Barbican Renewal

Report of public consultation held 19 May – 2 June 2025



Photo by Dion Barrett

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Introduction

Barbican Renewal is the Barbican Centre's plan to ensure every part of its iconic site is restored, revitalized and relevant for future generations. At the heart of Renewal is a commitment to celebrating the architectural vision and heritage of the Centre, with a programme of sensitive conservation and upgrade to bring the buildings back to their best, while also delivering a place that is truly inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

After more than 40 years of intensive activity, the Centre is now in urgent need of upgrade and improvement. Barbican Renewal will celebrate and enhance the Centre's unique architecture and design heritage, ensuring it can be enjoyed by future generations. This includes revitalising existing spaces, improving access for all visitors, and making the building more efficient and sustainable.

Barbican Renewal is already underway, with essential improvements being made to systems and visitor facilities. The next phase of work from 2025-2030 proposes complete restoration and refurbishment of key public spaces including the unique brutalist Foyers, Lakeside Terrace, and Conservatory. Subject to planning permission, construction will begin in 2027 with this first phase complete in 2030, ahead of the Barbican's 50th anniversary.

This report outlines the activity and responses to a public consultation exercise held from 19 May to 2 June 2025. The following sections describe first how the consultation was conducted before presenting the consultation feedback alongside project responses across five themes:

- 1. Renewal overall
- 2. Toilets
- 3. Foyers
- 4. Lakeside
- 5. Conservatory

Summary of consultation activity

The consultation presented information in themes of Renewal overall, Foyers, Lakeside and Conservatory. The bulk of the consultation material comprised a report of an earlier consultation exercise held in January-February 2025 along with responses to issues raised by respondents to that consultation and design updates. This enabled participants to understand what had come from the earlier consultation and how designs had progressed in the interim, whether in response to consultation feedback or for any other reason. As part of the consultation, new CGI imagery was provided to help respondents visualise the changes.

The material was made available online at barbican.org.uk/renewal and supplemented by a range of meetings and events, as follows:

- A webinar held and recorded on the day the consultation launched with more than 70 attendees.
- Four drop-in sessions of 150 minutes each, attended by the project team and architects, held in different spaces within the Centre, at a variety of days and times throughout the consultation period.

These activities were widely publicised to the local community, stakeholders and Centre audiences using a range of methods including emails, digital newsletters (from the Centre and City of London Corporation), letter drops, flyers and posters. See appendix 1 for details and examples of the activity.

People were able to respond to the consultation via a range of methods:

- An online survey at barbican.org.uk/renewal
- A paper version of the survey available in the Centre and posted on request
- By email to barbicanrenewal@barbican.org.uk or letter to the Centre

The next section of the report presents the analysis of quantitative and qualitative responses to the consultation.

Analysis of responses

In total, 1,908 consultation responses were received as a mix of online survey responses (1,568), paper survey responses (12) and emails (328).

The consultation survey asked questions across four categories:

- 1. The Renewal programme overall
- 2. Foyers
- 3. Lakeside
- 4. Conservatory

For each category, respondents were asked to answer a closed question, expressing their view of the proposals on a five-point scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. They were also invited to submit any other comments in a free text box. Respondents were free to choose which of the questions they answered, although the online version of the survey required a response to the first closed question to avoid blank responses being received.

All the responses received, including some which were sent separately by email or letter rather than through the survey, have been analysed, coded and grouped into themes. These are reported in the following sections of the report along with a response from the project team.

Renewal overall: consultation findings and updates

Across the Renewal programme as a whole, 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with our proposals.

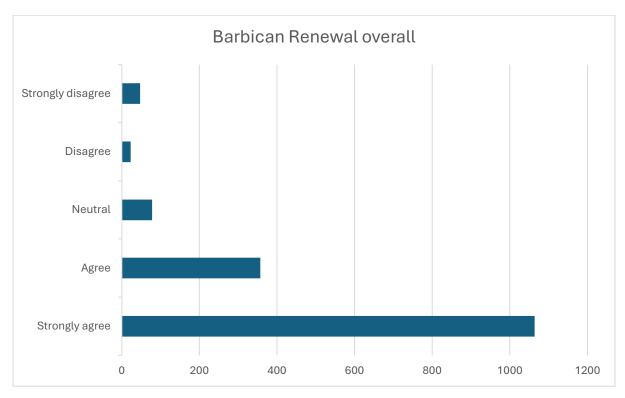


Figure 1: chart of responses to the Renewal programme overall

In written feedback it is of note that apart from three categories (general support, accessibility and inclusion) the remaining comments were made by very low numbers of respondents, each in single figures. The comments are summarised below, with responses and updates from the project team, in alphabetical order by category of issue raised.

Accessibility:

Summary of feedback	Project response
There was a significant degree of support for plans to improve accessibility, including new lifts, automatic doors, different types of seating and toilets suitable for all needs. In addition the following specific comments and suggestions were made: General principle that this should be a top priority That language needs to be welcoming and accepting alongside the building Suggestions for lowered counters, accessible working areas for disabled performers and provision of accessibility aids (not specified)	The support is noted and 'design for all' is one of the four key principles the Renewal project is working to. We have recently established an Access and Inclusive Design Advisory Group which will work closely with us throughout the rest of Phase 1 to ensure that the detailed design meets our aspirations for access and inclusion. This includes disabled artists/performers who have worked at the Centre.

Architecture and heritage:

Summary of feedback

Comments were made that the Centre's architecture should be celebrated and that the Brutalist character of the building must remain.

Comments also emphasised the importance of the Centre's architectural heritage and offered support and/or suggestions for protecting this:

- -Maintaining or restoring original finishes, fixtures and fittings
- -Ensuring that the enjoyment of discovering the building is not lost in changes to make it more accessible

Project response

One of our four design principles for Renewal is 'repair and conserve: celebrate the Barbican's iconic architecture, honouring the bold vision at the heart of the Centre's development'. This principle underpins all the Renewal proposals, with sensitive changes being made only where they will enhance the building and visitor experience and meet modern standards for accessibility and sustainability.

Renewal will retain and restore as many original fixtures and fittings as possible, and visitors should expect to see key features such as the brass handrails and door furniture, wood block flooring, terrazzo restored and retained, along with the monumental hand-hammered concrete. Where changes are being introduced, some of these will go back towards the original design (e.g. the doors to Lakeside, lighting fixtures) while new additions such as the proposed Foyer lift will be designed sympathetically to the originals.

Doors:

Summary of feedback

A respondent expressed opposition to changing the doors, considering them part of the iconic architecture of the Centre.

