speed House
Mark Bostock - Frobisher Crescent	
Helen Hudson - Defoe House	
Gordon Griffiths - Bunyan Court	

**In Attendance:**

Gareth Moore	Chairman, Barbican Residential Committee
Prof. John Lumley	Barbican Residential Committee
Brian Parkes	Barbican Resident
Paul Clifford	Barbican Resident

**Officers:**

Helen Davinson	Community and Children's Services
Michael Bennett	Community and Children's Services
Karen Tarbox	Community and Children's Services
Mike Saunders	Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	Town Clerk's
Doug Wilkinson	Town Clerk's (for item 5)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Gillian Laidlaw, Fiona Lean and Robin Gough (represented by Helen Hudson).

The Chairman asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded for Dr Gianetta Corley, who had been the Gilbert House Group representative for 20 years and had served on the Residents Consultation Committee (RCC) since its inception in 2003. Members noted that Richard Dykes would replace Dr Corley but he had submitted apologies this evening. The Chairman also welcomed new Member, Fred Rodgers from Breton House.

There were several residents in attendance this evening and the Chairman welcomed them. Members were reminded that visitors could address RCC meetings by prior arrangement with the Town Clerk and the Chairman.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

## **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Members noted that, in accordance with general City of London Corporation practice in the administration of meetings, there were no 'matters arising' from minutes. The Town Clerk advised that outstanding actions lists were generally favoured, as they avoided duplication. The Barbican Estate Officers further advised that all outstanding references from the last set of minutes that had been covered in the '*You Said, We Did*' document were included in the various action plans at items 6 and 12.

## **4. TO ELECT A 2<sup>nd</sup> DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

At the AGM on 9th February on 2015, the RCC agreed to appoint a second Deputy Chairman. Following an expression of interest, it was Proposed by Rob Barker, Seconded by John Tomlinson and unanimously agreed that Mr Graham Wallace be elected as the second Deputy Chairman of the RCC.

## **5. BARBICAN AREA CCTV**

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Director, Street Scene (Safer City Partnership), in respect of a proposal to install 24 cameras; to improve the CCTV coverage of the public walkways and the area around the Barbican Estate, including the Golden Lane Estate area.

Members noted that the Police and Community and Children's Services Committees had received this report and Members noted that it would be presented to the Barbican Residential Committee on 1st June and the Safer City Partnership on 8th June 2015. The Assistant Director had been pleased at the good response to the estate-wide survey, appended to this report.

Members also received a report received from the Chairman and from the Chair of the Barbican Association of an Estate-wide consultation of residents on this proposal. Members noted that 57% of residents were in favour of the proposal, while 17% expressed reservations and 20% objected.

During the discussion and questions, the following matters were raised/noted:

- The City and the Barbican were generally very safe areas but there were some crime levels in adjacent areas.
- The Police generally found CCTV cameras to be very effective as a deterrent and in securing convictions.
- Given the layout of the Barbican Estate, 100% coverage was unachievable but the proposal before residents presented a significant improvement.

- The City of London Corporation would face extremely heavy fines for breaching Data Protection and the strict Privacy Guidelines imposed on local authorities using surveillance equipment. The City Solicitor rigorously scrutinised such installations and the equipment being sourced would automatically pixelate private areas.
- There would be no installations on the internal areas of the Estate as the project was subject to funding from 'proceeds of crime' and therefore it would not be a liability on service charge payers.
- In order to comply with Listed Building Guidelines, the suppliers would be expected to provide equipment of a complimentary design. Residents noted that Listed Building Consent and/or Planning Permission would be required; planners had been consulted at an early stage and would assist with the design.
- Surveillance of the car parks would be part of the Police's 'Ring of Steel' project.
- The Control Room would capture all the images and the Assistant Director offered to find out the level of ongoing surveillance and report back to residents.
- The RCC and BRC would receive a further report, for comment, once the funding had been agreed and the detailed design emerged.
- Residents would be kept informed as to the date of installation etc. and disruptions would be kept to a minimum.

## **6. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which updated Members on the implementation of SLA's and KPI's on the Estate. The Chairman was pleased to advise that 2 new Members had been appointed to the SLA Working Party.

During the discussion and questions on this item, the following matters were raised/noted:

- The issue with the Bunyan car wash bay, raised at the last meeting, would be discussed further at the Beech Gardens Project Board on Wednesday this week (20<sup>th</sup> May).
- Members noted that the Barbican Occupiers User Group would be meeting tomorrow (19<sup>th</sup> May) and were invited to raise issues in respect of the cleanliness of the stairs down to Barbican Station and the red and white temporary barriers outside the Girls' School on lakeside.
- There would be an email broadcast on the provision of further bike pods in due course.

