

Minutes of meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT)

held on 24 November 2011 in St Augustine's Hall, Norwich

1. The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. The Chair, Alan Camina, who was deputising for the Revd Nicholas Vesey, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Bearman, Eileen Brennan, Stephen Codling (Broadland Housing Association), Lyn Honeywell Hall, Katie McLean, Debbie Norwell (ACT Children's Champion), Cllr Amy Stammers and the Revd Nicholas Vesey (Chair of ACT). The attendance register was circulated. There were 23 people at the meeting.
2. The minutes of the last meeting (29 September 2011) were agreed.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. Community Safety. PCSO Paul Anderson (West Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team) reported that:
 - Recent drug activity in the Oak Street area was being dealt with by the police.
 - There was a new non-emergency police telephone number: 101.
 - The St Augustine's area is likely to be looked after by new SNT in the New Year. He would keep us informed.
 - Vehicle owners should be aware that thefts from vehicles was expected to increase in the run up to Christmas.
 - The Internet Café in Distillery Square, a focus of anti-social behaviour, had recently closed.
5. The Leonard Street play area, car park and green space. The final stage of public consultation had now taken place. Work was expected to begin early in the New Year.
6. Councillors' reports.
 - Cllr Adrian Holmes noted that the City Council was fining car owners when traffic wardens noticed they were not displaying their parking permits properly. He also noted that swastikas and other graffiti had been daubed on a derelict warehouse in Sussex Street.
 - Cllr Richard Bearman spoke on the "Fares fair" campaign to claw back £4.5 million to Norfolk County Council from the government to fund the county's concessionary bus fares scheme.
7. St Augustine's Community Office. Alan Camina and Stuart McLaren (Secretary of ACT) outlined an project to convert an empty shop premises in St Augustine's Street into a community space. The shop, formerly known as Fran's Pantry, had been vacant for more than a decade. Its owners, Broadland Housing Association, had offered to let it to a local trust at a nominal rent. A charitable trust would be set up in due course and funding for the project sought. A questionnaire with suggestions for possible uses for the premises was presented to the meeting. PCSO Anderson suggested that the trust approach Norfolk Police for funding if the premises could be used for police surgeries. There were suggestions that some charities might also fund the trust's work if it helped promote their causes. There was a suggestion that a co-operative venture, such as café or organic food shop, could be run there. Jeff Compton, Norwich City Council's community engagement officer for the area, suggested the trust approach Joan Maddocks of Voluntary Norfolk for advice.
8. AOB. Alan Camina spoke on the work of Ketts Credit Union in the north Norwich area and called for volunteers to become collectors.
9. Date of next meeting: to be announced.