Project response

Many of the doors and their fittings are part of the historic design of the Centre and will not be changed. Our main proposal for doors is to replace those between the Level G Foyer and the Lakeside, which are not of original design. The original doors were in a single layer and highly transparent, creating a sense of connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces. The current design of rows of narrow, heavy casement doors, with thick framing and internal lobbies is detrimental to the aesthetic and user experience of the Foyers. Our proposal is to return to something as close to the original as possible, while meeting modern standards for accessibility and sustainability by using automated sliding doors and a glazing system that will reduce heat loss and gain.

General support for proposals:

Summary of feedback	Project response
- Carriniary Cricoaback	1.10,001.000000

The largest group of comments expressed	The responses are noted.
general support for the need for Renewal and	
the proposals overall, including the design	
principles.	

Impacts - construction:

Su	mmary of feedback	Project response
•	A suggestion was made to close the	We are aware that Barbican Renewal is
	Centre and do all the work in one go to	happening alongside many other changes in
	reduce the duration of work and not have	the local area, including improvements to the
	works happening while people are trying	Barbican residential estate, the proposed
	to use and enjoy the space	'healthy neighbourhood' scheme affecting
•	A Barbican Estate resident expressed	surrounding streets and developments of
	concern about noise and intrusion of	neighbouring sites. We are working closely
	building works	with colleagues in the City of London,
•	A request was made to maintain access	including with the Barbican Estate Office and
	to the Library throughout the works	City Surveyors team to coordinate work and
		minimise the impacts of multiple projects
		happening simultaneously.
		We are aiming to keep the Centre open
		throughout Renewal although different parts
		of it will need to close at times. We do not yet
		have details of the construction programme,
		though we are committed to working closely
		with residents and other local stakeholders
		to find ways to keep disruption to a minimum
		while enabling us to complete the projects.

Inclusion:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A number of comments referenced the	The comments are noted and we aim to
importance of, and support for, making the	create a fully inclusive environment through
Centre more inclusive and welcoming to all.	Renewal, particularly in enacting our design
Some of these specifically mentioned trans	principles of 'design for all' and 'reactivate
and non-binary people and disabled people.	space', with improved access, circulation,
	wayfinding and facilities, alongside
	revitalising underused spaces - opening them
	up to the public and delivering creative offers
	that speak to new audiences.

Maintenance:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A small number of responses highlighted the	The feedback is noted and we agree that
need for ongoing repairs to ensure the	ongoing maintenance will be essential,
longevity of Renewal.	although the large capital investment into
	building fabric and modern systems will
	reduce the need for ongoing running repairs
	in the coming years, compared with the
	current situation after more than 40 years of
	heavy use of the building.

Miscellaneous/other:

Summary of feedback	Project response
 Two comments expressed scepticism that the proposals would come to fruition. One was concerned that the proposal to 'remove unnecessary clutter' is vague and more detail is required A concern was raised as to whether the quality of work and materials would match the high standards of the original Barbican Centre 	Subject to planning permission, Phase 1 of Renewal is 80% funded by the City of London Corporation, and the Centre is fundraising for the remaining sum. We are confident that the programme is deliverable in the timeframes we have set out. More detail of all our plans is now available in the planning application. We have planned and budgeted to ensure that the design, work and materials are on par with the original high quality and longlasting design of the Centre.

Planting:

support for increasing planting and green areas across the site. One suggested learning about trees and tree pits from colleagues in the City of London as their experience will be relevant to Renewal's and we are working closely with colleast the City of London Corporation through Renewal. More details of the planting proposals developed in the coming months and	Project response	Summary of feedback
 Two comments asked about specifics of planting and particularly suggested not 	the City of London Corporation throughout Renewal. ir More details of the planting proposals will be developed in the coming months and specifics are not currently available.	support for increasing planting and green areas across the site. One suggested learning about trees and tree pits from colleagues in the City of London as their experience will be relevant to Renewal's design. • Two comments asked about specifics of

Public access:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A small number of respondents made comments in relation to use of the Centre's spaces after Renewal: Some queried the extent to which children should be accommodated and wanted the Centre to remain a place mainly for adults Two wanted to ensure that informal uses and activities by individuals and community groups would still be welcomed and not pushed out by Barbican events One suggested having 'adults only' times some evenings	As a public building the Barbican Centre has always welcomed a wide range of audiences, visitors and different uses. Our design principles of 'design for all' and 'reactivate space' signal our intention for this to go further in future. We will continue to ensure that families and small children are welcome and will be better accommodated in future, but there will also be times of day, activities/programming and parts of the Centre (e.g. Martini Bar) that are more suited to adult audiences. We also intend to continue to strengthen our relationship with a wide range of local communities both
Some evenings	through our organised 'Take Part'
	programming and through the public areas of the building being, in future, as now,
	welcoming for self-organised meet-ups and
	creative activities.

Seating and furniture:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A response suggested providing more seating	The Renewal programme will include
at the Centre.	significant improvements to furniture, with
	more places to sit and better and more
	flexible furniture for a range of needs and
	uses across the site. The design of this will be
	developed at a later stage of the project and
	is not subject to planning permission, so no
	further details are available currently.

Sustainability:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Responses offered support for the focus on	The support is noted.
sustainability, reducing energy use and	
increasing biodiversity.	

In addition to the above there were a small number of responses which raised issues related to the consultation process and issues which are out of scope of Phase 1 of Renewal, which was the subject of the consultation. These are reported as follows:

Consultation:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A small number of responses raised	The comments are noted and will be
concerns with the content provided in the	reflected on in development of future
consultation, specifically that:	consultations. Full details of proposals are
-The online survey should have had links to	now available in support of the application
the proposed changes for ease of reference	for planning permission, which is subject to a
-The information provided was too vague or	statutory public consultation run by the City
not detailed enough to be able to comment	of London Corporation.
-There should have been more images and	
diagrams	
-There was too much text and this is	
inaccessible to some	
-The website was difficult to navigate to find	
details of the proposals	
Concern that the survey results may be	There was some evidence of campaigning
influenced by campaigners (some responses	activity influencing consultation responses,
specified that the consultation was being	however all responses are analysed on the
targeted by anti-trans campaigners)	merits of the issue raised rather than the
	motivation of the respondent, and have been
	responded to in this report.

