

## **Presentation from the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) to the RCC**

*This paper, with the Appendix, was approved by GAG at its meeting 03 February 2017. Pending the RCC approving the proposed revised Terms of Reference and Operational Notes, those resident members wishing to continue have now completed the skills audit referred to in item 3 of the Operational Notes; the template used is attached for information.*

Some resident members of GAG were concerned about how GAG was operating and considered that it needs to develop and focus its aims in order to make it a more effective organisation for the residents. This is particularly in view of the adoption in January 2015 of The Barbican Listed Building Management Guidelines – Volume 4 – Landscape.

As a result of these concerns, a special meeting of GAG was held on 16 January 2017 so the following could be discussed:

the current terms of GAG's remit,  
how they are being implemented,  
consider the subsequent and future developments within the landscaping  
of the Barbican and  
agree a revised remit for presentation to the RCC for their approval.

This presentation is the outcome of that GAG meeting to request approval from the RCC for the attached revised Terms of Reference and Operational Notes for GAG.

The discussion paper used at the GAG meeting, together with the decisions made, is attached as an Appendix for information.

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- 1 Terms of Reference for Gardens Advisory Group (GAG)
- 2 GAG Operational Notes and Inspection Areas

**Appendix** Discussion paper and notes from the GAG meeting on 16 January 2017

## 1 Terms of Reference for the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG)

The Barbican gardens, which include the private areas at Speed House, Thomas More as well as the planted podium raised beds and planters, are managed on behalf of residents by the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) in accordance with a Service Level Agreement with the actual work being carried out by the City Gardens team of the City of London's Open Spaces Department. Whilst the Fann Street Wildlife Garden is part of the Barbican gardens, it is developed and looked after by a collaboration between volunteers in the Barbican Wildlife Group and the Open Spaces Team.

The Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) purpose in establishing the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) was to have a partnership approach (of BEO officers and residents actively and co-operatively seeking improvements) to influence the presentation and future developments of the hard and soft landscaping on the Barbican Estate.

GAG is required to report annually to the RCC on its activities.

The Terms of Reference for GAG will be as follows:

- (a) **Strategic** – that GAG should be involved if the City of London decides, at any time, to implement the recommended overarching Estate Landscape Management Strategy (ELMS) which among other aims should set out the Future Vision of the Barbican Estate landscape and a prioritised ten year action plan for the planning, enhancement, renovation and management of the Estate landscape. Also the ELMS and in particular the ten year action plan, should be linked to an overall Estate Landscape Masterplan.

However, until such time as ELMS is adopted, then an annual action plan covering the same areas as the ELMS should be agreed including:

- details of any longer term future plans for the landscape in the Estate,
- details of what the budgets might be for any projects, including the source of the funding.
- details, both the work and the financial costs, of the on-going management of the Estate.
- details of the overall income and expenditure figures for the Garden Maintenance,
- the percentage paid by the residents whilst
- giving GAG the authority to consider the amount paid by residents and make recommendations for changes to RCC.

- (b) **Quality** – related to the standards to be applied to projects and on-going management and maintenance of all areas, contribute to establishing standards for design of the landscape, to see this translated into

appropriate budgets split between the public and residents areas, to contribute to balancing cost efficiency with providing a high quality visual amenity setting for residents and the public.

- (c) **Operational** – to see that the agreed quality outcomes are delivered day-to-day and to manage/oversee the active contribution from residents and other volunteers.
- (d) **Encouragement** – to encourage residents to ‘green’ their personal space on balconies and patios by use of troughs and pots as well as involving them in the communal areas by, for example, resident planting days.
- (e) **Links** – provide a means for links with and among organisations with common interest in managing, developing and promoting the Barbican landscape. This will include working with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) to co-ordinate its roof garden into the overall landscape strategy for planting as it is visible from the residential blocks and the Highwalks.
- (f) **Communications** – ensure that information about the development of the Barbican landscape is fully and accurately communicated to all residents, also ensure that details of how residents can contact GAG are published in the appropriate places.