**7. ROOF APPORTIONMENTS FOR BRETON AND BEN JONSON HOUSES**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Roof Apportionments for Breton and Ben Jonson Houses. The report was received favourably and recommended for approval by the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. The Chairman thanked officers and the resident Working Party for their hard work on a very detailed and technical project in supplying all the roof apportionments for the estate, which were now complete.

**8. GARCHEY FIVE YEAR REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Garchey Waste Disposal System.

Members asked that an update be given in 2 years' time, with more complete data on the number of units still in use on the Estate. Members also asked that if there are any major works required before Officers carried out a further review.

**9. WORKING PARTY REVIEW (Gardens Advisory Group)**

Members received the minutes of the Gardens Advisory Group from June 2014 to March 2015 and were pleased to note that 3 new Members had joined this working party.

The Estate Officer, who chairs this group, reported on a very successful residents' planting day, where free soil and plants had been supplied to the residents by the Chief Officer.

**10. USE OF PRIVATE GARDENS**

The Committee received a discussion document from the Barbican Estate Office, seeking guidance as to the way the private gardens should be used by residents, their visitors and other occupiers. The Estate Office were frequently asked to carry out contradictory tasks about the use of the private gardens and often found they were unable to satisfy the requirements of all residents.

During the discussion on this item, Members had the following suggestions/ observations:

- The Chairman insisted that matter was not directed at children, as their needs and requirements were equally respected.
- Members would not want to discourage children from enjoying healthy outdoor pursuits
- As there were likely to be many different views expressed; a survey would be of limited value as it could only reach a consensus.
- The 'No Ball Games' signs were gradually disappearing and they should be replaced but as 'polite notices'; given that a very small child playing

with a ball was unlikely to be as disruptive as older children and young adults.

- Signage should be kept to a minimum and be discrete.
- Messages on signs or in email broadcasts should be positive rather than prohibitive.
- Mr Wallace asked for his dissent to be recorded in respect of the provision of signage as he felt that, generally, it was ineffective.
- There was some debate as to what might be considered as 'low level' noise but it was agreed that there was a need to be respectful of all users and that 11pm was a reasonable time to expect all residents to keep noise to a minimum.
- Car Park attendants should not be expected to enforce signage or 'police' the behaviour of residents and/or their children.
- Could the City of London Corporation give consideration to providing more facilities for children, given their numbers were increasing on the Estate?
- Disputes between neighbours should be raised in a polite manner, in the first instance, with residents encouraged to speak directly to the person involved. The Estate Office would support elderly or vulnerable residents in these circumstances.

## **11. PROGRESS OF SALES AND LETTINGS**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which provided the regular sales and lettings update.

## **12. UPDATE REPORT**

Members received the regular update report of the Director of Community and Children's Services. During the discussion on this report, the following matters were raised/noted in respect of Beech Gardens:

- Members noted that, due to a late design change, there would be a minor delay to the completion of the Beech Gardens project. However, should the weather improve this week, all the fencing and equipment would be removed. The Officer advised that it had been necessary to keep the fencing in place whilst the tiles were being cleaned. As the rain had been particularly heavy of late, there had been some pooling but this would be resolved as part of the snagging works. Members were reminded that drainage would be dealt with separately.
- In respect of the snagging process, Members noted that Volkerlaser would undertake the first quality check before handover to the City of London Corporation. At this point, officers would undertake a walk-around with

Volkerlaser and Members of the Project Board would be invited to inspect areas of concern. Members were invited to advise Karen Tarbox of any snagging issues they became aware of, via their House Officers or RCC representative. One Member advised that the fit of the podium door at Bunyan Court had been affected by the new tiling.

- In response to a question about the timing of the fountain at Beech Gardens, Officer agreed to provide an update as soon as possible. They confirmed that a timer would be fitted and this could be adjusted if appropriate.

Members noted that the Asset Maintenance Working Party had been put on hold whilst data in the new Asset Maintenance system was still being amassed and work was ongoing on the Asset Management Strategy. The Chairman advised that the new Strategy would be available in draft, in September, for presentation to the RCC/BRC, along with recommendation on the future role this working party.

### **13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Members noted that there had been 2 advance questions for this meeting, 1 – as above, re the timing of the fountain and another, received today, about parkour damage from free runners on the Estate. Members were reminded that this was a local Bye Law matter and therefore outside the remit of the RCC. However, Members noted that it had been raised at the BA Security Committee last week, which always had a Police Officer in attendance. Members also noted that Common Councilman, David Bradshaw had offered to pursue this on behalf of residents. Members asked that progress on this matter should be reported back to Committee at the next meeting.

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

- The Chairman advised that another volunteer was required for the Window Cleaning Tender Panel. Members were reminded that this would be a time commitment of up to 2 days, in order to hear presentations and deliberate etc.
- Members were reminded of 2 question and answer/induction sessions for new RCC Members taking place this week on 19th at 1 pm; and 20th at 6.30 pm. Existing Members were also welcome.

**The meeting ended at 8.50 pm**

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Chairman

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