Out of scope of the Phase 1 proposals:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Issues were raised in relation to accessibility:	These points are not in scope of Phase 1 of
Concern at lack of disabled parking for	Renewal or this consultation, however they
high wheelchair accessible vehicles	have been raised with relevant colleagues in
within the car parks. This means people	the Centre to see if it is possible to address
	them outside of the Renewal programme.

 have to park on street and navigate narrow pavements and road crossings Suggestion that the Barbican should have more captioned performances and/or handheld captioning devices A suggestion to provide accommodation rental units for non-UK members 	The Centre does not have available space to provide accommodation on site.
A request from a Barbican resident to clarify	We work closely with colleagues at the
that leaks, lighting and dust in the car parks will be handled by the Barbican Estate Office	Barbican Estate Office and will liaise closely on construction impacts. Responsibility for the car parks will remain as currently divided between those operated by the Centre for its visitors and those for Estate residents.
A comment that there is lack of examples provided of how the need to connect with other major developments in the area has shaped the plan	
 Comments about other parts of the Centre needing Renewal including: Improvements to the performance spaces and venues A specific comment about the Hall needing cosmetic and acoustic improvements A request to refresh the Members' lounge and improve the seating Concern about lack of plans for the Exhibition Halls 	While most of these areas are not currently planning for delivery during the 2025-2030 phase of Renewal the feedback has been logged and will be reviewed as part of future phases that may address some of these issues. There are some works taking place to the artistic venues that are not part of the Phase 1 proposals and do not require planning permission. This includes replacing the air handling systems for the Art Gallery and Hall, back-of-house theatre systems, and upgrades to lifts and existing toilets across the Centre. Further expanded maintenance and improvement projects in these spaces could also be delivered during this first phase of work but are not part of this planning application.
 Issues relating to transport: Comments about routes from the nearby Underground stations, including a concern that people should not walk through Beech Street tunnel, that Moorgate should be renamed 'for Barbican' and Barbican renamed Aldersgate Street and that the yellow lines could be re-implemented for onstreet navigation Suggestion for wayfinding across the City for people trying to find the Centre, particularly from London Wall and Aldersgate Street Separately comments in favour of improvements to cycle parking provision, 	Where some of these issues fall out of the Centre's authority (e.g. wayfinding and routes to and from the Centre on street and via the Tube network) we will be working closely with the relevant authorities on their projects to try and ensure that visitors and audiences benefit from any changes. The comments in relation to cycle parking have been logged and will be reviewed as part of future phases and/or other programmes that might be able to address these issues.

including parking for cargo bikes, and in favour of reducing danger from motor traffic around the venue	
A comment that Members' lounge no longer	The Members' lounge is not in scope of Phase
has soft seating and a request to bring this	1 of Renewal however the feedback has been
back	passed to the relevant team internally.

Toilets: consultation findings and updates

By far the largest source of issues raised in the consultation was proposals for toilets across the Centre. Because of this it is being reported as a separate category (it does not have a separate quantitative question because this was not part of the survey). The large majority of responses focussed on plans to increase the number of toilets overall, with reductions in single sex facilities in parts of the Centre alongside an increase in unisex and accessible toilets in parts of the Centre that are significantly underprovided with facilities. Most of the responses were received via the online survey but in addition 318 emails were received, which are reported below alongside the survey results.

Toilets – accessibility and inclusion:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Numerous comments offered general	The general support for accessible and
support for accessible and inclusive toilets	inclusive toilets has been noted.
that ensure everyone is welcome and able to	We propose to add a number of accessible
access the Centre.	toilets on different floors, which will be
In addition there were some suggestions for	designed to modern standards including
more accessible toilets, including making	cubicles for wheelchair users and ambulant
them larger than the existing ones to allow for	disabled people. A Changing Places facility is
wheelchairs to turn comfortably and for	proposed for the new Level G toilet block in
Changing Places toilets to be provided on	addition to the existing Changing Places
each floor.	facility in the Cinema 2/3 building.

Toilets – support for unisex/gender-neutral toilets:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Over 500 responses were received that made	The issues raised have been noted. Details of
comments in support of unisex/gender-	our plans for toilets have been made
neutral toilets. Specific issues were raised as	available as part of the planning application,
part of this covering the following topics:	including a full Equality Analysis of the
Support for trans and non-binary	proposals which addresses issues raised in
inclusion	this consultation in more detail, alongside
Universal cubicles have greater privacy	advice and expertise from other sources.
for anyone that needs them (e.g.	
menstruation, complex needs, stoma-	
changing, medical conditions) than	
single-sex toilets	
Unisex toilets are easier for parents to	
accompany children of the opposite sex	
People do not have to justify their right to	
use a particular toilet (e.g. if they do not	
present visually as being a particular	
sex/gender)	
Unisex single cubicles will reduce queues	
for women and others that unisex	
cubicles are more accessible for all	
Concern that gender-neutral toilets are	
proposed to be removed from the Centre	

Concern that restaurant/café customers
 will not have access to a gender-neutral
 toilet other than that designated for
 disabled users

Toilets – suggestions in relation to unisex/gender-neutral toilets:

Summary of feedback **Project response** The issues raised have been noted. Details of A small number of responses made suggestions in relation to unisex/genderour plans for toilets have been made neutral toilets: available as part of the planning application, including a full Equality Analysis of the Maintaining separate-sex toilets proposals which addresses issues raised in Making the majority of toilets gender this consultation in more detail, alongside neutral advice and expertise from other sources. Providing all gender-neutral toilet blocks Including period bins in all cubicles The Cinema 1/Pit Theatre toilets are not in Providing gender-neutral toilets in scope of Phase 1 of Renewal, however the addition to rather than instead of male substantial changes to toilet provision and female toilets proposed as part of Renewal will allow us to Providing space for a buggy in women's look at toilet provision holistically across the toilets Centre and make sure we meet the needs of Providing a mix of self-contained and all our visitors, working in line with current ordinary cubicles in women's toilets to legislation. accommodate different needs Providing a self-contained women's accessible toilet (rather than unisex) to give disabled women the same facilities as others Changing the Cinema 1/Pit Theatre toilets

Toilets – concerns and opposition to unisex/gender-neutral toilets:

from gender-neutral to single-sex

Summary of feedback	Project response
Over 400 responses (a mix of survey responses and emails) were received that opposed or raised concerns about plans to reduce the number of single-sex toilets and provide new unisex 'Universal' cubicles. These raised the following specific issues: General objection to unisex or genderneutral toilets Plans are discriminatory against women because the change disproportionately impacts them negatively Objection to reduction in women's single-sex toilets Women need more toilet cubicles available than men Women are more likely to be caregivers for children and older people	The issues raised have been noted. Details of our plans for toilets have been made available as part of the planning application, including a full Equality Analysis of the proposals which addresses issues raised in this consultation in more detail, alongside advice and expertise from other sources.