To achieve the aims set out in the Terms of Reference, the necessary and appropriate communications between GAG, the BEO and any other bodies should be set up.

## **2 GAG Operational Notes and Inspection Areas**

The following are the operational guidelines agreed with the RCC for GAG.

- 1 GAG is set up by RCC as a Working Party, where the RCC selects the residents who will serve.
- 2 There will be 10 residents on GAG, of which 1 resident will be identified in the Minutes as a representative of the RCC, Barbican Wildlife Group, Barbican Allotment Group and Barbican Horticultural Society. Residents will serve for a period of 5 years with a maximum of 3 members standing down in any one year. However residents standing down can be re-selected by the RCC if it so wishes.
- 3 Resident members will advise details of their other involvement with Barbican organisations and give details of their relevant skills so that it can be seen that all aspects of the hard and soft landscaping are covered. If there is a skill gap, then GAG will have the power to consult with other residents to cover this.
- 4 In addition to the residents, there should be a representative of the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) who will produce the Agenda. In addition, the City Gardens Manager and a working gardener of City Gardens should attend.
- 5 The Chairman's role and that of producing the Minutes will be undertaken by the residents on a rotating basis. The individuals to undertake these roles will be agreed at the previous meeting.
- 6 Meetings should be scheduled for the following calendar year.
- 7 There should be 4 meetings a year, evenly spread throughout the calendar year.
- 8 The Agenda for the meeting should be issued at least 7 working days before the meeting. If any one has an item for the Agenda, this should be notified to the BEO at least 14 working days before the meeting.
- 9 Draft Minutes should be issued within 10 working days of the meeting, any comments and changes should be given within the subsequent 7 working days.
- 10 GAG should produce an Annual Report on its activities to present to RCC for its June meeting.
- 11 A list showing all the areas that GAG is concerned with is attached and will be kept up to date. In addition, GAG will maintain a relationship with the GSMD regarding its roof garden.

- 12 GAG will set up inspections by small groups of resident members to ensure that all the areas on the attached list are regularly considered and any remedial actions are taken. Other residents recruited via the House Groups can be involved in the inspections.
- 13 Lines of communication will be established to ensure that GAG has all the information to comply with its Terms of Reference.
- 14 GAG will ensure that residents are aware of its existence and official communications will be issued.
- 15 GAG will help to arrange residents planting days and other events aimed at engaging residents with their landscape.

## **Inspection Areas**

The following is a list of all the areas on Barbican Estate that need to be considered by GAG

### **South West**

- Thomas More Garden
- Hanging gardens by all weather pitch
- Planters on Mountjoy Highwalk (allotments)
- Planters by Lauderdale Tower
- Planters on Defoe Highwalk
- Planters by Shakespeare Tower (allotments)
- Lake in front of Arts Centre including the berms
- Gardens by St Giles, City Wall remains and towards Barber Surgeons Hall, including the lake

### **East**

- Speed Garden
- Pergola
- East lake with berms, igloo pods and waterfall garden
- Planters on Willoughby Highwalk (including those looked after by BHS Members)
- Planters on Brandon Mews Highwalk
- Planters on Speed Highwalk
- Moor Lane garden by Andrewes Car Park
- All gardens by Andrewes overlooking Fore Street, including the trees in the car park
- High-level garden connecting Andrewes to Postern

### **North West**

- Beech Gardens (western part)
- Garden between Bryer Court/Bunyan Court and John Trundle Court – White Lion Court
- Garden overlooking Aldersgate by John Trundle Court
- Plinth and small garden at Aldersgate end of ramp - with bas-relief frieze

### **North East**

- Ben Jonson terrace, including 6 allotment planters,
- Beech Gardens (eastern end)
- Frobisher Crescent (Sculpture Court)
- Podium planting around Cromwell Tower and in street level forecourt
- Planters on Breton House Highwalk (some looked after by BHS members)
- Silk Street bed

