

MINUTES

of public meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association held on Thursday 14 April 2011 in St Augustine's Hall, Norwich.

1. The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. Chair, the Revd Nicholas Vesey, welcomed everyone. There were two people who had not been to an ACT meeting before. The attendance register was circulated. There were 20 people in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Bearman, Andre and Cherry Cappuccio (Trends Hair Salon) and PCSO Paul Anderson.
2. In order to allow people who needed to leave early to participate in the meeting's main topic for discussion it was decided to move on to item 4 on the agenda (Leonard Street redevelopment) immediately.

3. LEONARD STREET REDEVELOPMENT:

Ben Webster of Norwich City Council (NCC) explained that he was to head a project team including landscape architects, design advisers and the council's tree protection and historic buildings officers to look at ways of improving child play facilities in the Leonard Street area. An existing under-used and poorly equipped play area plus an adjacent car park and small green space opposite Leonard Street (behind the east side of St Augustine's Street) were currently owned and managed by NCC. These spaces had been included in the Northern City Centre Area Action Plan as public areas that needed to be retained and improved as social amenities. Planning permission to build houses on parts of the areas had been refused three years ago. A budget of £90,000 had been allocated to the project from section 106 provision in a local developer's planning consent (Anglia Square). This money needed to have been committed by January 2012 or it could be claimed back by the developers. While there would be a formal consultation exercise later in the year, it was hoped this meeting would help the project team understand better the issues and concerns local residents and traders had about these spaces.

Responses from the meeting:

- a) The play area used to be well used and well maintained ten or more years ago when there had been more young children living in the area. These had now grown up and there were currently fewer young children in the area. Local housing had moved towards renting to young childless working people rather than young couples starting families. As equipment became worn out or vandalised NCC had not replaced it. Maintenance and general tidiness levels had declined and seats had been removed.
- b) NCC favoured removing or opening up the wall to the eastern side of the existing play area and the vacant lot in Edward Street where developers proposed building a number of affordable homes. But there was no knowing when these homes would be built. The area might be used as a buildings and plant store during the main redevelopment work in Anglia/Calvert Square and so it could be many years before any homes were built there.
- c) The car park needed to be retained and the current number of car parking spaces should be maintained. It was felt that local businesses in particular would be adversely affected by any further reduction in local parking spaces.
- d) It was felt that any redevelopment of the areas need to create a safe and attractive place to walk about and stop in. The management of anti-social behaviour needed be addressed.
- e) There was a feeling that there may still be scope within these spaces to build some new homes, and that these could enhance the area's security by providing oversight.
- f) Vehicle and pedestrian access to existing properties behind the eastern side of St Augustine's Street (i.e. Rose Yard, Hindes Yard, Nichols Yard, Barnes Yard) needed to be maintained.
- g) The small green space opposite Leonard Street was valued by the residents here as it was practically the only greenery that they had a view of from their homes.
- h) The partial pedestrianisation of Leonard Street in 1970s might be extended to provide a car free link between the street and the play area and green space. However, the area, including nearby Esdelle Street and Rose Yard, had become cluttered by wheelie bins, recycling boxes and residents' cars and

motorbikes in recent years. It needed to be decluttered, with for example, communal bin stores and more secure residents' parking spaces in the existing car park.

4. Minutes of last meeting (27 January 2011) were approved.

5. Matters arising:

- a) Cllr Adrian Holmes reported that NCC was not yet favourably inclined to the restoration of short-stay non-permit parking spaces in Sussex Street.
- b) The monitoring of vehicle speeds on St Augustine's Street was a current West Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team action point and would be reported on at the next SNAP meeting on 10 May, which would be held here in St Augustine's Hall.
- c) Cigarette litter was being caused by employees from offices in Elephant Walk (i.e. between Calvert Street and Magdalen Street beside the flyover) smoking outside.
- d) A bus stop was needed between Aylsham Road and Anglia Square.
- e) Seating needed to be provided in the Edward Street/New Botolph Street area. There was currently no where for people to rest here when walking through the area.
- f) There was an issue with wheelie bins in Sussex Street, some of which were not being taken in after collection day and were causing an obstruction.
- g) Blind residents in the NNBA's centre off Magpie Road were experiencing problems using the new pedestrian crossings at the junction of Magpie Road with Esdelle/Edward Street. The new layout was difficult to navigate and there were not enough guide rails.

6. Date of next meeting: 14 July 2011.

Community website: www.staugustinesnorwich.org.uk

also on Facebook: "Friends of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association"