- Women take longer to use the toilet, which means they need more facilities to reduce queueing
- Women who are vulnerable and/or have experienced trauma will be deterred from using them
- Lack of privacy in a shared facility
- Shared facilities are undignified, particularly in relation to periods, menopause and incontinence
- Safety concerns including risk of assaults and sex crimes; risk of voyeurism and hidden cameras; risk to unaccompanied children; risk that someone with a health issue will not be seen or assisted promptly due to floor-to-ceiling doors on unisex cubicles
- Opposition to concept of gender
- Proposals contravene Part T of Building Regulations
- Proposals contravene Supreme Court ruling on definition of a woman
- Legal action will be taken against the Centre
- Shared facilities with men are unhygienic
- Unisex cubicles take longer to use and will exacerbate queueing
- Some people need single sex facilities for religious reasons
- People with learning disabilities may find it hard to understand which toilet to use
- Older people do not like unisex toilets, older men need access to urinals, older women are more impacted by dirty toilets
- Concern that only unisex facilities are being provided in future
- Disagreement with co-design finding that non-gendered toilets are a priority

Toilets - other:

Summary of feedback

Other comments and suggestions were made in relation to toilets, as follows:

- Refurbishment is badly needed due to the poor quality of existing facilities
- Cubicle sizes should be larger and include basins for privacy and needs such as menstruation
- Improvements are needed to baby changing facilities

Project response

The comments have been noted and our proposals include a significant increase in 'universal' cubicles with integrated handwashing facilities. There will also be more and improved baby changing facilities and more toilets throughout the building with an increase in the number that can be used by women.

General support for an increase in the number of toilets, the need for more women's toilets and ensuring toilets are easily available throughout the building
 Space could be taken from men's toilets if necessary as they do not have to queue currently

Foyers: consultation findings and updates

In relation to the Foyers, 92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with our proposals.

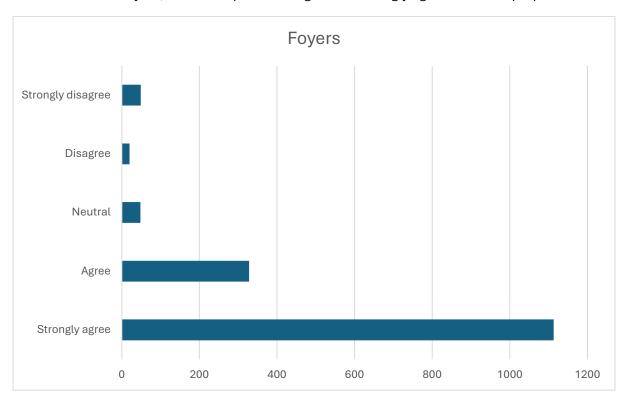


Figure 2: chart of responses to the Foyers project

As with the Renewal section, comments summarised below were made by very low numbers of respondents, each in single figures apart from one of the comments in relation to wayfinding which was made by 11 individuals. The comments are summarised below, with responses and updates from the project team, in alphabetical order by category of issue raised.

Accessibility:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Comments in support of increasing the	Design for all is one of our design principles
accessibility of the Foyers, including:	for Renewal and accessibility for older and
Support for the proposal for a new lift	disabled people is a key part of achieving
Suggestion to include escalators (with	this. Renewal has already been informed by
reference to Royal Opera House and	specialist support from Arup Inclusive
other large buildings)	Environments as well as engagement with
	disabled stakeholders and Centre users. An
	Access and Inclusion Advisory Group has
	been established to ensure that disabled
	people's expertise and lived experience
	remain central to the development of the
	project. More detail on plans is available as
	part of the planning application. This does
	not include escalators, which we do not
	believe are practicable within the historic
	design of the listed Barbican Centre.

Architecture and heritage:

Summary of feedback **Project response** Celebrating the heritage of the listed building A concern that the plans as set out is at the heart of the Renewal programme. As change the Brutalist style of the Foyer much as possible we are preserving and Suggestion to integrate the different levels of the Barbican and make it feel restoring original features, while making sympathetic upgrades where necessary to less disjointed improve accessibility, reduce energy use, Suggestion to re-open the circle entrance meet modern safety standards and improve to Theatre left via the Members Room visitor experience. The proposals are Suggesting removing the later addition of designed to enhance and show off the an internal bridge in the Foyer (between original Brutalist design. Silk Street entrance and the Lakeside) A key proposal to integrate the different levels Restoring the original diamond-shaped is the addition of a lift within the main foyer chandelier that hung over the staircase that would connect Level G, the mezzanine below it and Level -1. At present the step-free route between these spaces is very disjointed and requires travel either via the shop or crossing the internal roadway at Level -1. In relation to the internal bridge and chandelier, we do have a long-term aspiration to return to the original Foyer design, however this is not part of the current phase of work and would require an alternative step-free route from Silk Street to be created alongside alternative step free entrance routes into the Centre. The Members' room is not in the scope of Phase 1 but is likely to be looked at in future phases of Renewal.

Art and performance programming:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Suggestions for public sculptures and other	As part of our plans for the Foyers we intend
artworks in the Foyers	there to be a more consistent and reliable
	arts offering, which is likely to focus on visual
	arts at Level G and performances in the new
	dedicated space at Level -1.

Bars:

Summary of feedback	Project response
There were several comments on the Foyer	The Martini Bar is proposed to remain in its
bars as follows:	current position on Level 1 with
 Request to retain the Martini bar as feeling dark, quiet and comfortable 	improvements to the bar itself and nearby seating. This is likely to remain the Centre's
Concern about noise from moving the Circle bar closer to the Concert Hall	'destination bar' and lighting and interior design will reflect this intention.
 Concern about circulation and separation from moving the Circle bar 	We have changed the proposed design of the Circle bar slightly to address concerns about its operation and circulation around the bar

 Suggestion for a 'destination bar' in the Foyers that is a more special space for events and occasions and Circle doors to the Hall. It will be designed with appropriate acoustic separation to ensure no interference with concerts in the Hall.

Box office:

Summary of feedback

Concern about the location and design of the proposed welcome and information point, due to:

- Past experience that this location was too noisy and busy with people walking past
- The circular design being difficult for staff and customers e.g. knowing where to queue, staff feeling vulnerable
- A suggestion that front of house staff should be involved in the future design
- Concern about removal of the box office
- Concern about removal of the welcome desk at the Silk Street entrance

Project response

We have selected the location for the new welcome and information point to be visible and accessible from all the main routes in the Level G Foyer (from Silk Street, Lakeside or the catering block).

The exact location is expected to be less busy than currently as it will no longer be the main thoroughfare to Lakeside as the entrance bay by the lift lobby is being replaced with fixed glazing.

The design of the information point will be created in close consultation with staff as key users of the facility and we will take into account concerns and experience about circular facilities.