### **Fann Street area**

- Fann Street Wildlife garden

## Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) presentation to RCC

## Appendix

### Discussion paper and notes from Meeting of GAG on Monday 16 January 2017 at 2.30pm

#### Purpose of meeting:

- To review the terms of GAG's remit,
- To review how they are being implemented,
- To consider the subsequent and future developments and
- To decide on any changes so that a revised remit can be presented to the RCC for their approval

It is felt that GAG needs to develop and focus its aims in order to make it a more effective organisation for the residents.

*This discussion paper has been developed by Natalie Robinson, Nancy Chessum, Judith Serota, Paula Tomlinson and Mary Winch.*

*Mary Winch and Natalie Robinson were the lead authors and the paper will be introduced by Natalie Robinson who will also lead the meeting through the Agenda.*

#### Present:

<b>Helen Davinson</b>	<b>BEO</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>Louisa Allen</b>	<b>Open Spaces</b>	
<b>Natalie Robinson</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Chairing</b>
<b>Mary Winch</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Sarah Hudson</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Paula Tomlinson</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Colin Slaughter</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Nancy Chessum</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Mark Mallindine</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Judith Serota</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Candace Gillies-Wright</b>	<b>Resident</b>	
<b>Maggie Urry</b>	<b>Resident</b>	

#### Apologies:

**Jenny Addison**

#### Contents – to be used as the AGENDA

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**1 Existing Remit** – the original remit as set by the RCC in 2010 was as follows:

“The Barbican gardens which include the private areas at Speed House, Thomas More and Fann Street as well as the planted podium raised beds and planters are managed on behalf of residents by the Barbican Estate Office in accordance with a Service Level Agreement, the actual work is carried out by the City Gardens team of the City of London’s Open Spaces Department.

There are two areas relating to Gardens which are under review.

Firstly the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) has approved the establishment of a Gardens Advisory Group dealing with “soft” issues to provide input to the technical aspects of garden maintenance process and introduce the knowledge and experience of residents who have an interest in gardening issues.

Secondly, the Landscaping Strategy Working Party which reports to the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) is considering proposals for the hard landscaping around the estate, for example, planters and irrigation projects. However, there has been no progress with these projects due to funding issues.

Key remit areas:

- Quarterly Joint Inspections with House Officers and Open Spaces Officers
- To comment upon plants being used. To help prioritise new and trial planting schemes for new planters such as those being installed outside Shakespeare Tower - all schemes subject to funding
- To comment upon levels of maintenance being undertaken by Open Spaces such as pruning
- To provide a steer for the RCC and BRC for new projects and trials eg. Providing allotment spaces - subject to funding”

From May 2014, following a range of changes initiated by RCC for its Working Parties, the part referred under the paragraph starting with the word ‘Secondly’ has been removed from the remit for GAG, however the consideration of planters and the irrigation system seems to have been included into GAG briefings from the BEO.



## 2 Subsequent Developments

The following should now be considered in the context of the Remit:

(a) The Barbican Listed Building Management Guidelines – Volume 4 – Landscape, which was adopted in January 2015

[https://www.google.co.uk/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=barbican+listed+building+management+guidelines+volume+4](https://www.google.co.uk/?gws_rd=ssl#q=barbican+listed+building+management+guidelines+volume+4)

(b) The City's Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 – 2020, which was adopted in the autumn of 2016.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/city-gardens/wildlife-and-nature/Documents/city-of-london-biodiversity-action-plan-2016-2020.pdf>

(c) The Estate is entered on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as Grade 11\* .

This is an exceptional grading for a post war entry. Although there are no specific statutory controls, the National Planning Policy Framework para 132 gives registered parks and gardens an equal status in the planning system as listed buildings and scheduled monuments – (section 1.3.28).

