

Minutes of meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT) held on 18 September 2014 at St Augustine's Hall, Norwich. The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. Alan Camina in the Chair.

1. Present: 24
2. Apologies: Mrs Margaret Camina, Cllr Lucy Howard, Cllr Simeon Jackson.
3. Announcements: Autumn Fair in aid of The Stage, St Augustine's Hall, 11 October.
4. Minutes of last ACT meeting (3 July 2014) approved.
5. Matters arising: item 5a: Cllr Richard Bearman asked that anyone interested in setting up a Neighbourhood (Planning) Forum should give their names to Cllr Jackson.
6. Broadland Housing Association (BHA) report. Donna Mason introduced herself as BHA's new housing officer for this area. Donna said she had a zero tolerance towards anti-social behaviour (ASB). She had been working closely with PCSO Joanne Longstaff since joining BHA and was determined to tackle any crime and ASB behaviour associated with BHA properties in the area. At two properties (in Howard Terrace and The Lathes) eviction procedures had recently been put in place. The police would ensure there was a heightened presence in the area where there had been suspected drug abuse activity to ensure any would-be visitors to the property did not disturb the peace.
7. Zebra crossing in St Augustine's Street. ACT Secretary, Stuart McLaren, reported on progress. He had attended a meeting with City Council transport officers and Cllr Bearman in the Street on 10 September, when the Council's plans for the crossing were discussed. These were for the crossing to be placed almost immediately north of the junction with St Augustine's Street. The current brick block work at this junction would be replaced by asphalt (Tarmac), possibly of a different colour than the rest of road surface there. Warning signage and road markings would be also installed. Plans were still subject to approval by a safety audit team. On a show of hands, 10 people would prefer the crossing to be on the south side; 6 on the north side; while 8 did not express a preference. The Secretary would feed-back this and residents' and traders' comments to the Council.
8. Speeding on the Gyratory, in particular St Augustine's Street. PCSO Longstaff said she would try to book the mobile speed-detecting flashing lights for use in the Street. If residents wished to form a community speed watch they needed to get a minimum of six people to sign up to run it locally. Training and equipment would be given.
9. "Open Mike" session:
  - a) James Hillis (Coleman Opticians) said Coleman's would be sponsoring a GoGoDragon next year (sculptures which help raise money for the Break children's charity). There would be lots of child-centred activities and opportunities for local people to get involved. The sculpture would probably be situated on the pavement outside the Opticians near the lay-by and be in place between May and end of September. It should significantly increase footfall in the area. GoGoGorillas two years ago had proved to do so. Lynda Honeywood Hall (ACT fund-raising officer) suggested that ACT organise a dragon-themed summer fete in the churchyard, possibly in May. James said they had been looking for a name for the dragon and so far Augusta was the favourite.
  - b) Nick Hall (Sussex St.) reported on the Council's proposed changes to parking permits and wanted to draw the meetings' attention to ongoing consultation.
  - c) Adrian Holmes (Oak St) reported that owners of Mitchel's reclamation yard in Oak Street has given notice that he will be seeking planning consent to redevelop the site. He also reported on Friends of Train Wood (FOTW), a group set up to conserve a 5-acre site on south side of River Wensum as a community asset and nature reserve. The cycle path through site has now been adopted by Highways. FOTW want City Council to take over ownership of the site from Norfolk County Council and then appoint FOTW to manage it.
  - d) New residents in St Augustine's Street (Rachel) had been disturbed by loud sirens of emergency vehicles. PCSO Longstaff said that sirens should not be used between certain hours of the night.
10. Date of next meeting: 20 November 2014.