

Minutes of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT) community meeting held on 10 April 2013 at St Augustine's Hall, Norwich.

1. Meeting opened 7.30 p.m. by Chair, the Rev Nicholas Vesey. Welcome. Attendance register circulated: 26 in attendance. New to meeting included: PCSO Jo Longstaff (East Norwich SNT), Rosanne Marks (Aylsham Rd), Hayley Matthews (Rose Yard & No.29 Art & Dance Gallery & Studio, St Augustine's St), Peter Jamieson (also of No 29 Art Gallery), Susan Steward (King Street) and Philip Gruner (St James Close). Apologies: Lyn Honeywood Hall, Heather and David English, Cllr Amy Stammer, Merle Creagh-Barry.
2. Minutes of last Act meeting (6/2/13) approved.
3. Matters arising:
 - a. Nicholas reported on the Easter Craft Fair & Table Top Sale at St Augustine's Hall on 16 March, which had raised £363.38 for ACT. There was a vote of thanks to Lynda and Nick Hall for organising the event and to everyone else who had helped to make the event such a success.
 - b. Stuart McLaren (ACT Secretary & Treasurer) reported on requested road works in the St Augustine's area:
 - i. Tactile paving to be installed by County Council at junction of old Botolph Street with new Boltolph Street. Installation of permanent bollards that ACT requested to hinder drivers trying to short-cut the one-way system by driving over the pedestrian refuge here is also being considered.
 - ii. Broken blockwork and pot holes in St Augustine's Street have been noted and will be dealt with in due course.
 - iii. ACT's request for pedestrian crossing roughly mid-way along one-way St Augustine's Street has been forwarded by County Council to City Council, who determine these highway issues. Survey to determine whether feasible to be carried out late spring/early summer. Stuart to contact Joanne Debrick at City Council before June ACT meeting in order to report back on progress.
 - c. The dilapidated state of the old Rose Tavern in St Augustine's Street was discussed. Stuart McLaren had been interviewed by Norwich *Evening News* about this following the painting of the wooden board over the premise's front ground floor windows bright yellow and the hanging of pot plants along the frontage by person or persons unknown; an article and photo about this issue had subsequently appeared in the paper on 3 April. Simeon Jackson had spoken to the owners (Portraits Photo Studios in Magdalen Street) who claimed there were legal problems that prevented the property being renovated or sold.
4. Police report. PCSO Jo Longstaff introduced herself. She had taken over from PCSO Emma Blackburn in March as our area's community support officer. She had transferred from the Lakenham & Tuckswood SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) and so far had found it much quieter here! There had been a party that had got out of control on Easter Monday, leading to some reports of late night noise disturbance and criminal damage to vehicles. In a separate incident the police had raided a property in Sussex Street where illegal activity was suspected. There had been a problem with children throwing stones at the Church Hall but this seems to have abated.

5. 'Open Mike' session.
 - a. Adrian Holmes spoke about the petition to save Train Wood (woodland and wetland between Barn Road roundabout and Anderson Meadow on the Marriott Way) from being sold by Norfolk County Council and being lost as an accessible natural amenity for the community. There was unanimous support for ACT to write to Cllr Cliff Jordan, Cabinet member at Norfolk CC for transport, to express its support for this campaign.
 - b. Rob Farley said that barriers at the Barn Road entrance to the Marriott Way prevented him from entering on his bicycle with a child seat. Adrian said that the barriers here were to prevent motorbikes getting onto the footpath.
 - c. Carol Cooper spoke of her concern about drivers turning left off New Botolph Street into old Botolph Street. We need to check whether there was a No Left Turn sign before this junction.
 - d. Speeding on the St Augustine's Gyratory. It was generally felt by the meeting that the 20 mph limit road signage was inadequate and that speeding was endemic. PCSO Longstaff spoke about Community Speed Watch and left information on this scheme. Several people said they would be interested in participating. Nick Hall said he would follow this up.
 - e. The timing of the pedestrian crossing lights needed to be adjusted to give pedestrians longer to cross safely.
 - f. Stuart spoke about the Churches Conservation Trust's decision to make as many of the redundant church and chapels in its care unlocked and unsupervised 24/7. He felt that this would not be safe for St Augustine's church.
 - g. Carrie Sant spoke about a video she put together recording the experiences of people who were being affected by the government's changes to welfare benefit in particular the under occupancy penalty for social housing tenants receiving housing benefit ('bedroom tax').
 - h. Susan Steward spoke of research she is undertaking on the influences of neighbourhoods and secondary schooling on young people in Norwich. Cllr Richard Bearman said he could put her in touch with some people who might be able to help. She was also interested in helping to set up a similar residents' group to ACT in the King Street area of the city and hoped to learn from our experience.
6. AOB. Stuart McLaren reported that planning permission was being sought to change the depot at 114-118 Oak Street previously used by Lovells into a skills development centre. The previous planning consent for this area to build 58 dwellings had expired. Alan Camina publicised a pound sale at The Stage on 18 May to raise funds for St Augustine's Gateway Trust.
7. Date of next meeting: 26 June 2013.