

Report on Accounts for the Barking Reach Residents Association 2022-23

Period: 1st April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The opening balance of the Barking Reach Residents Association was very healthy at £2384.56, and closed at £2327.08, slightly down due mostly to the account maintenance fee (see note 1).

Bellway Campaign

In 2021, BRRA raised £534 for the successful Bellway Campaign (see note 2) less £18.30 in PayPal fees. A resident's Jotform account was used in this campaign, t-shirts and leaflets were produced, and other expenses incurred. £243.80 was claimed in the previous financial year for banners and leaflets. In the financial year covered on these accounts, £205.20 was paid as a final reimbursement for this campaign during the current year. In total across the two accounting years, a net £515.70 was raised in this campaign (after deducting the fees), and £449 has been claimed and reimbursed.

There were two fundraising events in the financial year April 2022 to March 2023.

Election campaign

The first followed the January 2022 decision by the residents association committee to reaffirm its commitment to stand residents association candidates in the local elections, as put forward in the January 2022 residents association meeting. The aim was to take a first step towards direct representation of all residents in the two electoral wards across which the Barking Riverside estate stretches, but in particular, to represent Barking Riverside residents, in the council. To this end, the committee organised a collection of voluntary donations to support two candidates in the council elections of 2022. £189.95 was raised for this campaign from volunteers who supported the campaign, including £5.05 in PayPal fees, and the total cost was £147.79. (See note 3 for more details.)

International Workers Day (May Day)

The second fundraiser was a brief campaign to raise funds for a Greeting advert to celebrate International Workers Day placed in the Socialist newspaper, as agreed at the March 2023 residents association meeting, to highlight our demands on housing (see note 4). £115 was raised on PayPal from volunteers, less a PayPal fee of £3.01, and a further £25 into the Metrobank account, making £136.99 and £136 was paid for the greeting.

Statement of accounts

Barking Reach Residents Association accounts 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

Metrobank account		Inc	Exp
Metrobank Opening balance brought forward		2384.56	
Income			
Election campaign contribution (Metrobank)		20.00	
May Day Greeting fundraiser (Metrobank)		25.00	
PAYPAL transfer		311.32	
Expenditure			
Account Maintenance Fee			72.60
Jotform expenses			205.20
Socialist Publications Ltd.			136.00
			Caspain Quarter cladding / recognition
			May Day Greeting
		356.32	413.80
Metrobank Closing balance 31/3/23		2327.08	
PayPal account		Inc	Exp
PayPal Opening balance brought forward		29.38	
Income			
May Day Greeting fundraiser		111.99	
Election campaign contributions		169.95	
Expenditure			
Transfer of funds to Metrobank			311.32
		311.32	311.32
Paypal Closing balance		0.00	

Major Campaign balances

The balances of four campaigns are shown in the table below.

Our **Fire Safety Fund** was raised after the Samuel Garside House fire in 2019. These funds have been used to publicise the case, and it has previously been agreed to fund the website BarkingRiversideFire.com, hosting and domain name, and reimbursement for these costs was due in June 2022 but were not claimed, and are outstanding: £72 for the website (£5 per month for 12 months plus VAT). This will also be due in June 2023 and the domains will also be renewed in this financial year. The Samuel Garside House resident directors agreed to cancel domains that had been bought in addition to BarkingRiversideFire.com to cut costs, but to retain SamuelGarside.com for future use.

Our **Service Charge legal fund** is agreed to be only used for collective campaigns, not for individual service charge complaints, and has not been used as yet - the Caspian Quarter Bellway protest campaign was the latest campaign which was ready to call on these funds when bellway caved.

The **Bellway protest campaign** has been itemised above.

Other amounts which have been raised for various items historically (and the 2022 Council election campaign) have covered costs with any small balance going into the general funds.

Major Campaign balances		
	1st April 2022	31 March 2023
	Opening balance	closing balance
Fire safety fund	488.69	488.69
Service charge legal fund	1453.21	1453.21
Bellway protest campaign	271.90	66.70
Council election campaign 2022	189.95	42.16

Notes

1. The officers have been working with Metrobank to remove this maintenance fee. Our original application was for a Community account which has no charges, but the bank put us on a business account with charges. As reported last year, the bank admitted its error and we got the first year's charges rescinded, but have not yet successfully transferred to a community account due to complications with the new application forms we had to submit, and the charges have been reinstated.

2. The Bellway campaign was a campaign in 2022 to force Bellway to remove the cladding on the six blocks of the Caspian Quarter free of charge. Adriatic Land, the landlord, had

attempted to roughly £1.4million in costs on the service charge of the 316 dwellings in the Caspian Quarter, at a huge cost.

3. The association stood the chair of the association Pete Mason and Akhter Khan, who has a long record of campaigning on environmental issues affecting Bangladesh, as the second candidate, both standing as part of the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition, the only political organisation that fully supports the demands of the residents association.

£189.95 was raised. Costs incurred were for two leaflets, the first paid for by the chair, for which reimbursement has not yet been claimed. The first was for £71.91 for which the residents association has the receipt, less a refund of £11.08 for late delivery. Consequently £60.83 was claimed in April 2023. The second leaflet was for £84.96, was also reimbursed in April 2023 (after the close of the April 2022-March 2023 accounting period).

There were in fact three runs of leaflets printed, but the first for £162 was paid by a grant from TUSC.

4. The greeting read:-

**Proposal to celebrate International Workers' Day, 1st May
May Day Greeting from Barking Reach Residents Association to the Socialist newspaper**

The Barking Reach Residents Association sends May Day greetings to the Socialist newspaper, which has always supported and reported on our campaigns over the years.

- * We demand a walk-in GP service for our Healthy New Town
- * Government to abolish leasehold for all homes leased by the big landlords, granting freehold (or commonhold for flats) to the leasehold owners without charge.
- * Abolish tax haven-based landlords who are grabbing ground rent for hedge funds
- * Nationalise the top ten homebuilders profiteering from building unsafe and poorly finished properties
- * Housing Associations to end the 30-60 minute call centre wait times and fix issues swiftly
- * Councils have failed to stop the decades-long drift to deregulation and unsafe homes. They must engage in a mass home building programme of genuinely affordable, safe and secure, good quality homes. Residents must hold them to account.
- * Nationalise the insurance and energy industry to provide greener solutions for energy that in turn impact an affordable service charge to residents.
- * Sprinklers to be retrofitted into all blocks owned by large landlords such as Adriatic/Bellway, at the landlord's or builder's expense.

