

Minutes of meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residence Association (ACT), held at St Augustine's Hall, Norwich, on 27 February 2014

1. Welcome from the Chair, the Revd Nicholas Vesey.
2. Present: 22. New to ACT meetings: Jacqui Burgoyne (Age UK Norwich), Barbara Dinnage (Sussex St.)
3. Apologies: Cllr Richard Bearman, Merle Creagh-Barry, Lynne Bateman, Shona Heazle (Broadland Housing Association), Cllr Lucy Howard, Adrian Holmes, PCSO Jo Longstaff, Debra Norwell, Cllr Amy Stammers.
4. One-minute's silence was observed in memory of David English, long-time member of ACT and respected local dentist, who had died on 12 February following a skiing accident in Switzerland. Margaret Goodyear spoke in remembrance. The funeral would be held at Earlham Road Crematorium on 11 March. The family wished to direct In Memoriam donations to *Médecins Sans Frontières*. It was suggested that, with permission, David's son's tribute to his father might be put on ACT's website. Agreed.
5. The minutes of the last ACT (4 December 2013) meeting were approved.
6. Matters arising: none other than items already on the agenda.
7. Review of ACT's AGM and 10th anniversary dinner on 21 January. The following officers were elected at the AGM to serve a further 12 months: Nicholas Vesey – Chair; Alan Camina – Co-Vice-chair; Nick Hall – Co-Vice-chair; Stuart McLaren – Secretary & Treasurer; and Lyn Honeywood Hall – Fund-raising officer. Carrie Sant was elected Community Outreach officer. The 10th anniversary celebration dinner was deemed a great success. It was mooted that a similar event be held annually. £106.50 had been donated by guests on the night. Stuart McLaren recommended a small cover charge be levied as ACT would be stretched to cover the cost annually.
8. Traffic issues: Stuart McLaren reported on plan to install zebra crossing in St Augustine's Street. David English had pressed for this at ACT meetings last year. A budget has been approved for completion in 2014/15 financial year but details of precisely when work will commence are not yet available. As for the installation of permanent bollards on the splitter island in New Botolph Street opposite the exit from Botolph Street, the installation of tactile paving at same junction and the repair or replacement to broken block work in the Gyratory had not been programmed in yet by County Council. Stuart would continue to follow these issues up and report at subsequent meetings.
9. Parking issues in Leonards Street. Stuart reported on follow up to last ACT meeting, when Alan Edwards of the City Council's Parking Team had spoken to us. None of the suggestions of ACT members regarding the car park put to Mr Edwards, such as the reinstatement of the residents only sign, had not been approved and matters, if anything, seemed to have worsened. Maggie Camina reported that the issue of fines to those parking in the Street without a resident's permit displayed seemed to have increased recently and possibly as a consequence pressure on spaces in the car park had increased. Mr Edwards had emailed Stuart yesterday recommending we take up the issue with Gemma Mitchell of the Council's Home Ownership team, as the car park is on land owned by Housing rather than Parking. Stuart was asked to invite Ms Mitchell to our next meeting.
10. "Open Mike" session:
  - a. Ian Robertson (Howard Terrace) was concerned at speeding on Sussex Street and St Augustine's Street. The idea of organising a community speed watch was again raised.
  - b. Jacqui Burgoyne said that Age UK Norwich wished to appoint community agents in the area. Jacqui asked people to make her aware of local isolated elderly people.
  - c. Lyn Honeywood Hall mooted the idea of having a fund-raising table top sale for ACT to coincide with the Magdalen Street Celebration in October. Contributions to a food bank, for local elderly people for example, might also be taken on the day.
  - d. Jeremy Hall (Bakers Rd) asked who was responsible for maintaining the City Walls. Cllr Simeon Jackson suggested he contact the Norwich Society. Stuart said he thought the City Council had a responsibility to conserve the walls, which were a listed ancient monument.
  - e. The current premises of the Norwich "Men's Shed" in Beckham Place was being demolished and they were seeking new accommodation in the area.
  - f. The AGM of St Augustine's Gateway Trust would be held on 11 March at The Stage, 52 St Augustine's Street. Doors open from 6.45 p.m. All welcome.
11. Date of next meeting: 10 April 2014.