(d) As the Barbican is recognised as a Grade 2 Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation under the City's Biodiversity Plan, this means that nature conservation is a primary objective for land management – (section 1.1.5).

As part of this, the City of London Tree Strategy identifies the value of maintaining and planting native trees and the main aim is to increase City Corporation owned trees by 5% by 2019 – (section 3.6),

### **Potential impact of future local developments and changes**

For the future, the following developments and changes are likely to have an impact on the Barbican Estate:

- Introduction of a Low Emission Zone,
- Opening of Crossrail stations at Barbican and Moorgate,
- Museum of London moving to Smithfield,
- Development of The Centre for Music (or anything else on the current Museum site)
- Expansion of The Barbican Centre as a cultural hub

All these developments / changes are likely to increase the footfall in the public areas of the Highwalk and have an impact on the landscapes.

### 3 Discussion Points

- 1 Apart from the word 'Firstly' the original overall aims for the establishment of GAG as set out in the first paragraphs of the remit seem to continue to cover the aims in a general manner.

However they do need to be expanded particularly in the light of the fact that in the Management Guidelines document it is stated that representatives of the BEO, CoL Open Spaces and Built Environment Managers should attend and report to GAG thus providing a direct route for engagement and involvement of residents – (section 3.2.18).

As far as it is known no representatives of the Built Environment Managers attend the GAG meetings – is it known why? If not can it be considered if it would be a good idea? Presumably, Built Environment Managers were included as a means of co-ordinating with the **hard** landscape – if not the case then why would they have been included? Should Built Environment now be represented on GAG?

**Since the Listed Building Management Guidelines were produced, there has been a change in responsibilities within the Barbican Campus. The Barbican Estate now take the lead and therefore it is not necessary for DBE to attend GAG**

- 2 What happened to the BRC Landscape Working Party?

As this Working Party no longer seems to exist, there is no longer a group focusing on the various elements of the **hard** landscape – including planters and irrigation – all of which have a direct impact on the gardens.

**This Working Party is no longer in existence.  
The group felt that the use of hard and soft landscape was not necessary and that the “landscape” should be referred to.**

How is the involvement of residents in this aspect of the 'landscape' best managed and should it be formally made part of GAG? Are the appropriate groups to be represented at GAG the Barbican Wildlife Group, Barbican Allotment Group, Barbican Horticultural Society and the Friends of City Gardens?

**Discussion concluded that the FoCG did not need to be represented but that architectural skills and knowledge of sustainability were desirable. A skills audit of the current GAG would be an appropriate starting point.**

- 3 Estate Landscape Management Strategy (ELMS)

In addition it is stated **(within the Listed Building Management Guidelines)** that there should be an overarching Estate Landscape Management Strategy (ELMS) which among other aims should set out the Future Vision of the Barbican Estate landscape and a prioritised ten year action plan for the planning, enhancement, renovation and management of the Estate landscape – (section 3.2.24). Also it is stated that the ELMS and in particular the ten year action plan, should be linked to an overall Estate Landscape Masterplan – (section 3.2.25).

No evidence can be found of any start on either the ELMS or the Landscape Masterplan and as far as we know, this is the situation.

If this is correct, should GAG start to take the lead or at least ask questions about it?

**Whilst the LBMG considered it desirable for an ELMS to be created, the BEO and Open Spaces do not currently have the resources to compile this document.**

- 4 If ELMS (and/or the Landscape Masterplan) is not to be prepared, what are the reasons?

**Answered in 3 above**

As a result, GAG needs to ask for information regarding future plans for the Estate landscape. In the meantime, an annual action plan with costs and budgets should be agreed for GAG – these aspects are considered more in point 11.