The box office at Level -1 is proposed to be removed for several reasons including much wider use of e-ticketing, the box office being closed much of the time and it being in an inconvenient location. Box office functions will in future be available where audiences need them most.

Catering:

Summary of feedback

Suggestions for improvements to restaurants, including:

- A upscale/fine destination dining option
- More use of British and local produce (food and drinks)
- General improvement to dining spaces, food and service
- Cheaper food options
- More doors to open onto Lakeside from the ground floor café

Project response

The café and restaurants on Level G, 1 and 2 are proposed to remain as catering outlets following a full refurbishment and refit. The detail of what catering is provided will come later in the programme and will be subject to a public procurement exercise to identify the most suitable partners to run the facilities. We do not propose to create more doors from the Lakeside café. We believe there are sufficient exits already and that the long glazed frontage is a popular and useful place for customers to sit. We are also working within the constraints of a listed heritage building.

Doors:

Summary of feedback Project response

Two comments expressed opposing views on changing the doors to the Lakeside:

• A respondent expressed support for the new doors as the current ones are difficult to use and unattractive

• An alternative view expressed a preference for the existing doors due to them being quieter, historical and creating pause/drama at the entrance

The proposed design for the doors is intended to make them accessible for all users and to re-establish the historic link between the Foyers and Lakeside, which has been diminished by the later addition of a double layer of heavy, narrow doors.

Flooring:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A comment in support of the wooden floors	The wood block flooring at Level -1 is a key
at Level -1 (Hall stalls level)	feature of the original design which will be
	preserved along with other materials like the
	tiles, brass handrails and door furniture,
	terrazzo and hand-hammered concrete.

General oppose:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Two comments opposed the Foyers plan due	These comments should be seen in the
to not being ambitious enough in proposing	context of wide support for the proposals.
changes. Both responses suggested the	Our proposals to restore the original lighting
Foyers are unwelcoming and dark and that	design and to bring in more natural light
the proposals would not address this.	through the single line of doors will
	significantly enhance the foyers and enable
	us to flexibly zone spaces according to need
	and function.

General support:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A small number of comments offered general	The support is noted.
support for the changes, with some specific	
points made in support of:	
Making the doors more accessible	
Having the box office facility at Ground	
level	
Increasing seating	
Improving lighting	
Performance area at Level -1	
New floor coverings	

Inclusion:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Support for the co-design priority of including	A dedicated quiet room has been designed
low-stimulation zones and sensory clues for	as part of the proposals. Further detailed
neurodivergent people	design to ensure the Centre is welcoming for
	all will be created with input from our Access
	and Inclusive Design Advisory Group and

based on expert input from Arup Inclusive
Environments.

Lighting:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A mix of comments in relation to lighting,	Lighting designers have recreated the original
including support for improvements to the	light fittings using a low energy LED system.
lighting (specifically mentioning glare in the	We intend to return high quality lighting to
Silk Street entrance) as well as concern that if	each of the square 'coffers' in the ceiling of
it becomes too bright or the lighting is of poor	the Foyers which will create brighter spaces
quality it will negatively impact the	overall but also allow us to zone areas for
atmosphere of the space and the transition	different uses through adjustable brightness
into the darkness of the venues.	and set moods for different needs, spaces
	and times of day.

Performance:

Summary of feedback

- A concern about removing the Level G
 'Free Stage' due to the successes of the
 current location (popular, good
 audiences, balcony views from above,
 promotes other events, provides custom
 for hospitality outlets, preserves access
 to the Hall)
- A concern raised that the new location for the performance space on -1 would be difficult to find and people would not happen across it spontaneously.
- A suggestion that the Centre needs a smaller 'studio'-style performance space and that the -1 performance space should be more permanent than temporary.

Project response

While the Level G Free Stage has been popular and well used for many years, it has a number of challenges for audiences, performers and Centre staff. The sight lines are very restricted, it blocks one of the main sets of doors to the Lakeside and needs of different audiences and customers can be in conflict (e.g. people socialising in the Foyer/using the café vs people watching the performance. A dedicated space at Level -1 will allow us to provide a better experience for all while mitigating the risk of sound escaping and disturbing our residential neighbours. We believe that more people will be able to enjoy the new space, which will still be easily accessible from the main Level G Foyer.

There are no plans currently to create an additional studio but we will continue to activate different parts of the Centre for art and performance outside the main venues.

Seating and furniture:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A variety of comments in relation to seating	ng The Renewal programme will include
and furniture, including:	significant improvements to furniture, with
 Suggestion for more and better seating 	g in more places to sit and better and more
the Foyers	flexible furniture for a range of needs and
 Support for the original Robin Day sea 	ating uses. The design of this will be developed at a
design	later stage of the project and is not subject to
 Concern that the CGI images in the 	planning permission, so no further details are
consultation suggest the furniture is	available currently. We are however looking
being removed	at zoning the spaces with the heart of the

 Comment that furniture needs to accommodate people during the day for a range of uses such as reading, working and meeting friends Foyers kept flexible for different uses and work/study areas provided separately to more social spaces.

Shop:

Summary of feedback Project response A small number of comments raised The Renewal of the Foyers aims to bring more concerns about the proposed new location of people into the heart of the space, including the shop: by reinstating the central bays as the main connection with Lakeside, creation of a new Concern about the new location of the block of toilets and other facilities, the shop being less visible than currently location of a new welcome and information Concern about the new location of the desk and the location of the new shop. The shop being less commercially viable than shop will have good visibility within the space currently and the footprint is more suitable to what is Support for the existing location of the needed than the current shop. shop creating buzz at the entrance to the More detail about the case for removing the Centre current shop and how this reinstates original views across the space is available as part of the planning application.

Wayfinding:

Summary of feedback	Project response
 General support for improvements to signage and wayfinding (including comments about the difficulty of navigating the Centre currently). Concern about wayfinding improvements and that they might lessen the maze-like aspect of the Barbican's character and the connection people feel with the venue as they get to know their way around 	Improvements to wayfinding and signage will be a major part of Renewal, however design proposals are not yet developed so do not form part of this consultation. We are currently (May 2025) appointing consultants to work on this with us and all feedback will be shared with them as they start their work, which will be subject to future public engagement and applications for consent.

Workspace:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Comments reflecting different views on the use of the Centre Foyers for study or work, including: • A concern that people working dominate the Foyer seating without participating in the life of the Centre. This included suggestions that computer users should have a dedicated area with an hourly charge and not be allowed to take up seats in the evening before performances • A desire to keep or rearrange the study spaces so that people can continue to work flexibly	The Centre will continue to welcome people who work and/or study as part of their visit. We are however looking at zoning the spaces with the heart of the Foyers kept flexible for different uses and work/study areas provided separately to more social spaces.