- 5 Draft Revised Terms of Reference

To succeed in its purpose, the Terms of Reference for GAG need the following objectives:

- (a) Strategic – related to points 3 and 4 above
- (b) Quality – related to the standards to be applied to projects and on-going management and maintenance of all areas, contribute to establishing standards for design of the landscape, to see this translated into appropriate budgets split between the public and residents areas, to contribute to balancing cost efficiency with providing a high quality visual amenity setting for residents and the public.
- (c) Operational – to see that the agreed quality outcomes are delivered day-to-day and to manage/oversee the active contribution from residents and other volunteers.
- (d) Encouragement – to encourage residents to ‘green’ their personal space on balconies and patios by use of troughs and pots

- (e) Links – to provide a means to have links with the other organisations with common interests in the Barbican landscape
- (f) Communications – to ensure that information about the Barbican Landscape is properly and accurately communicated to all residents and residents can find details of how to contact GAG.

If GAG is to attempt to fulfil these Terms of Reference, then considerably more information from (and involvement with) the BEO will be required.

## 6 Meeting Schedule for GAG

With regard to the current meeting schedule, it is suggested that the quarterly inspections are not often frequent enough, particularly as the timing is roughly January, April, September and November. This timing also means that there is no inspection or consideration of the planting and its effect between April and September, exactly during the main growing season when most people are around the Estate and the greatest impact can be seen.

**All agreed. Meeting schedule for 2017 amended to a July and October meeting (from a September and November meeting).**

- 7 A possible approach to improve the inspections would be to divide the Estate into say 5 areas where each area is monitored by a group of two or three members of GAG on a monthly/six weekly basis and that they report back to other members on that area, either at the next GAG meeting or immediately if there is concern about some aspect. It would be helpful if a representative of Open Spaces were available for these inspections as they could answer questions and perhaps arrange for any immediate actions considered necessary. The areas could be:

- (a) the South West – centred on Thomas More gardens
- (b) the East – centred on Speed Gardens
- (c) the North West – centred on the western end of Beech Gardens
- (d) the North East – centred on the eastern end of Beech Gardens, including Breton House area
- (e) Fann Street Wildlife Garden.

Whatever approach is adopted for the inspections, then it is felt that it would be helpful for all members of GAG to be aware of all the areas that need to be considered. This can be in the form of a list which should mean that no areas are overlooked. A draft of all these areas is shown in Section 6 of this paper.

**The meeting concluded that these should be in addition to the inspection at the formal meetings. LA to provide quality standard bench-marking information that can be used. The logistics of this to be discussed at 03.02.17 meeting. In terms of Working Party**

**numbers, 10 resident members makes this an achievable task. It was felt that 8 resident members would not be enough. This it to put in place for a year and then reviewed.**

8 Potential beneficial impact on quarterly meetings

If the above approach were adopted then it would mean that GAG meetings could become mainly an indoor meeting unless there was a pressing need to visit somewhere that day.

If there is a particular area to be discussed that members should visit before the meeting, then this should be identified on the Agenda. The quarterly GAG meetings should be more evenly spread though the year, say January, April, July and October – agree?

**Arrangements to be as agreed in 7 above.**

9 The timing for the issue of the Agenda for the GAG meetings and the subsequent Minutes should be agreed.

In 2014, RCC strengthened its working groups operations by stating that, amongst other things, minutes should be circulated within 2 weeks of a meeting. It is stated that the GAG Minutes are available on the City of London BEO website and reported to the committee – (section 3.2.2).

Also in section 3.2.18 it is stated that an Annual Summary Report to the RCC should be provided. As far as we are aware, at present this report consists of just a copy of the Minutes for the GAG meetings during the year and this is the only way that the minutes are available.

Good practice would suggest that the Agendas should be issued at least 7 working days before the meeting and draft Minutes should be issued within 10 working days following the meeting.

**Agreed. Chairing and minute taking to be taken in turns by the Group (with volunteers decided at the previous meeting). HD still to responsible for agenda.**

Consideration should be given to whether or not these Minutes should be on the BEO website – are the Minutes of other RCC Working Groups displayed here?