Lakeside: consultation findings and updates

In relation to the Lakeside, 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with our proposals.

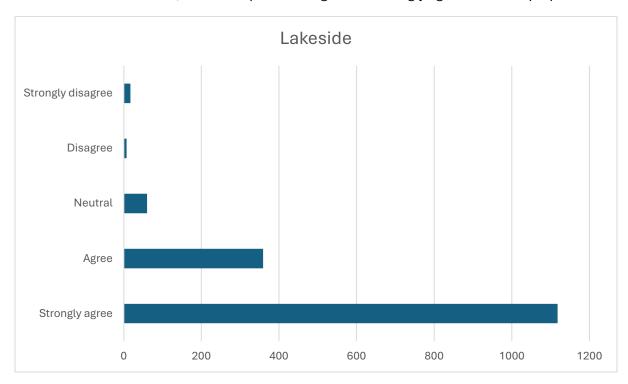


Figure 3: chart of responses to the Lakeside project

As with the Renewal overall and Foyers categories, the issues summarised and responded to below were made by very small numbers of respondents, each in single figures.

Accessibility:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Concern that the staircase from Lakeside to	This staircase will be fully refurbished as part
Podium is in poor repair with water pooling	of the Renewal of Lakeside.
that makes it difficult to use the handrails.	

General support:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Comments offered general support for the	The support is noted.
Lakeside proposals including mentions of	
restoring the fountains, providing shading	
and increasing sustainability.	

Heritage:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Two responses made mention of the	The proposals for Lakeside are first and
Lakeside heritage, one urging the use of	foremost a restoration of the original design,
materials that match the originals and the	which includes removing later additions and
other concerned that the proposals are	clutter such as flagpoles and the large, black
cluttered and obscure the Brutalist	monolith sign. Any new materials will match
	the look and quality of the originals as closely

architecture (although without specifying	as possible, with some subtle changes such
which elements this referred to).	as an upgrade to the glazed elements of the
	façade. The only significant visual changes
	proposed are the addition of awnings to
	shade the catering block which will be
	sensitively designed to minimise their visual
	impact while providing essential shade on
	this south-facing side of the building. More
	detail of the designs is available as part of the
	planning application.

Impact on residents:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A concern was raised that increased lighting	We are very conscious of being good
and visitor numbers would affect	neighbours and carefully balancing the
neighbouring Barbican residents.	operations and artistic programming of the
	Centre with the need to avoid undue noise
	and disturbance and prevent public
	nuisance.
	We will continue to work closely with
	residents' representatives (particularly the
	House groups, Barbican Association,
	Neighbourhood Forum and ward councillors)
	throughout the development of Renewal,
	including updating our Visitor Management
	Plan in consultation with residents to
	manage any impact on the local community.
	Lakeside lighting will be sensitively designed,
	recreating or taking inspiration from original
	fittings while reducing light pollution and
	ensuring light is directed downwards. We will
	focus on lighting key routes and edges of the
	Barbican Centre building to help with visitor
	egress and highlighting the lake while leaving
	other areas in darkness.

Members:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A suggestion was made that there should be	We do not propose to create a Members' area
a Members' area on the Lakeside.	on Lakeside and will be maintaining it as a
	public space.

Other developments:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A comment was made that the CGI of the	1 Silk Street is a proposed development
Lakeside should show the proposed 1 Silk	external to the Barbican Centre, which is still
Street development and that this would	subject to the planning process. As such it
negatively impact the existing view.	would not be appropriate to include it in our
	drawings, which were designed to show the
	future look of the Lakeside terrace itself

rather than any potential changes to the
skyline around it.

Planting and wildlife:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A suggestion that planting can add shade and	Planting designs for the external areas are
ambience to the Lakeside.	being developed with the intention to
A comment that the Lake has partly rewilded	increase the amount of planting at both lake
and is home to nesting birds, with a request	and balcony level and for the design to be in
that this is allowed to continue.	keeping with the eco-Brutalism of the
	Conservatory. Planting will be designed to
	support biodiversity and the wildlife of the
	Estate.

Seating and furniture:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A suggestion that there should be plenty	As with the Foyers, the Renewal programme
of casual seating and lounging areas for	for Lakeside will include significant
the community to enjoy.	improvements to seating, with more places
A separate comment that colour and	to sit and better and more flexible furniture
style of seating need to be cohesive with	for a range of needs and uses. The detailed
the rest of the Lakeside style	design of this is for a later stage of the
	project, so no further details are available
	currently.

Shading:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A range of comments in relation to shading covering the following specific points: Support for more outdoor covered space due to the direct sunlight on the Terrace Support for shade for the restaurant areas Concern that the awnings proposed are not large enough to shade the current outdoor seating from the southern sunshine Concern that the design of the awnings is not in keeping with the facade and that umbrellas would be preferable	The comments in relation to existing plans for shading have been noted and we will also consider them in future work on the seating areas. We believe that the designs of the awnings strike an appropriate balance between the need to shade both the outdoor seating areas and the glazed south-facing facades of the catering block, while celebrating the iconic listed design of the Lakeside terrace.

Water features:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Concern that the 'aerator' fountains	The aerator fountains will be renovated as
contained within the Lake are not shown in	part of Barbican Renewal along with the
the images and a request that they are	Lakeside terrace fountains and the waterfall,
included in Renewal.	all of which will benefit from a new control
	and pumping system.

Windowsill:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Comment that it is difficult to see the design	The feedback is noted and more detailed
of the lowered windowsill from the images	images are available as part of the statutory
provided.	consultation on the planning application in
	summer-autumn 2025.

Conservatory: consultation findings and updates

In relation to the Conservatory, 93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with our proposals.

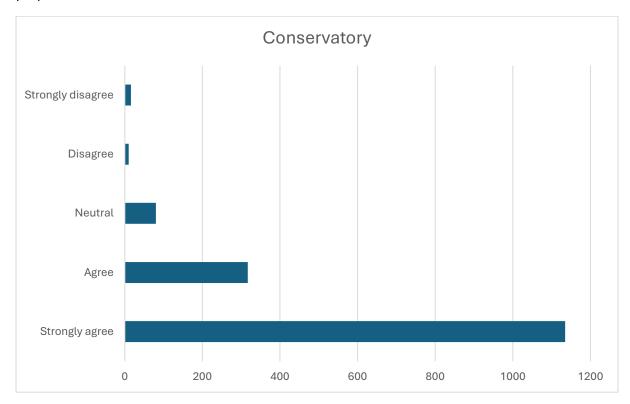


Figure 4: chart of responses to the Conservatory project

As with the Renewal overall, Foyers and Lakeside categories, the issues summarised and responded to below were made by very small numbers of respondents, each in single figures.

Budget and funding:

Summary of feedback **Project response** Concern that capital investment in the The Conservatory is one of the parts of the Centre most urgently needing Renewal as the Conservatory will be at the expense of fabric of the structure is failing, particularly other parts of the Centre requiring the glazing and the waterproofing. Failing to Renewal address these would likely require the Concern about the ongoing revenue cost closure of the Conservatory within the near to sustain the facility future and water ingress in particular has a damaging impact on the Theatre which sits below the Conservatory. The budget for Renewal has been calculated to address all the most important works for Phase 1 including completing these to the high quality of design and finish that visitors and audiences expect from the Centre. Further budget will be needed for later phases of Renewal. While there is of course revenue cost of maintaining the Centre's facilities, the

Conservatory is a commercial asset and
Renewal will provide better event hire spaces
enabling an increase in commercial income
to help fund the public areas of the Centre.

Catering:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Suggestion to include a permanent café	Our proposals do not include a permanent
facility as part of the Conservatory	café within the Conservatory, however we are
	designing a flexible catering space as part of
	the Garden Room and there will be
	possibilities to provide pop-up catering as
	required.

Entrances:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Suggestion to improve and make clearer the	Our proposals are for the original entrance to
entrance to the Conservatory	the Conservatory (from the Sculpture Court)
	to become the new 'main' entrance, with a
	new welcome and arrival area just inside.
	Designs for this are available to view as part
	of the planning application.

Events:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Opposition to hosting private events that might damage the plants Concern from a nearby resident about an increase in private functions and potential for noise and light pollution affecting the Barbican Estate	Project response The new designs for the Conservatory are intended to create more separation between the private event spaces (Garden Room and Terrace) and the main Conservatory, to enable much greater public access throughout the week. That said, there will still in future be events across the whole Conservatory as there have been for decades and our venue managers and gardening team will ensure that those are held in a way that
	will ensure that these are held in a way that ensures the plants are nurtured and respected. We have prepared a Venue Management Plan for the space to make sure it is effectively managed. We will consult on this plan as the project develops in advance of the renewed Conservatory opening in 2030. The event spaces will continue to be used as they are now to host private events, with design improvements significantly reducing noise spill outside due to the new glazed containment. Lighting is being designed to improve performance and minimise
	pollution, lighting the interiors sensitively without disturbing neighbours.

Glazing of terrace:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Two responses required clarification about	The Terrace is a space within the main
the glazing-in of the Conservatory Terrace.	Conservatory at the upper level, it is not an
The first highlighted a confusion about where	external terrace. It is mainly used as an event
this space is located, suggesting that it was	space for private hire, and currently this
an exterior space that would be newly glazed	restricts the possibility of publicly opening
for commercial purposes. The other wanted	the Conservatory at the same time. Our
to check that the new, glazed structure would	proposal is to create a glazed wall, designed
be a similar form with improved glazing	to be in keeping with the rest of the
specification.	Conservatory construction, to separate the
	terrace from the rest of the Conservatory
	which will allow us to hold private events
	while still maintaining public access. It will
	also contribute to our sustainability goals
	because the enclosed Terrace will be
	conditioned for human comfort whereas the
	main Conservatory will be passively heated
	and cooled to be appropriate for the plants at
	different times of year.

Other:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Suggestion that the Conservatory isn't	This comment should be seen in the context
needed and could be put to better use.	of the popularity of the Conservatory and very
	high level of support for Renewal proposals.
	The Conservatory is part of the listed
	Barbican Estate and is a treasured hidden
	gem which Renewal intends to make
	available to a much wider public.

Outside Centre:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Concern about impact of scale of proposed 1	We are closely following the development of
Silk Street development on viability of plants	the 1 Silk Street proposal and do not believe
in the Conservatory	that the current plans will affect light in the
	Conservatory to the extent that plants would
	be negatively impacted.

Plants:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Support for the planting proposals and	The feedback is noted.
creation of a nursey	

Public access:

Summary of feedback	Project response
Support for increasing public access to the	The support is noted and plans for 'activation'
Conservatory, including suggestions for	of the Conservatory will be developed ahead
gardening events, sales of cuttings and	

enthusiasm for being able to access the	of its re-opening in 2030 (subject to planning
balconies	permission).

Staircase:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A small number of comments on the design	The feedback is noted but should be seen in
of the new staircase, including it needing	the context of strong support for the plans
more work 'on aesthetic grounds'; concern	and designs presented in the consultation.
about the size and visual impact; concern	The staircase has been designed to be a new
about it being out of keeping with the	feature of the space and more details of the
architectural heritage; and support for the	proposal are available as part of the planning
materials chosen.	application, subject to consultation in
	summer-autumn 2025.

Water features:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A request for more information as to why the	The carp have outgrown their current location
pond is unsuitable for the koi carp and a	and need a greater size and depth of pool
request to keep some fish in the future	that can be accommodated in the
Conservatory.	Conservatory. They will be rehomed into a
	more suitable environment. We do not plan
	to have fish or reptiles in the Conservatory
	post-Renewal and will focus on it being a
	showcase for a wide variety of plants.

Wayfinding:

Summary of feedback	Project response
A suggestion for better signage to find the	This will form part of the wayfinding project
Conservatory from the ground floor	which is part of Phase 1 of Renewal but not
	the subject of the current consultation or
	planning application as details are yet to be
	developed.

Next steps

This report forms part of the Statement of Community Involvement being submitted in July 2025 in support of the Barbican Centre's application for planning permission for Phase 1 of Renewal. The report demonstrates overall a very high level of support for the Renewal proposals, alongside a number of comments and queries on specific topics, which have been addressed above.

It is clear that, unlike the earlier January-February consultation, the main topic of interest in this consultation became the Renewal proposals for changes to toilets facilities across the areas in scope of Phase 1. The details of the proposed changes along with a rationale for these and a full Equality Analysis has been provided as part of the planning application. This application will be subject to a further statutory public consultation run by the City of London Corporation, expected in summer-autumn 2025 ahead of planning decisions.

Subject to planning permission and listed building consent for the projects, we intend to begin construction in 2027 with completion by 2030.

Report produced by the Barbican Centre communications department for Barbican Renewal.

Appendix: consultation publicity

The consultation was widely promoted to local residents, stakeholders and Centre audiences.

Digital channels included emails to key contacts, e-newsletters from the Barbican Centre to its audience mailing lists and e-newsletters from the City of London.

Offline promotion included a letter-drop to over 7,000 residents and businesses around the Barbican Centre, including the Barbican Estate, Golden Lane, Little Britain and communities in south Islington. Examples of publicity are included below.