**Minutes are on CoL website (as part of the Committee papers)**

For the Annual Report to the RCC, a short report should summarise the purpose of GAG and what progress has been made against its objectives etc, perhaps with the Minutes made available as an Addendum.

**Agreed. GAG to write this.**

This Annual Report could also be used for publicity purposes to inform all residents of the existence and activities of GAG.

**Report could also be sent out via BEO Broadcast as well as via BA**

10 Maintenance Standards

In order to be able to consider the standards of maintenance with City Gardens, then relevant details of the contract need to be supplied to GAG – how can this be achieved?

**There is an internal SLA. Louisa is currently working on the 17/18 document. This will be presented to GAG at 02.03.17 meeting.**

11 Annual Action Plan

Until such time as there is an ELMS available, then an annual action plan should be agreed with GAG including:

- details of any longer term future plans for the landscape in the Estate,
- details of what the budgets might be for any projects, including the source of the funding.
- details, both the work and the financial costs, of the on-going management of the Estate.
- details of the overall income and expenditure figures for the Garden Maintenance,
- the percentage paid by the residents, whilst
- giving GAG the authority to consider the amount paid by residents and make recommendations for changes to RCC.

Who will prepare, maintain and agree this annual action plan for GAG –BEO? Should GAG have power to recommend changes to the resident percentage to RCC?

**Agreed that an annual action plan –with a forward look of [say] 5 years- should be prepared by GAG/BEO, probably via a subgroup. Agreed that the power to recommend changes, to RCC, in the residents percentage should be included in the GAG ToR to be presented to RCC.**

12 The Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) roof garden is also covered in the guideline document where it is thought to be under exploited. At the same time it is stated that it needs to be co-ordinated within the overall landscape strategy for planting and also

considered for the aerial view from many of the residential blocks – (section 1.5.74). How can this be proceeded with?

**The group thought this could be future aim.**

#### **4 Terms of Reference for the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) – draft for agreement**

“The following is a draft for a revised Terms of Reference for GAG which, once agreed in GAG, would be submitted to the RCC for their approval and adoption:

“The Barbican gardens which include the private areas at Speed House, Thomas More as well as the planted podium raised beds and planters are managed on behalf of residents by the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) in accordance with a Service Level Agreement with the actual work being carried out by the City Gardens team of the City of London’s Open Spaces Department. Whilst the Fann Street Wildlife Garden is part of the Barbican gardens, it is developed and looked after by a collaboration between volunteers in the Barbican Wildlife Group and the Open Spaces Team.

The Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) purpose in establishing the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG) was to use a partnership approach (of BEO officers and residents actively and co-operatively seeking improvements) to influence the presentation and future developments of the hard and soft landscaping on the Barbican Estate. GAG is required to report annually to the RCC on its activities.

The Terms of Reference for GAG will be as follows:

(g) **Strategic** – be involved with developing an overarching Estate Landscape Management Strategy (ELMS) which among other aims should set out the Future Vision of the Barbican Estate landscape and a prioritised ten year action plan for the planning, enhancement, renovation and management of the Estate landscape. Also the ELMS and in particular the ten year action plan, should be linked to an overall Estate Landscape Masterplan. Until such time as ELMS is adopted, then an annual action plan covering the same areas as the ELMS should be agreed including:

- details of any longer term future plans for the landscape in the Estate,
- details of what the budgets might be for any projects, including the source of the funding.
- details, both the work and the financial costs, of the on-going management of the Estate.
- details of the overall income and expenditure figures for the Garden Maintenance,
- the percentage paid by the residents whilst
- giving GAG the authority to consider the amount paid by residents and make recommendations for changes to RCC.

(h) **Quality** – related to the standards to be applied to projects and on-going management and maintenance of all areas, contribute to



establishing standards for design of the landscape, to see this translated into appropriate budgets split between the public and residents areas, to contribute to balancing cost efficiency with providing a high quality visual amenity setting for residents and the public.