Barbican Estate residents

Barbican Estate bulletin, printed letters

To inform residents of the consultation, content was included in the Barbican Estate's weekly bulletin over three weeks, from Friday 16 May to Friday 30 May.

Barbican Renewal Public Consultation: 19 May - 2 June

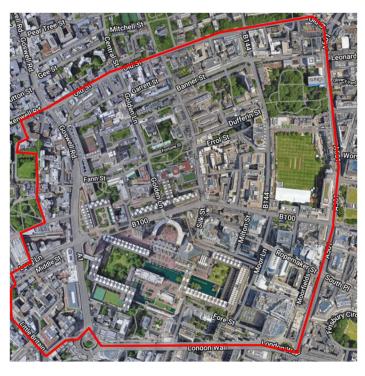


Following consultation earlier this year, Barbican Renewal is back with updated plans for the Centre's Foyers, Lakeside and Conservatory and they're inviting residents to have your say.

See new images of the design proposals for the Centre and comment online on the <u>Barbican Renewal website</u>.

Get involved online or in-person by attending a webinar from 2-3pm on Monday 19 May (see website for details) or attend a drop-in event to chat and ask questions to project experts:

- $\,$ 5.30pm to 7.30pm, Thurs 22 May, Frobisher Rooms 4 and 5 (Level 4)
- 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Fri 23 May, Garden Room (Level 3)
- 12.30pm to 3pm, Thurs 29 May, Fountain Room (Level G)
- 12.30pm to 3pm, Fri 30 May, Fountain Room (Level G)



Residents also received a printed letter, hand-delivered by the Barbican Estate Office. This featured the webinar informing the public of the consultation proposals (which took place on Monday 19 May).

Barbican Centre

Silk Street London EC2Y 8DS +44(0)20 7638 4141 barbican.org.uk

Dear neighbour,

Barbican Renewal public consultation 19 May – 2 June

Following a consultation in January and February, we invite you to take part in the next phase of public consultation for Barbican Renewal, ensuring the Barbican Centre is restored, revitalised and relevant for future generations.

This next consultation will explain how the Renewal team has responded to feedback received from the first consultation and how our designs have progressed as a result. The focus will continue to be on Phase 1 of Renewal, running from 2025-2030, and in particular our plans for the Lakeside, Foyers and Conservatory.

There are several ways to get involved:

- Online at barbican.org.uk/renewal
- Attend a webinar on Monday 19 May, 2pm (see website for details)
- Attend a drop-in event at the Centre:
 Thu 22 May, 5.30-7.30pm, Frobisher Rooms 4 and 5
 - Fri 23 May, 6.30-8.30pm, Garden Room
 Thu 29 May, 12.30-3pm, Fountain Room
 - Thu 29 May, 12.30-3pm, Fountain Room
 Fri 30 May, 12.30-3pm, Fountain Room

You can also email us at <u>barbicanrenewal@barbican.org.uk</u> or write to us 'FAO

Barbican Renewal' at the address at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Philippa Simpson

Director for Buildings and Renewal





barbican

Wider local audience - communities

Leaflets, posters

Around 9,000 leaflets were distributed to local organisations by Culture Calling. These included community spaces in Farringdon and the City, as well as community centres in Shoreditch and Hoxton. 50 posters were placed in shopfronts and windows of local businesses in the City and Farringdon.



Barbican Renewal public consultation: Have your say

Meet the Renewal team to discuss plans at a drop-in event:

5.30pm to 7.30pm, Thurs 22 May Frobisher Rooms 4 and 5 (Level 4)

6.30pm to 8.30pm, Fri 23 May Garden Room (Level 3)

12.30pm to 3pm, Thurs 29 May Fountain Room (Level G)

12.30pm to 3pm, Fri 30 May Fountain Room (Level G)



barbican

barbican ora uk/renewa



Barbican Renewal public consultation

19 May - 2 Jun 2025

Following a consultation earlier this year, Barbican Renewal is back with updated plans for the Centre's Lakeside, Foyers and

Comment on and see new CGI visuals of the

Meet the Renewal team to discu

Thurs 22 May, 5.30pm – 7.30pm Frobisher Rooms (Level 4)

Fri 23 May, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Thurs 29 May, 12.30pm – 3pm Fountain Room (Level G)

Fri 30 May, 12.30 – 3pm Fountain Room (Level G)



Scan the QR code to view the proposals and give us your thoughts







General audience - Centre audiences and wider public

Newsletters, emails

To target the Centre's national audience, the consultation was advertised on the Barbican Centre's LinkedIn platform.

Several newsletters were sent to different segmented audiences. A solus (dedicated) newsletter was distributed to on Monday 19 May. Separately, shortform content was included in both the Barbican's cross-arts weekly Thursday newsletter, as well as the Members' Wednesday newsletter.



📢 Barbican Renewal is entering an exciting new chapter with fresh designs unveiled and strong public support 🌿

Today, we are thrilled to share our bold vision for the future as the second stage of the public consultation for our historic Renewal programme begins $\stackrel{\text{\tiny{W}}}{\leftarrow}$

Newly released images offer a first look at how the Barbican's Conservatory, Lakeside and Foyers might look in the future following the first phase of a once-in-a-generation transformation of the world-renowned cultural landmark

Following an overwhelmingly positive response to the first consultation – with around 90% of respondents expressing support – the designs have been refined to reflect the feedback received.

Now we want to hear from you again! 🢡

Join our webinar at 2pm today (19 May): https://lnkd.in/d3ivvZ-e

Attend a drop-in session at the Barbican Centre: https://lnkd.in/daBtsUba

View the new designs and share feedback online (19 May – 2 June): https://lnkd.in/d3Ectb5t

A Grade II-listed architectural icon and one of the UK's top 20 cultural attractions, the Barbican Centre attracted 1.54 million visitors last year alone. After 40 years of activity, the time has come for a much-needed upgrade E

The world-class team delivering the programme is led by architects Allies and Morrison working with Asif Khan Ltd. and engineers Buro Happold, les eclaireurs - lighting designers, inclusive design advisors Arup, circular economy experts Reusefully Ltd. and landscape designers Harris Bugg Studio

iii Kin Creatives for Allies and Morrison and Asif Khan Studio

#BarbicanRenewal #Barbican #DesignForTheFuture #LondonCulture #Architecture #Sustainability





Hello,

Following a public consultation earlier this year, we are now able to share updated plans for Barbican Renewal, looking at the Centre's Foyers, Lakeside and Conservatory – and we invite you to have your say.



With new details and exciting visuals, proposals have been shaped by public feedback.

This consultation is now open until Mon 2 June.

Have your say