- (i) **Operational** – to see that the agreed quality outcomes are delivered day-to-day and to manage/oversee the active contribution from residents and other volunteers.
- (j) **Encouragement** – to encourage residents to ‘green’ their personal space on balconies and patios by use of troughs and pots and for them to be involved in any resident planting days. **that this should also apply to communal areas.**
- (k) **Links** – provide a means for links with and among organisations with common interest in managing, developing and promoting the Barbican landscape.
- (l) **Communications** – ensure that information about the development of the Barbican landscape is fully and accurately communicated to all residents, also ensure that details of how residents can contact GAG are published in the appropriate places

To achieve the aims set out in the Terms of Reference, the necessary and appropriate communications between GAG, the BEO and any other bodies should be set up. “

## 5 GAG Operational Notes – draft for agreement

The following is a draft for some GAG operational notes, which once agreed in GAG, would be submitted to the RCC for their approval and adoption:

“The following are the guidelines agreed with the RCC for the operation of GAG.

- 15 GAG is set up by RCC as a Working Party.
- 16 There should be 10 residents on GAG, of which 1 resident should be identified in the Minutes as a representative each of the Barbican Wildlife Group, Barbican Allotment Group, Barbican Horticultural Society and Friends of City Gardens.

**(not FoCG. Skills audit. To include architectural expertise and understanding of sustainability issues.) Also agreed that residents should serve for a period of 5 years.**

- 17 In addition to the residents, there should be a representative of the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) who will chair the meetings, produce the Agenda and the Minutes. In addition, the City Gardens Manager and a working gardener of City Gardens should attend.
- 18 Meetings should be scheduled for the following calendar year.
- 19 There should be 4 meetings a year, evenly spread throughout the calendar year.
- 20 The Agenda for the meeting should be issued at least 7 working days before the meeting.
- 21 Draft Minutes should be issued within 10 working days of the meeting, any comments and changes should be given within the subsequent 7 working days.
- 22 GAG should produce an Annual Report on its activities to present to RCC at its June meeting.
- 23 A list showing all the areas that GAG is concerned with will be prepared and kept up to date.
- 24 GAG will set up inspections by small groups of resident members to ensure that all the areas on the list in 9 are regularly considered and any remedial actions are taken.

**(sit underneath the current group inspections and provide opportunity for all residents to be involved via House Groups)**

- 25 Lines of communication will be established to ensure that GAG has all the information to comply with its Terms of Reference.
- 26 GAG will ensure that residents are aware of its existence and official communications will be issued.
- 27 GAG will help to arrange residents planting days and other events aimed at engaging residents with their landscape. “

## **6 Inspection Areas**

The following is a list of all the areas on Barbican Estate that need to be considered by GAG

### **South West**

- Thomas More Garden
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- Lake in front of Arts Centre including the berms
- Gardens by St Giles, City Wall remains and towards Barber Surgeons Hall, including the lake

### **East**

- Speed Garden
- Pergola
- East lake with berms, igloo pods and waterfall garden<sup>1</sup>
- Planters on Willoughby Highwalk (including those looked after by BHS Members)
- Planters on Brandon Mews Highwalk
- Planters on Speed Highwalk
- Moor Lane “currently missing” street Garden by lift to Willoughby Highwalk
- Moor Lane garden by Andrewes Car Park
- All gardens by Andrewes overlooking Fore Street, including the trees in the car park
- High-level garden connecting Andrewes to Postern

### **North West**

- Beech Gardens (western part)
- Garden between Bryer Court/Bunyan Court and John Trundle Court – White Lion Court
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### **North East**

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- Beech Gardens (eastern end)
- Frobisher Crescent (Sculpture Court)
- Podium planting around Cromwell Tower and in street level forecourt
- Planters on Breton House Highwalk (some looked after by BHS members)
- Silk Street bed

### **Fann Street area**

- Fann Street Wildlife garden

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequently confirmed as NOT part of Barbican Estate gardens

## 7 Notes on history of GAG

These notes have been prepared using an archive kept by Nancy Chessum who was one of the original resident members. This archive contains the Minutes of all known GAG meetings since it commenced in 2010.

- GAG established in March 2010; 6 residents + Estate Services [Michael Bennett], City Gardens Manager [Open Spaces] and allocated House Officer [Helen Davinson -Chair] [ref. HD email 16 February 2010]
  - The 6 residents include members of established groups which have a strong interest in Barbican Gardens: Barbican Horticultural Society [BHS]; Fann St. Wildlife Garden [established 2004]. In addition, 1 resident member becomes the lead in developing the Allotments
  - Aim is to provide input to technical aspects of garden maintenance process and introduce knowledge and experience of residents who have an interest in gardening issues
  - Agreed remit refers to 2 areas under review related to Gardens: 1] **soft** [landscaping] issues dealt with via GAG; 2] Landscape Strategy Working Party [BRC] dealing with proposals re **hard** landscaping but no progress due to funding
- To start with meetings are every couple of months but settle into 3 or 4 times a year and GAG continues as established until early 2014 with only minor changes to participants e.g. 2012 -an original resident member steps down and FoCG lead joins; 2013 -Louisa Allen joins as new City Gardens Manager; Geoff Rodgers [Head Gardener] attends. All meetings are minuted and include statements of annual priorities [often with costs] until e/o 2013. During the period 2010-2014, GAG achieves:
  - Fann St. Wildlife Garden [BWG] continues to develop with appropriate support
  - An Allotments programme is developed leading to the Barbican Allotments Group being established
  - Contribution to the thinking about savings in Landlord's Budget from a shift from annual bedding to herbaceous/shrub planting
  - Other incremental improvements together with knowledge development which includes understanding beekeeping, nature conservation etc
- In early 2014, RCC strengthens all its Working Parties by:
  - Requiring at least 8 resident members on each
  - Meetings being scheduled 12 months in advance
  - Minutes being circulated within 2 weeks of a meeting
  - WP activities being reviewed by RCC once a year
- As a result, 2 new resident members are appointed to GAG ; the remit for GAG -shown at the start of every Minute from 12 May 2014- is changed [from what has been in place since inception] to what is in use currently; it no longer refers to "secondly". This may be because the BRC Landscape Strategy Working Party identified in 2010 has disappeared -perhaps because of the need to contribute to a renewed focus on the Listed Buildings Management Guidelines -especially the development of Vol IV -Landscape which was subsequently approved in January 2015.
- At the beginning of 2015, 3 of the original resident members of GAG stand down and replacements are sought -especially to increase representation wildlife [BWG] and allotments [BAG]. Resident membership is further increased later in 2015 to 12; 2 new members subsequently stood down and GAG continues in 2016 with 10 resident members, a majority of whom are linked with the other organisations with an interest in the Gardens -FoCG; BHS; BWG; BAG

**Gardens Advisory Group  
Resident Members Skills Audit**

**February 2017**

This short questionnaire aims to collect information about current members and their links and skills. It would be helpful if you would print it out and complete it –as far as possible- and bring it the meeting on 03 February so that the Agenda item can be used to resolve queries and collect the information.

Name:

House:

Date you joined GAG:

Linked organisations –  
please tick the ones you  
are a member of.

Your GAG-related skills –  
please tick those that  
apply to you.

Any other skills you  
would be willing to  
contribute?

Barbican Horticultural Society	
Barbican Wildlife Group	
Barbican Allotments	
RCC	
House Group Committee	
Plantsman/women	
Horticulture	
Wildlife [urban]	
Sustainability	
Gardening [generally]	
Garden/Landscape Design	
Architecture	
Planning	
Communications	
Chairing meetings	
Taking Minutes	
Running a Group	

Anything you would like to add?

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Thank you for your help.